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OFFICE OF  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
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To: All Clergy  
From: Miriam Sammartino  
Date: February 10, 2023  
Subject: **Solidarity and Assistance in Response Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria**

Pope Francis has called for solidarity with Turkey and Syria after two earthquakes devastated the region.

On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated central Turkey and northwest Syria. That day, the region experienced a second earthquake of 7.7 magnitude. As of February 9, the death toll had reached close to 20,000 and the number of dead is expected to climb.

We encourage Catholics and all people of good will to pray for the afflicted and give generously to Catholic Relief Services by visiting <https://www.crs.org/> and to Catholic Near East Welfare Association by visiting <https://cnewa.org/>.

We continue to join the Holy Father's [prayer](#) that "these brothers and sisters can go forth in the face of this tragedy, and let us ask Our Lady to protect them".

**Intercessory prayers:**

- For the people of Turkey and Syria: the dead and wounded, those providing emergency response and for all who suffer from this devastating calamity . . . **Let us pray.**

Respectfully,

Miriam Sammartino  
Director, Catholic Charities & Social Concerns  
Diocese of Sacramento