



August 27, 2009

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS MESSAGE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name;
You are Mine.*

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.
For I am the LORD your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior..."*
Isaiah 43:1-3

My dearly beloved in the Lord,

It seems incredible that already four years have passed since the terrible destruction of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

I know that we were all shocked and grieved by the catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina, yet I was proud of our swift, generous and faithful response to those in need. We give thanks to Almighty God that even in the midst of this terrible tragedy, because of the generous and loving hearts of the Faithful, we were able to respond with help and assistance.

Even though sometimes it may seem dark and we are not able to clearly see our way, we know that God will never abandon us.

As we begin a new Ecclesiastical year, I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to open our hearts to the needs of our brothers and sisters, not only during times of disaster, but daily, and to guide us and enlighten us as we seek to serve our Lord and His Holy Church.