



Melkite – Greek Catholic Patriarchat
Of Antioch and all the East of Alexandria and of Jerusalem
Spiritual Protector of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem

Berlin, March 2012

Dear Friends in the Order of Saint Lazarus,

I have been a witness to the difficult situation in which a steadily increasing number of people are coming to different areas such as Homs, the suburbs of Damascus and other places.

This is because of the tragic incidents which have affected Syria during the past year (March 2011 to March 2012). Many people had to leave their towns, villages, houses and family property. We have provided them places of shelter in Damascus, in our monasteries and in other places.

By motivation of our pastoral responsibility and by the love of Jesus Christ, who urges us, my brother in Christ H.B. Ignatius IV (Hazim), Greek-Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, founded a committee to help our brothers and sisters in need, without making differences between Moslems and Christians.

We have already distributed more than 2,000 parcels, valued at \$50.00 USD each, containing food such as milk, plus blankets and other items to assist with the needs of the families.

The list of families in need is increasing every day. Priests and ordinary people are giving us their names. We are getting help from Christians as well as Moslems.

With this letter, we are making an appeal to your readiness to support our program. Please send your donation to our account in Germany, which is very reliable.

Please keep in mind that I am on a journey to France, England, Germany and to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, as well as the Vatican in Rome, to meet with the leaders of the bishop conferences and political leaders. My purpose is to request that these leaders speak up for dialog, reconciliation and peace, in particular for Syria, who is especially affected at the moment.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart if you will accept this appeal to support our program. For every donation you give to these families, you may be assured of their gratitude.

Connected with you in the prayer for peace and harmony in Syria and the whole Near East,

Your brother in Christ

+ **Gregorios III**
Patriarch

Our account in Germany
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*Translated (EN) version of the Patriarch's Original
by ramu/magi*