



8 February 2023

Archbishop Martin Kmetec, O.F.M. Conv., President,  
Katolik Ruhani Reisler Kurulu  
Conference of Catholic Bishops in Turkey

Patriarch Ignace Youssif III Younan, President  
Syriac Catholic Church

Your Excellencies,

From the other end of the world, our hearts break at the death and destruction we are seeing on our television screens and in our newspapers.

We know that God is close to those that suffer. We pray that your people sense the love and care of their brothers and sisters around the world, including from Oceania.

One of the key themes of our Federation of Catholic Bishop's Conferences of Oceania gathering this week is the connectedness of human suffering and the suffering of our world. We have seen in your countries how natural disasters can wreak such pain and anguish, with thousands of lives lost.

The Catholic Church has established appeals to raise funds to support the ongoing efforts for rescue and recovery, and we will encourage the faithful in our region to respond generously. The Church is also providing human resources on the ground to respond to immediate needs through our aid agencies.

Be assured of our ongoing prayers and our attention as your people recover from this tragedy.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠ Peter Loy Chong  
President - FCBCO / Archbishop of Suva