

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 523/2024

October 9, 2024

Dear Reverend Clergy and Esteemed Members of our Parish Councils,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Everyone across our nation has witnessed with sadness as Hurricane "Helene" cut a path of destruction across many states in our land from Florida to Tennessee and the Carolinas. Winds, rain, and flooding in many areas led to collapse of roads, destruction of properties, loss of businesses and livelihood, much suffering and loss of human lives.

As words have been received regarding the parishes that suffered damages asking for help through our hurricane funds, we continue to monitor until after the passing of the second Hurricane "Milton" to know the full damage that our parishes have sustained, their parishioners, and their surroundings.

In response to appeals from several of our clergy and their parishes that requested a directive from the Archdiocese as to where they may direct their help, I call upon all our parishes to take a special collection for those who have suffered losses from these two unprecedented storms.

Once you have had a chance to collect all donations, please forward one check from your parish to the Archdiocese (memo: "Hurricane Relief")— no later than the end of this month. All donations will go directly to those in need.

Please demonstrate your love in a practical way by lifting prayers and supplications to our good and saving God on behalf of all that suffered distresses, pains, and losses because of the hurricanes, that they might "find hope under His wings" (Ps. 90:4).

Give any amount of love offering in the name of Jesus Christ for the sake of the victims of these two hurricanes. Offer whatever you are able. No amount is too small. May God's blessings come upon you and reward your generosity preserving you and your families from all harms.

Your Father in Christ,

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