



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

June 25, 2014

✠Prokopios the New Martyr

Beloved Brothers in the Lord,

*“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.”*

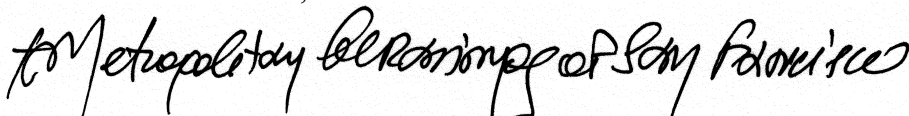
John 16:33

This year marks the somber 40th Anniversary of the brutal Turkish Invasion of Cyprus. Innocent lives were lost, churches and homes were destroyed, and freedom was violently taken away from the people of this land. The eradication of our ancestral heritage and our cherished Orthodox faith, along with the forcible cleansing of Karpasia from its Greek residents are just part of the ongoing damage for the past 40 years.

True peace can only be found through Christ and with Christ. It is this peace we pray that Cyprus will once again have, and that the people of this land are so deserving of. While there is great turmoil in every corner of the world, we must especially continue to pray for peace for the people of Cyprus, and that their suffering will be relieved through God’s grace and mercy.

Let us remember our brothers and sisters in northern Cyprus, lifting them up in prayer during this time of great need, and remembering those brave souls who fought valiantly for freedom. **As you gather on Sunday, July 20, 2014, I ask that each parish in our Metropolis offer a Memorial Service in remembrance of all those who lost their lives during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.** We must continue to honor them with our prayers as well as with our ongoing commitment for the restoration of their freedom and peace.

With Love in Christ,



✠Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco