

## **Patriarchate of Antioch - Inspection visit to the parish of Arsuz**



Under the tent of hope that was erected in the outer courtyard of the destroyed Church of St. John the Baptist in Arsuz, Patriarch John X held a prayer of thanksgiving for the intention of its children, with the participation of the accompanying delegation, priests, heads of associations in the parishes of Antioch, the mayor and chief of the municipality of Arsuz, and the parishioners.

During the prayer His Beatitude gave a speech, saying: "Words cannot describe the feelings that shake us while we are with you in these blessed Pascha days, even in such hard circumstances.

These conditions must pass, and the Church will return to its beauty and splendor, just as each one of you will return to their home and family."

Then His Beatitude briefed the parishioners on the atmosphere that prevailed in the meeting with the vice governor of Hatay and the mayor of Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, regarding their promises to reconstruct churches and waqfs.

He concluded: “Do not be afraid, Great Antioch has never known fear throughout history, and will remain a beacon of light, hope.”

After that, the head of the Arsuz Parish Association, Mr. Jamil Turan, delivered a speech, describing Patriarch John’s visit as historic and promising His Beatitude that the church would be rebuilt to receive him on a second visit in its new look. He thanked his Beatitude for standing with them from the first moment of the earthquake.

After that, His Eminence looked around the destroyed church and noted the damages.

Moreover, the parishioners prepared a reception for His Beatitude, by which they

















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