

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



Guatemala, December 22nd 2017.

To His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aepfrem II Karim
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
Supreme Head of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch

Your Holiness:

Barekhamor!

I want to express to Your Holiness, on my behalf and on behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Central America and its missions, our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

For us, Christmas is not only the remembrance of the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago, but the joyful celebration that, through His Church and specially through the Sacraments and the Holy Spirit, He continues being alive in our midst and He continues to be born constantly in our hearts and in the heart of all the people of good will.

We see also with hope and joy the signs that, with the Lord's help, in the near future Christians will be able to return to a certain kind of peace in the Middle East and that the presence of our Holy Church, even if diminished, it will be able to be reorganized and to shine and be a sign of the Good News of the presence of the Kingdom of God for all people.

Our priests and our faithful want also to renew their gratefulness for your effective intervention, in order to assure that our status as Archdiocese of Central America was preserved and reaffirmed.

Even in the midst of problems and challenges, our parishes and communities continue to grow in their identity as part of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch and also, through the continued missionary outreach, the number of conversions continues slow, but steadfast. Between January and February of 2018, we plan to have the priestly ordinations of the deacons for whom Your Holiness sent the blessing in October.

Since in Central America, December and January are vacation months, I ask to Your Holiness to please, extend for us, the time limit for sending the filled forms with the information for the planned Directory, until the end of the month of February.

We feel extremely grateful to the Lord and to the leadership of the Holy Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch for having received us into her ranks and for letting us be part of the Holy Church, the Mother of all Churches; and we are aware of our duty to preserve in its fullness the Apostolic Faith, to fully implement the Liturgy according to the specific rituals blessed and confirmed for the Archdiocese of Central America; and, in accordance with the mandate of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we continue proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples of all people, that we may all "become one flock with one shepherd" (John 10:16).

You can be sure that, Your Holiness, your ministry and the whole Church are always and constantly present in our daily prayers. Please keep us also in yours.

We humbly beg to extend your Apostolic Blessing upon us all!

Barekhamor!



Mor Yaquib Eduardo Aguirre Oestmann.
Archbishop of Central America