

Spanish to English translation

TRIP TO TURKEY

JOINT DECLARATION

DEL PAPA JUAN PABLO II and Patriarch Dimitrios I
November 30, 1979

We, Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I thank God that has allowed us to get together to celebrate the feast of St. Andrew, the first call and brother of the Apostle Peter. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens" (Eph 1, 3).

Seeking the glory of God alone through the fulfillment of his will, once again declare our determination to do everything possible to hasten the day when the restoration of full communion between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church and that we can finally concelebrate the Divine Eucharist.

We thank our predecessors, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras, all they did to reconcile our churches and make progress in the unit.

Progress in the preparatory stage allow us to announce that the theological dialogue will begin and make public the list of members of the Catholic-Orthodox Joint Commission to carry out such a dialogue.

This theological dialogue aims not only to progress towards the restoration of full communion between the Catholic and Orthodox sister Churches, but also contribute to the multiple dialogues that take place in the Christian world view to the search for unity.

The dialogue of charity (cf. Jn 13, 34, Eph 4, 1-7), rooted in complete fidelity to the one Lord Jesus Christ and His will for the Church (cf. Jn 17, 21), has opened the way towards a better understanding of the theological positions toward each other and also new approaches to theological work and a new attitude towards the common past of our churches.

This purification of the collective memory of our churches is an important result of the dialogue of charity and a prerequisite for future progress. This dialogue of charity must continue to intensify in the complex situation we have inherited from the past and that is the reality that our efforts must operate today.

We hope that progress in the drive opens up new possibilities for dialogue and cooperation with believers of other religions and all people of good will, that love and fraternity are above the hatred and opposition among men. We hope to contribute to the advent of genuine world peace. We implore the gift of who was who and who will come, Christ our only Lord and our true peace.

Fanar, the feast of St. Andrew, 1979.

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http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1979/november/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19791130_dichiarazione-jpii-dimitrios_sp.html