



DICASTERIUM  
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

*E Civitate Vaticana, die 21 August 2023*

PROT. N. 856 /2023/k

Reverend Fr Ronald Roberson, CSP  
Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
3211 Fourth Street, NE  
WASHINGTON DC 20017 (USA)

Dear Father Ron,

The Dicastery for promoting Christian Unity is delighted to know that an event will be held to mark your retirement as Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We feel it a pleasant duty to add our voice to those of so many who have the highest appreciation of your life-long commitment to the cause of Christian Unity. In fact, you hold a special place in the minds and hearts of those who have known you and benefitted from your expertise along the path of the ecumenical journey as Churches, East and West, measure themselves and their history against the Lord's prayer that all may be one (cf. Jn 21:17).

Your time at the Pontifical Council (now Dicastery) from 1988 to 1992 coincided with the dramatic events happening in Eastern Europe at the time, which were to determine much of the opportunities and limits of East-West Church relations since then. You were part of numerous visits and meetings with the Orthodox and Oriental-Orthodox world, in efforts to face tensions and manifest the sincere will of the Catholic Church to continue and deepen the re-found friendship and communion between Catholics and Orthodox. In particular, the Dicastery is grateful for your continuing work in providing precise and objective knowledge of the Churches of the East, both Catholic and Orthodox, and for your long participation in the Catholic-Oriental Orthodox theological dialogue.

Likewise, the work you have done on the national level in dialogue with the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Polish National Catholic and Episcopal Churches, as well as in Christian Churches Together in the USA, and internationally in the Saint Irenaeus Joint Orthodox-Catholic Working Group, speaks loudly of your vast theological and ecumenical preparation and engagement, which you have always seen as the specific living-out of your vocation to the priesthood in the Paulist Fathers.

Father Ron, on behalf of our Prefect, Cardinal Kurt Koch, and all the members of the Dicastery for promoting Christian Unity, please know of our immense appreciation and gratitude for your service to the cause of Christian Unity, and be assured of our continuing prayers for your health and well-being.

Sincerely in the Lord,

✠ Brian Farrell  
Secretary