

In 2023, the residents of Aleppo endure more suffering and fear as a new chapter of hardships begins.

On Monday, February 6, at precisely 4:17 a.m., our city was struck by a powerful earthquake that registered a 7.9 on the Richter scale. As a result, people rushed to the streets in the pouring rain, the chilly night, and without the proper clothing or footwear to protect them from the elements. There was also a great deal of panic, fear, and crying children, and parents were unable to give their children the comfort they needed .

As a response, we declared in our church that, like many churches before us, we would welcome visitors and offer them protection from the rain and storm.

Following that, we started hearing about awful news, including stories of residential structures collapsing on top of their occupants .

As a result, a Catholic priest passed away under the debris .

It involves 50 building collapses, 600 fatalities, more than 1,500 injuries, and numerous unaccounted-for persons.

Our church was not immune to damage as the large bell fell off the roof onto the street, and adjoining courtyards. We now also face the danger of the buildings across the road collapsing due to cracks in the structure. This presents great danger that we might be faced with in the near future .

The parish halls are currently filled with hundreds and hundreds of individuals and families.

We have three monasteries in the city, and all of them are receiving people according to their capabilities.

In our monastery in the center of the city, we are currently sheltering not less than 500 people, our monastery (the monastery of the Holy Land), which is located on the outskirts of the city and has open spaces, received around 2000 people, while the third accommodates 35 people.

We are serving three meals a day. People are hesitant to go back to their homes (if they had any left), either out of the fear of the possibility of a stronger earthquake or the dangerous state of their house structures .

While temperatures continue to drop reaching subzero degrees, we are struggling to keep the indoors warm enough for the kids and the elderly .

All the meals that are served are prepared by our charity kitchen in our "Five Loaves and Two Fishes" project; one of the grave problems we face is the

difficulty in obtaining supplies to prepare the food due to the sanction imposed on Syria.

As we observe the massive flow of aid sent to our afflicted neighboring country Turkey, Syria is prevented from receiving any support or aid.

On the other hand, to deal with the crisis, the papal nuncio, Mario Zenari, came to Aleppo and called an emergency meeting of bishops to find the best ways to bring help.

Aleppo is a city in ruins. However, the amount of love and sympathy we are receiving was enough to help us overcome some of the difficulties and bring comfort to our hearts...

Your support is a sign of God's love and care .

Thank you .

Let us pray together for all the afflicted families who have lost loved ones and those who have lost their homes. May he fill their hearts with patience and condolences.









# SYRIA IS ALONE ...

