



## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS

4900 LASALLE ROAD

HYATTSVILLE, MD 20782

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS  
President/CEO, HCEF

Dear Rateb,

First of all, I want to congratulate you on the continuing work of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. I have no doubt that some of the great success of the visit of the Holy Father to the Holy Land earlier this spring owes in good part to the continuous, courageous and outstanding work of the Foundation. You are certainly the spirit and strength of this Foundation, and the fact of the Holy Father's wonderful visit to the lands of Jesus' birth and life can be traced to the associations of Christians and other religious people which you have fostered over so many years. The work of the Foundation, which strives to build ecumenical and interfaith relationships to bring people together, has never been more important than now.

I am not sure that I will be able to be present at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference, but I greet all those who will be there and encourage them to work with you in building a new city of God where people of goodwill will not have to suffer for the cause of peace and religious values.

Be sure of my support, and my congratulations to those who join you, not just this night but throughout the year, in your striving for a solution to the complex problems of this most holy land where we are all called to recognize our responsibility as brothers and sisters in God's one human family. In a special way I salute Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, a friend of many years who will receive the Path to Peace Award.

Asking God's prayers for you and for all those who work for peace with justice and safety in the Holy Land and with every good wish to all, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick  
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington