



No. EN 643/21

Christmas 2021

**His Eminence Mor Yacoub Eduardo Aguirre  
Archbishop of Central America**

Your Eminence, dear brother in Christ,

«إِوْرًا ܝܗ ܘܕܐ ܘܡܨܦܘܕ ܝܗܐ ܡܥ ܕܡܢܐ: ܕܪܦܐ ܐܘܐ ܕܗܘܐ ܕܚܦܐ ܕܚܦܐ ܕܚܦܐ»  
(ܨܘܒ ܡܨܦܘܕ ܝܗܐ)

**“A great mystery which was hidden from the creatures, the Father decided to reveal  
Him in the flesh for the people” (St. Jacob of Saroug)**

With the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the divine promise and the prophecies were fulfilled; this solemn event resulted in the redemption which will restore the image of man to its initial glory.

How great is this birth which reveals the love of God to the human race and His complete closeness to us. God humbly descended to the level of the people, He emptied Himself and became flesh to save us from death. Through His incarnation, He renewed His presence among us, eliminating the darkness which was surrounding our lives and leading people to despair. Indeed, the presence of God Emanuel among us scatters fear, sadness and despair, and brings peace, joy and hope. In our world, we strongly need to experience the presence of God among us so that we are encouraged and able to regain joy.

On this joyous occasion of Christmas, let us renew in our hearts the confidence that God Emanuel is among us and let us seek Him so that His light shines in our lives. Let us contemplate Christ Who accepted to be born in the darkness of the night so that He can bring us to light.

In this Christmas season, we offer our prayers and best wishes, asking the Lord to bless your Eminence and the beloved members of the Archdiocese of Central America, and grant you joy, peace, hope and prosperity. May this new year 2022 be full of blessings and good health to all.

In Christ our Lord, we remain fraternally,



**Ignatius Aphrem II**  
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East  
Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church