

October 16, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his recent visit to the United States, Pope Francis spoke often of the common good and the need to recognize the dignity of every person, which transcends social status or religious background. He encouraged us to work together to help overcome the challenges faced by all those in need throughout the world, and to keep moving forward in hope.

I am, therefore, pleased to offer my personal support for The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's 17th International Conference, "Our Faith is Commitment to Justice, Peace, and Coexistence." I am grateful for the support shown by each of you who are attending this conference, as we strive through our prayers to lift the spirits of our Christian brethren in the Holy Land, to aid them financially, and to enter into deeper solidarity with them.

May our efforts help us to see the face of Jesus Christ in all the afflicted members of His Church.

With my best wishes and personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John R. Gaydos

Bishop of Jefferson City