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Sir Rateb Rabie, KCHS
President/CEO
Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, Inc.
6935 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 518
Bethesda, MD 20815

Dear Friends,

Receive my warm greetings and prayerful best wishes on the occasion of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 17th International Conference and Awards Banquet. I am happy to offer my prayers and support for your work on behalf of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, and my congratulations to this year's awardees.

The theme you chose: "Our Faith is Commitment to Justice, Peace and Coexistence" reflects our responsibility as believers as well as an urgent need in our world.

Pope Francis said some time ago: "Fraternal relations between people, and cooperation in building a more just society are not an idealistic dream, but the fruit of a concerted effort on the part of all, in service of the common good." I believe these words reflect the mission of HCEF, of bringing people together in order to help build a better society.

So I continue to quote our Holy Father: "I encourage you in this commitment to the common good, a commitment which demands of everyone wisdom, prudence and generosity."

Please know of my prayers for a successful Conference, hoping that it will bear much fruit in your work and in the lives of those impacted by your efforts.

May God grant you peace and joy,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles