

HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN POPE FRANCIS AND PATRIARCH KIRILL

Havana, Cuba, 12 February 2016

WORDS OF THE HOLY FATHER

Your Holiness,
Your Eminences,
Reverend Fathers,

We speak as brothers, we have the same Baptism, we are bishops. We speak of our Churches, and we agree that unity is achieved by walking forward. We speak clearly, without ambiguity, and I must say I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our conversation. I give thanks for Your Holiness' humility, your fraternal humility, and your real desire for unity.

We have taken up a series of initiatives which I believe are viable and can be realized. Thus I wish to thank Your Holiness, once again, for your warm welcome, as well as those collaborating with us — and I mention but two: His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion and His Eminence Cardinal Koch, who with their colleagues worked towards this moment.

I do not wish to leave without expressing my sincere gratitude to Cuba, to the great Cuban people and to their President here with us. I thank you for your concrete willingness to help. If Cuba continues in this way, it will become the capital of unity.

And may all this be for the glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, for the good of the whole faithful People of God, under the mantle of the Holy Mother of God.

ORE, 19 February 2016

WORDS OF PATRIARCH KIRILL

Your Holiness,
Your Excellencies,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

For two hours we engaged in an open conversation, with full understanding of the responsibility we have to our Churches, our people of faith, the future of Christianity and the future of human civilization. It was a conversation rich in content, which provided us the opportunity to listen to and to understand each other's positions. And the outcome of the conversation permits me to affirm that currently the two Churches can cooperate, by defending Christians throughout the world, and they can work together, with full responsibility, that there be no war, that human life be respected everywhere in the world, that the foundation of personal, familial and social morality be reinforced, and through the Church's participation in the life of modern human society, that she be purified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and that of the Holy Spirit.

ORE, 19 February 2016

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