

Ottawa, June 5, 2014

**Urgent**

N. 2018/14

Your Excellency,

As you know, this past May 25, during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the Holy Father invited Presidents Shimon Peres and Mahmoud Abbas to join him in raising to heaven a fervent supplication to God for the gift of peace, and offered to welcome them to his place for a meeting of prayer.

God willing, the event will come about the afternoon of Sunday, June 8, the Solemnity of Pentecost. His Holiness Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, with whom the Holy Father had the joy of sharing his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, will also participate in the event.

Pope Francis now profoundly wishes to involve all the faithful, so that the prayer to God be all the more intense and that the land of Jesus may finally enjoy the peace which the angels announced at his birth.

For this reason, Pope Francis asks you, as President of the Episcopal Conference, to invite Bishops, those in consecrated life and all the faithful to participate spiritually in this supplication. Moreover, all men and women of goodwill may participate in the secret of their heart. Thus the prayer for peace will rise from the tomb of Peter and extend to all the ends of the earth. We hope the promise of Our Lord will so be accomplished: “If two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.” (Mt 18.19)

I am most aware, Your Excellency, that this letter arrives at the last minute, but I am certain you will do all that is possible so this desire of the Holy Father – despite the little time available to us – may be accomplished as well as possible.

I thank you in advance for all, and assure you of my fraternal regards and gratitude in the Lord.

+ Luigi Bonazzi  
Apostolic Nuncio

To His Excellency  
The Most Reverend Paul-André DUROCHER  
Archbishop of Gatineau  
President of the Canadian Episcopal Conference