



بَطْرِيكِيَّةَ أَنْطَاكِيَّةَ وَسَائِرِ الْمَشْرِقِ لِلرُّومِ الْأَرْثُوذُكْسِ  
*Patriarcat Grec-Orthodoxe d'Antioche et de tout l'Orient*

No: 114/2017

**Your Eminence Metropolitan Joseph,  
Beloved brothers and sisters in Texas State,**

From the Mariamite Cathedral in Damascus, I greet you in the name of our Lord; and heartily express my deepest sympathy and compassion during this devastating time where the destructive Hurricane Harvey hit Texas State.

Despite the sufferings of your brothers and sisters in Syria and all the Middle East, you are in their thoughts and prayers, and along with St. Paul, we repeat: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulations, be constant in prayer" (Romans 12:12).

You are people of faith, and by God's will, you shall overcome this sad event stronger and united under the parental care of His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph. You all remain in the heart and prayers of your Patriarch.

May God, the Lord of mercy and compassion protect all of you, help the affected, heal the wounded and bless the souls of those who rested in peace.

Transferring to you all the love, prayer, and compassion of every Antiochian faithful and sending you the Apostolic Blessing of the Apostles Peter and Paul, We pray to God to strengthen you and keep you under the maternal protection of the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

Damascus, 31 August 2017.

يوسفنا العا

† JOHN X

**Patriarch of Antioch and all the East**