



## **Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles, Southern California and Hawaii**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **COPTIC ORTHODOX BISHOP OF LOS ANGELES GIVES STATEMENT ON BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING TRAGEDY**

A call for prayer and remembrance for the three dead and dozens injured

**LOS ANGELES, April 16, 2013** –The Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles, led by His Grace, Bishop Serapion, vehemently condemns the attacks that occurred yesterday at the Boston Marathon, killing at least two people and injuring dozens more.

“It is with profound sadness that we learned of the tragic events in Boston,” said Bishop Serapion. “We strongly condemn any attack on the American people, and wish comfort and healing to all those affected.” Bishop Serapion also spoke of the importance of Americans standing in unity to bring those responsible to swift justice saying, “America is an amazing country and its people show strength in their patriotism. We saw this patriotism in the immediate response of law enforcement officials, brave fire fighters, first responders, and all the good samaritans rushing to help in the face of the unknown.”

Bishop Serapion also added, "As Coptic Orthodox Christians all over the world continue to mourn the loss of their own victims in last week's attacks on St. Mark's Cathedral in Egypt, the official patriarchate for Copts, I call on all diocese parishioners and churches to use this blessed time of Orthodox Lent to pray for the people of Boston, and all victims of senseless violence."

Bishop Serapion ended his statement saying, “The Coptic Orthodox Christian Community, here in the United States and abroad, offer our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, prayers for a speedy recovery of the wounded, and express our well wishes for the people of Boston and the United States at large. May God Bless America.”

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The Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria is the largest Christian Church in Egypt and the Middle East. The Church was founded by St. Mark the Evangelist and Apostle in 42 A.D. Today, Coptic Christians are led by His Holiness Pope Tawadrous II, and make up about 10-15 percent of Egypt's population.

With over 30 parishes, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles and Hawaii' is the largest Coptic diocese outside of Egypt. Led by His Grace Bishop Serapion, the Diocese of Los Angeles accounts for 12,000-15,000 families.

Continuous persecution of Egypt's Christian population paved the way for a Coptic Diaspora throughout the world, with a great number finding refuge in the United States where Christians are given the same opportunities and freedoms as everyone else.

Today, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles serves to create strong ties with the community at large and improve relations with other churches and faiths, while still preserving and sharing the Church's rich and ancient heritage.

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