



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

June 21, 2017

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all of the Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

As we reflect on the events of the devastating and destructive earthquake that struck the island of Mytilene this past week, we pray for those coping with the effects of this terrible disaster. In doing so, we are given the opportunity to reflect on the innumerable blessings that we have been granted by God. He has given us countless gifts and, therefore, it becomes our responsibility to share them with those who are in need, especially the people of Mytilene. The people of Mytilene played a significant role during the Middle East refugee crisis. They had opened their homes, their wallets, and their hearts to refugees because they saw the image and likeness of God in the faces of the immigrants who were in need. Together with our prayers, let us now show our support for the people of Mytilene in their own hour of need by offering them financial assistance so that we may help them recover from this disaster.

In this spirit, I ask that on **Sunday, June 25, 2017 a Special Tray** be passed in all of the parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey so that we may offer a portion of what we have to the people of Mytilene who have lost so much. Furthermore, I ask that a contribution be made from the Parish Councils and the Philoptochos Sisterhood chapters of each parish to assist the people of Mytilene. Let us continue to pray for and help those affected by this natural disaster.

Praying that our loving Lord will offer His mercy and compassion to those suffering in Mytilene, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey

Checks are to be made payable to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey with "Mytilene Emergency Fund" in the Memo line