



October 16, 2015

The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston
162 Goddard Avenue
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

Dear Archbishop Tobin and Metropolitan Methodios,

On behalf of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, I wish to extend our congratulations on the happy occasion of the 50th anniversary of the North American Orthodox Catholic Theological Consultation, as well as our gratitude for the numerous contributions to unity the Consultation has given our Churches over the years.

The Consultation has demonstrated itself to be an excellent model for dialogue, one that is rooted in both truth and charity. This dialogue of love has persevered over the years and indeed flourished despite the challenges faced. Important works such as your 2010 statement, *Steps Towards a Reunited Church: A Sketch of an Orthodox-Catholic Vision for the Future*, have helped our Churches see what a full and visible unity might look like for us. The Consultation has also spoken with a unified voice on the suffering of Christians throughout the world, most recently in your statement made in Mississauga, Ontario, in 2013, *The Plight of Christians in the Middle East*.

The Consultation has been blessed by the participation of gifted theologians and pastors from both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. Their generosity of time and service to this mission of unity is deeply appreciated, and indeed is a direct response to the will of Christ who prayed “that they may all be one” (Jn 17.21). The Catholic Bishops of Canada are grateful to be part of the Consultation, and to be represented through our two appointees. We also appreciate the opportunity to host the Consultation every five years; the last meeting in Mississauga was a particularly important moment for Orthodox and Catholics in Southern Ontario to celebrate and learn more about the Consultation and its significance in our common search for truth.

As underscored by the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, our Churches are linked "in closest intimacy" (n. 15). It is my prayer and hope that the Consultation's work continue to help our Churches live this intimacy ever more deeply, until we receive the full unity for which Christ prayed.

Fraternally in Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and reading "Douglas Crosby". The signature is fluid and cursive.

(Most Reverend) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton and
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops