



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

E Civitate Vaticana, die 16 October 2020

PROT. N. 818/2020/e

HIS ALL HOLINESS BARTHOLOMEW I
Archbishop of Constantinople
Ecumenical Patriarch

Your All Holiness,

Having learned of the sad news of the death of His Eminence Metropolitan Gennadios, Metropolitan of Italy and Malta, I write to assure you that our Pontifical Council is united in prayer with Your All Holiness and the Ecumenical Patriarchate in asking God our merciful Father to welcome Metropolitan Gennadios to the celestial banquet.

In this moment of profound sorrow we recall with heartfelt gratitude the fruitful episcopal ministry of Metropolitan Gennadios at the service of the Orthodox communities in Italy, as well as his commitment to building authentic bonds of fraternity between Orthodox and Catholics. The presence of His Eminence Gennadios at many events and shared prayer celebrations was a significant witness to his genuine yearning for progress in the journey towards the re-establishment of full communion among all Christ's believers, an aspiration nurtured from the very beginning of his spiritual and theological formation. I am certain that this witness was and will continue to be a source of encouragement for many Christians.

In renewing to Your All Holiness the assurance of my personal prayer and that of all the staff of the Pontifical Council for Metropolitan Gennadios, for the Orthodox Archdiocese of Italy and Malta and for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, now mourning the loss of a pastor who dedicated his life to his flock, I express my most respectful greetings in Christ our Lord.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

Cardinal Kurt Koch
President