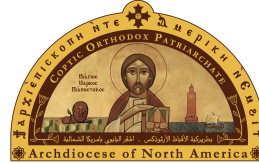


Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate



Diocese of New York & New England
500 Todt Hill Rd, Staten Island, NY 103047

Archdiocese of North America
5 Woodstone Dr, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Joint Statement of the Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of North America in New Jersey and the Diocese of New York and New England on Tragedy at the Church of St. Philopateer Mercurius in Giza City

August 16, 2022 –

The Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of North America in New Jersey and the Diocese of New York and New England together join in prayer and mourning for the 41 victims of the tragic fire that befell the Greater Cairo Church of the Martyr St. Philopateer Mercurius (“Abu Sefein”) in Imbaba, Giza City, on August 14, 2022. The impact of this loss is especially heavy knowing that many of the victims were young children. However, we remember and are comforted by the words of our Lord Himself who said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14). We “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15), but are assured that our Holy Mother the Theotokos St. Mary, during this time of her blessed fast, will provide her loving consolation through her intercessions.

We offer our condolences to the grieving families of the victims and pray for the dozens injured and all those affected by this tragedy. We beseech our Lord to comfort them through the prayers of our beloved fathers, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II and His Grace Bishop Youhanna of Northern Giza. We invite everyone who is able to contribute to the valiant relief efforts being made by the Diocese of Northern Giza to donate through <https://nynecopts.org/abu-sefein>.

May God bless us all and comfort us all.

In Christ,

Bishop David
Diocesan Bishop
Coptic Orthodox Diocese
Of New York and New England

Bishop Gabriel
Papal Exarch of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II
Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese
Of North America