



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

E Civitate Vaticana, die 3 November 2020

PROT. N.870/2020/e

TO HIS HOLINESS IRINEJ
Serbian Patriarch
Archbishop of Peć and Metropolitan of Belgrade–Karlovcı

It is with deep sadness that I have learned of the death of your beloved brother in Christ, His Eminence Amfilohije, Archbishop of Cetinje and Metropolitan of Montenegro.

I express to Your Holiness, to the Holy Synod and to all the Serbian Orthodox Church my profound condolences together with the assurance of my closeness in prayer. I take this opportunity to recall in a prayer of thanksgiving to God his faithful service to the Lord over many years, during which time he offered us all a great example of faith.

Metropolitan Amfilohije had a close understanding of the Catholic Church and was a friend of many Catholics. He first came to Rome in 1965 to study at the Pontifical Oriental Institute and to take part in the concluding phase of the Second Vatican Council. He returned in 2003 on an official visit and was received in audience by Pope John Paul II. In 2013 he represented the Serbian Orthodox Church at the inauguration of the pontificate of Pope Francis, with whom he had a fraternal and warm meeting three days later.

From a personal point of view, I call to mind in particular the last visit to Rome of Metropolitan Amfilohije in January 2016, when he met once again with Pope Francis as well as with myself. His Eminence was a cordial and profoundly spiritual man, an authentic pastor who was able to discern the signs of God in human history notwithstanding the fact that he undertook his service in an era that was far from simple. Despite many sufferings, he remained a man of faith and dialogue, humble and joyous, a luminous example of a life totally consecrated to God.

May the Lord grant Metropolitan Amfilohije peace together with His saints in the joy of life without end in his Kingdom. Eternal memory!

In renewing the assurance of my remembrance in prayer, I extend my best wishes to Your Holiness, the Holy Synod and the Serbian Orthodox Church for an abundance of spiritual gifts, and express my fraternal greetings in the Lord.

Kurt Cardinal Koch
President