



BYZANTINE CATHOLIC
METROPOLITAN ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH

❖ OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP ❖

66 Riverview Avenue ♦ Pittsburgh PA 15214
(412) 231-4000 ♦ Fax (412) 231-1697

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STATEMENT OF METROPOLITAN BASIL
ON THE WAR WITH IRAQ

“Our country is now at war. Though we hoped and prayed that this conflict could be avoided, the reality is that our troops and the people of Iraq are now suffering the horror, pain, destruction and death that war brings.

“We must now continue to be united in our prayers and in our support for everyone involved in the war – the men and women of our armed forces, their families and loved ones, and the people of Iraq, especially our brothers and sisters of the Eastern Churches.

“We are obliged to turn to God and to pray that all leaders make just and moral decisions, that peace is attained quickly, and that humanitarian resolutions emerge which will benefit all of the people of the mid-East and indeed of all the world.

“At times like this we turn to God and ask for wisdom and perseverance, courage and compassion, faith and hope. We are called to be ‘sentinels of peace,’ as the Holy Father reminds us.

“We join with him in urging all our clergy, monastics and laity to dedicate the remainder of this Great Fast to prayer, fasting and almsgiving that the trials and tragedy of war will soon be replaced by a just and lasting peace.”