



## Office of the President

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Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles  
President

September 24, 2021

My Brother Bishops,

I am pleased to extend the prayers and fraternal greetings of the Bishops of the United States as you gather to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe. I regret that I cannot join you at your Jubilee Plenary Assembly.

The assembly's theme, "50 years serving Europe, memory and perspectives in the context of 'Fratelli Tutti,'" is timely. Our Holy Father's encyclical urges people of good will to renew their ties friendship and fraternity, recognizing that the work for peace and justice is rooted in our common humanity as brothers and sisters and children of God.

In fact, this has been the great contribution of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe during these past fifty years, as you have promoted the truth about the human person, created in the image of God, and the universal values of freedom, equality, and justice for all. Through your work, the Church has truly served as the "soul" of Europe and a sign of hope for the entire world.

Pope Francis recognizes, as we do, that the coronavirus pandemic has exposed deep inequalities and divisions in our societies and that in many ways, the pandemic has made those inequalities and divisions even worse. Yet at the same time, the pandemic "revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person's problems are the problems of all," the Pope said. "Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together."

May this beautiful truth — that we are one human family under God — guide the Church as we work to heal and rebuild our societies after this pandemic. May we continue to draw inspiration from our Holy Father's vision of the unity and common destiny of the human family in God's providential plan.

Entrusting all of the bishops in the Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe to the tender care of Our Blessed Mother Mary, I pray that Our Lord grant you wisdom and courage as you seek to proclaim his Gospel of love.

Fraternally in our Lord,

+ José H. Gomez

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