



15 August 2019

Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God

His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios
Archbishop of Canada and Exarch of the Arctic
President, Canadian Conference of Orthodox Bishops
86 Overlea Blvd. (1 Patriarch Bartholomew Way)
Toronto, ON M4H 1C6

Your Eminence,

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops serving on our Orthodox-Catholic Bishops Dialogue of Canada, a mark of our fraternal closeness and faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ who prayed for our unity, I wish to convey to you my fraternal prayers and words of congratulations for the elevation of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew. By extension, I wish to acknowledge your new episcopal designation as Archbishop of Canada and Exarch of the Arctic.

This is a moment of great honour and celebration for the Greek Orthodox faithful of Canada, who have benefited so promisingly from your spiritual leadership, guiding the faithful by the example of the Good Shepherd into an ever deeper relationship with the most Holy Trinity.

The Catholic Bishops of Canada have appreciated your friendship and solidarity over the years as well as the ecclesial closeness that the Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church enjoy here in Canada.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and strengthen your ministry with “everlasting vitality” through the powerful intercession of the glorious *Theotokos* for the praise and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“The world is revived,
Seeing your holy majesty;
You, unmarried mother, holy virgin,
Rise now above us, into your heavenly home,
Ascending to life without an end:
Grant to all who sing to you
Everlasting vitality.”

(St. John of Damascus, Ode 5, Canon for the Dormition of the Mother of God)

Sincerely yours in Christ our Lord,

Bishop Richard Grecco
Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown and
Catholic-Co-Chair to the Orthodox-Catholic Bishops
Dialogue of Canada

Cc. The Most Reverend Michael Mulhall
The Most Reverend Lawrence Huculak, O.S.B.M
The Most Reverend Thomas Dowd

Rev. Father. Peter J. Avgeropoulos
Director of Inter-Church Relations for the Greek Orthodox Church in Canada

Mr. Kyle Ferguson
Advisor for Ecclesial and Interfaith Relations, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops