Ref. no. 1032/2226

Your Holiness,

Christ is Risen !

It is with great joy that we have received the news of the much-deserved election of Your Holiness as Bishop of Rome, Primate of the Roman Catholic Church, and successor to the late Pope Francis.

By means of the present Synodal Letter to be delivered into Your own holy hands, may we hasten to address our warmest congratulations to You both from us personally and on the part of the Venerable Hierarchy around us, of the Clergy, and of the assembly of the Holy Church in Greece, and wish wholeheartedly that the God of peace, who sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we may live through him (1 John 4,9), enlighten You and strengthen You in the discharge of Your new task, burdened with numerous and heavy responsibilities.

Your Holiness takes the helm of the Roman Catholic Church in extremely difficult times and under unfavourable conditions. Convinced that the sacred duty of each faithful and, a fortiori, of a Church Leader is to give witness to unity, reconciliation and peace "*according to the measure of the gift of Christ*" (*Eph.* 4,7), we pray that, during your ministry as Pontiff, You may continue to give exactly this witness in Christ.

May the Lord preserve You unto many years [*eis polla eti*, in Greek], rich in beautiful fruit. Concluding with this prayer in our minds and our hearts, may we embrace you fraternally in the Risen Christ and remain

Yours with much love in the Lord,

† Ἱερώνυμος Β'

Athens, May 9, 2025