Office of the Archbishop 835 North Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611-2030 312.534.8230 archchicago.org

October

Jubilee of Mercy

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Please allow me to offer you my heartfelt best wishes as you gather for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

The theme you have chosen this year, "Forging a New Bond of Solidarity for Equality, Prosperity and Peace" is timely and encouraging as it reminds us that Pope Francis has made an important plea for each one of us to be the hands of God's mercy in this world. Jesus revealed the power of the Father's mercy, and taught us in words and actions how we are to show love and mercy towards one another—we are to "love our neighbor as ourselves."

Your support of Christians in the Holy Land reminds us that we have a shared responsibility for others as part of our interconnectedness with the human family. Allow me to offer you my deepest sentiments of gratitude and admiration for your efforts to promote peace, justice and coexistence during this Jubilee of Mercy.

Know of my prayers for a successful conference as you continue to promote hope and peace in the Holy Land. With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich

Archbishop of Chicago

18<sup>th</sup> International Conference & Awards Banquet Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation October 14-15, 2016