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ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE

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Թրուակամի
Date 19 August 2016

Dear Rateb, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers at HCEF,

I would like to begin this letter by acknowledging your tremendous efforts and congratulating you on the occasion of the 18th International Conference. HCEF has consistently worked to create a bond of solidarity between churches and communities in the Holy Land and in the US in order spread awareness on the suffering of the Palestinian Christians. That is why I find it fitting this year's them is: Forging a New Bond of Solidarity for Equality, Prosperity, and Peace". HCEF has never ceased in this creation of building new bonds of solidarity in innovative ways.

I would like for us to call to mind the following verses from the bible: "Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear. You have faith in God, whose power will protect you until the last day..." (1 Peter 1:3-5). With this verse I hope to remind all that uniting in faith will make us stronger in our bond of solidarity.

I pray for a successful conference and send my best wishes to all those attending. God bless your continued work in restoring peace, security and human dignity in the Holy Land. I pray that your work will thrive.

Blessings in Christ our Savior,

Archbishop Nourhan Manougian

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem