



DICASTERIUM
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

E Civitate Vaticana, die 22 February 2024

PROT. N. 211/2024/s

Most Reverend Archbishop
Dr Martin MODÉUS
UPPSALA

His Eminence
Cardinal Anders ARBORELIUS
STOCKHOLM

Dear Archbishop Modéus, dear Cardinal Arborelius,

I send you and all the participants in the Catholic-Lutheran meeting in Uppsala my warmest greetings.

I am delighted that church leaders in the Nordic countries are coming together to pray, listen and consult. On the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Birgitta in 1991, for which the Lutheran Primate of Sweden and Finland also travelled to Rome, Pope John Paul II said: "There is no important or significant event which does not benefit from Christians coming together and praying. [...] Truly the Lord has taken us by the hand and is guiding us. These exchanges and these prayers have already written pages and pages of our 'Book of Unity', a 'Book' which we must constantly return to and re-read so as to draw from it new inspiration and hope (*Ut unum sint*, 25)."


The 'Book of Unity' has continued to be written in recent decades. The joint prayer to commemorate the Lutheran Reformation with Pope Francis in Lund Cathedral in 2016 is certainly a particularly inspiring example of successful ecumenical cooperation. You yourselves will share ecumenical experiences from your dioceses and parishes at your meeting in Uppsala. The more deeply we recognise what we have been given in Holy Baptism, the sacrament of unity, the more we will truly recognise ourselves as sisters and brothers in the communion of all the baptised. We become attentive to one another; we share in the sorrows and needs of others; we share our joy and our hope.

On the occasion of his Apostolic Journey to Norway, Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Sweden in 1989, Pope John Paul II added a special page to the 'Book of Unity', which I would like to remind you of: "We must acknowledge with sorrow that Christians are not united. At the same time, we can be confident that the Lord of history has not abandoned us to our divisions. He wisely and patiently draws us by his grace to an ever greater remorse for them and an ever greater desire for unity (cf. *Unitatis redintegratio*, 1) (Address of 9 June 1989, Uppsala, 3).

May your common meeting be accompanied by the grace of God in this sense, so that all those who participate may be drawn to deeper commitment to the path of unity.

In fraternal communion

Yours,


Kurt Cardinal Koch
Prefect