

## مليقي فيدنوره ورديقي ودحيق مدحيق وللسيق ميوالمو ووديد ويهامون والموادر

## To His Eminence Pietro Cardinal Parolin Secretary of State of the Holy See

## Your Eminence:

It is with deep sorrow that I have received the news of the passing today of the late His Holiness Pope Francis. The late Pontiff's demise on Easter Monday, after a period of much physical suffering, denotes his great closeness to the Lord Jesus Christ and His salvific suffering on the Cross, and His glorious Resurrection.

The late Pontiff will no doubt be remembered for his deep Christian spirit and genuine concern for all men, particularly the poor and marginalized in society. The various contacts I have had with the late Pope in recent times, particularly my last two official visits as Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church with His Holiness are impressed in my memory, and I shall remember him always for his genuine and sincere Christian spirit and loving heart.

The late Bishop of Rome leaves behind him an unparalleled legacy of contributions towards the reconciliation of all Christians. His constant support for the ecumenical movement and the rapprochement of the Churches cannot be forgotten, particularly with respect to our two Churches. Furthermore, his constant concern and efforts on behalf of the Christians of the Middle East during very difficult times will remain a hallmark of his twelve-year papacy. In particular, his historic visit to Iraq in March of 2021 proved to be a bulwark for all the Christians of the country, and for the entire Middle East region, as well.

Therefore, on behalf of the plenitude of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East, together with the clergy and faithful, we offer our deepest sympathy and prayerful condolences to the hierarchs, clergy and faithful of the Roman Catholic Church worldwide on the passing of the late Pontiff. We beseech our heavenly Father in prayer to receive his blessed soul with all the saints and righteous ones, having departed this world in the great hope of the resurrection of the dead and eternal life with the Risen Savior. May the grace and peace of the Lord remain with you now and always.

Given from our Patriarchal Cell in Erbil, Iraq, on this 21st day of April 2025.

