



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

10 February 2023

Dear Reverend Monsignor:  
Dear Reverend Father:

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, parts of Turkey and Syria experienced a devastating earthquake. It is estimated that over 11,200 people have lost their lives and 40,900 reported injured. The earthquake has left both countries in a state of crisis that is made worse by exposure to aftershocks and winter storms. Those wishing to support the relief effort are encouraged to contribute to one of the following Catholic entities currently mounting humanitarian responses on the ground.

### **CNEWA**

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) has been a lifeline for the poor throughout the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe for 90 years. They are currently serving 2,000 families specifically in Syria seeking emergency shelter. <https://cnewa.org/ca/work/emergency-syria/>

### **Caritas International**

The International Caritas team is rallying to support Caritas Turkey whose facilities, staff and volunteers have all been impacted by the earthquake. Caritas Turkey has begun working with local authorities to raise shelters, medical supplies and communication pathways between survivors and support services. <https://www.caritas.org/>.

### **Catholic Relief Services:**

CRS is partnering with Caritas Turkey, Caritas Syria and Caritas Anatolia, all hardest hit by the earthquake. [https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes?ms=agicrs2023eqk00her00&\\_ga=2.58454440.387174977.1675953053-1953421407.1675953052](https://support.crs.org/donate/earthquakes?ms=agicrs2023eqk00her00&_ga=2.58454440.387174977.1675953053-1953421407.1675953052)

### **ACN**

Aid to the Church in Need, like CNEWA is serving impacted Christian communities specifically in Syria: <https://acn-canada.square.site/>

Kindly share this information with your parishioners and encourage them to contribute to one of these agencies. No special collection will be taken up in the Diocese at this time. And let us continue to prayer for the suffering communities in Turkey and Syria and to commend the dead to God's mercy.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH, VG  
Chancellor