



**IGLESIA CATÓLICA APOSTÓLICA SIRO-ORTODOXA DE ANTIOQUÍA**  
**ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE CENTRO AMÉRICA**  
IGLESIA CATÓLICA ECUMÉNICA RENOVADA - ICERGUA  
**MOR SANTIAGO EDUARDO AGUIRRE OESTMANN**  
**ARZOBISPO**

Guatemala, December 24, 2014

To His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aepfrem II Karim  
To His Eminences, the members of the Holy Synod of Antioch

Your Holiness, Your Eminences:

Barekmo!

On the occasion of Christmas and the New Year 2015, on behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Central America and myself, I want to express to you our gratefulness and our best wishes for this holy season and the coming year, as well, I assure you that you are every day in our prayers.

With the time passing, we all continue growing in our proud and thankfulness of being part of the Syriac Orthodox Church, the Mother of all Churches, and to be in communion with the legitimate successor of the Apostle Saint Peter.

We have followed closely and carefully all the sorrows and persecutions that our Church has endured in the Middle East. You can be sure that the sufferings of those who have been suffering, Bishops, Clergy, Faithfuls and other people, have also been our sufferings. We can say to you what Peter said to the paralytic, "we don't have silver nor gold, but what we have, we give to you;" (cf Act 3:6) we don't have financial resources nor political influence, but our faith, our love, our prayers and our concern have been with each one of you, every day, and will continue supporting you: Please, continue being strong and faithful, don't be afraid; our Lord Jesus Christ, born once in Bethlehem, continues to be born today, among and within you, in the midst of your pains and tears, of your fears and hopes!

During the present year, we have continued deepening into the knowledge and profession of the apostolic faith; our priests, progressively, have been implementing the use of the all vestments used in the Syriac Church in the Liturgy; some words of the Syriac language, even if few, are now used in essential parts of the Liturgy and all of us are carefully following the Sacramentary blessed by His late lamented Holiness Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas and ratified by Your Holiness Mor Ignatius Aepfrem II.

The Archdiocese of Central America, has faced many challenges, but with the grace of Our Lord it has continued growing in numbers, because when people know the truth about the early Church and the deep, consistent and genuine way in which our Holy Syriac Church has preserved the integrity of the faith, the worship and the organization of the Apostolic Church, they feel the call to be part of that holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Missions in other countries besides Guatemala, with Latin-Americans, have also been spreading and growing.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year. May the Lord, born among us and living through His Spirit in the Holy Church and in our hearts, grant you the joy that can't be taken away, the love beyond any limits and a holy and prosperous life! May He grant the peace during the New Year to the Middle East and to the whole world!

Your Holiness, Your Eminences, we entrust ourselves to your prayers and we humbly beg from Your Holiness your Apostolic Blessing.

Thanks again!  
Barekmo!

Mor Yaqub Eduardo Aguirre Oestmann.  
Archbishop of Central America.

