



Paolo Bizzeti SJ
Vicario Apostolico di Anatolia



PRESS RELEASE # 01

Appeal by the Apostolic Vicar of Anatolia, Mgrs Paolo Bizzeti:
dramatic situation. Help us help!

After the serious earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey on the night between 5 and 6 February, the seismic swarm is not stopping and the situation is becoming more dramatic by the hour. The Vicariate Cathedral in Iskenderun collapsed, the episcopal and reception buildings devastated.

Bishop Paolo, in Italy for institutional commitments related to his ministry, is already at work organizing aid. The employees of the Vicariate remained unharmed. There are currently no victims among Christians, but the situation is fluid and constantly being updated.

The surrounding picture is bleak: collapsed or unusable hospitals, lack of electricity, broken or very difficult connections.

The Bishop, together with all the Christians of Turkey, is asking for prayer and financial aid. The fundraising of the Vicariate is done through Friends of the Middle East and the cooperation of partner institutions. Donations can be given to:

- **Caritas Italiana**

Bank transfer to Banca Popolare Etica, Rome

IBAN IT 24 C050 1803 2000 0001 3331 111

Postal current account no. 347013

Reason: Turkey-Syria Earthquake 2023

- **Agata Smeralda Project**

Bank transfer to ChiantiBanca Credito Cooperativo, Florence

IBAN IT 91 K 0867 3028 0300 0000 3333 33, Bic Swift code ICRAITRRIP0

postal current account no. 502500

Reason: Anatolia Vicariate Earthquake Emergency 2023

- **Friends of the Middle East**

Bank transfer to Banca Ifigest, Florence

IBAN IT 07 Q 03185 02801 000010283497, Bic Swift IFIGEST31

Reason: Anatolia Vicariate Earthquake Emergency 2023