



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

Greeting to Ecumenical Guests

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

9 NOVEMBER 2012, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ and honoured guests.

With my brothers Archbishop Patrick, the Apostolic Nuncio and the Bishops in Bangladesh, I am delighted to greet you all in the name of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Dhaka and 400 years of Christian faith here in Bangladesh.

During his address to the pilgrims gathered in Rome at the beginning of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Holy Father urged all Christians to

“ask the Lord in a particular way to strengthen the faith of all Christians, to change our hearts and to enable us to bear united witness to the Gospel. In this way we will contribute to the new evangelization and respond ever more fully to the spiritual hunger of the men and women of our time.”

AUDIENCE, 18 JANUARY 2012

The Holy Father further reminded us that the full and visible unity of all Christians “demands that we let ourselves be conformed ever more perfectly to the image of Christ” and that the “unity we pray for requires an inner conversion that is both common and personal.”

In this ‘Year of Faith’, we give thanks to God for the way in which the Second Vatican Council made the search for Christian unity the centre of the Church’s life and activity when it decreed:

“The Sacred Council exhorts all the Catholic faithful to recognize the signs of the times and to take an active and intelligent part in the work of ecumenism”

UNITATIS REDINTEGRATIO, N 4.

The ecumenical task is the responsibility of all the baptized developing the partial communion that already exists and enabling it to grow into a fuller communion in truth and charity.

I encourage you to continue your cooperation with each other and to seek the good of all your brothers and sisters in this your country.

I offer warm and cordial greetings to all you Christian leaders on behalf of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, and assure each of you of my prayers.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor
Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster