



ARCHIEPISCOPUS ABOENSIS FINLANDIAE

***“Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”***

(Psalm 103: 1-2)

On my own behalf and on behalf of my Church, I would like to warmly congratulate You on your election.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and the Roman Catholic Church have close and cordial relations, both nationally and generally. I am the 55th holder of the episcopal seat of St Henry, which was established by papal bull almost 750 years ago. One of the current symbols of our close ecumenical relations is the tradition begun under Pope John Paul II. Every year in January, on St Henry's Day, three bishops from Finland, a Catholic, a Lutheran and an Orthodox, make a joint ecumenical pilgrimage to Rome to visit the Holy See. I hope that this tradition will continue in the future and that we will be able to meet Your Holiness in January.

May Almighty God bless You and Your valuable work for the whole of Christendom.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Tapio Luoma'.

++Tapio Luoma
Archbishop of Turku and Finland
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland