



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM  
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

*E Civitate Vaticana, die* 9 September 2021

PROT. N. .....617...../2021/e

TO HIS HOLINESS MAR AWA  
CATHOLICOS PATRIARCH OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

*"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ"*  
(Gal 1:3)

It is with great joy that I have received the glad news of the election of Your Holiness as Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East.

I warmly extend my prayerful best wishes to Your Holiness, to the Holy Synod, to the clergy and all the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East, asking that the Holy Spirit may bestow abundant blessings upon the noble task that awaits you.

Conscious of the great challenges of the pastoral ministry that Your Holiness is about to undertake, it is my prayer that you may be an inspirational pastor for the flock entrusted to your care and an untiring builder of peace and harmony.

At a time of serious difficulty for all Christians in Iraq and the entire Middle East, may the Lord through your ministry grant them strength so that they may persevere in their Christian witness, in communion with all the saints and holy martyrs.

In expressing gratitude to Almighty God for the bonds of fraternity between the Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East, it is my deep aspiration and prayer that our continuing friendship and dialogue may be further developed and strengthened until that day when we shall all stand together at the altar of sacrifice in the fullness of Eucharistic communion.

In anticipation of our forthcoming meeting in Erbil for the celebration of your enthronement in which I will participate as the representative of His Holiness Pope Francis, I extend my fraternal greetings with esteem and affection in Christ the Lord.

CARDINAL KURT KOCH  
*President*

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity