

**IGLESIA CATÓLICA APOSTÓLICA SIRO-ORTODOXA DE ANTIOQUÍA**  
**ARQUIDIÓCESIS DE CENTRO AMÉRICA**  
IGLESIA CATÓLICA ECUMÉNICA RENOVADA - ICERGUA  
**MOR SANTIAGO EDUARDO AGUIRRE OESTMANN**  
**ARZOBISPO**



Guatemala, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

To His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aepfrem II Karim  
To Their Eminences the Members of the Holy Synod  
Your Holiness, Your Eminences:

Barekmor!

We are now celebrating the second anniversary of our incorporation into the Holy See of Antioch, as well as the second year of the creation of the Archdiocese of Central America and of my ordination as Monk and as Archbishop of our Holy Church.

It is with deep gratefulness and immense joy that we celebrate this wonderful and blessed event.

We remember in our prayers and in our hearts His late lamented Holiness Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas, who as Patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church, was the one chosen by our Lord, to confirm us into the Apostolic Faith and to accept us into His Holy Church.

We are extremely grateful to Your Holiness, Mor Ignatius Aepfrem, for all you support and understanding and for ratifying all what had been blessed for our Archdiocese of Central America.

We also remember with thankfulness every one of your Eminences, members of the Holy Synod, for your openness and support during the process of acceptance and when we have had the opportunity of meeting personally. Specially we are grateful to His Eminence Mor Clemis Eugene Kaplan for accompanying us during the process that led us into our Holy Church and then, during the last two years, for helping us resolve different questions and for advising us about challenges that we have faced; as well as to His Eminences Mor Theophilos George Saliba, Secretary of the Holy Synod, Mor Philexinos Mattias Nayis, Mor Clemis Daniel Malak Kourieh, Mor Chrysostomos Michael Shamoun and Mor Timotheos Matta Khoury for your continued friendship and support.

Now, after two years into the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, on my behalf, on behalf of all the priests and of all the people of God of the Archdiocese, we want to express to every one of you our joy for being part of the Church. We recognize in that fact and incomparable blessing from our Lord and we feel more and more committed to continue spreading the Apostolic Faith and the presence of our Holy Church in the territory covered by the Archdiocese of Central America and its missions.

We have followed with great sorrow the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. Every day, through prayers, fasting and spiritual concern, we are trying to share and to be close to those who are suffering.

During these two years we have experienced a continued growth in different directions: first of all in our identity and our Faith, as part of our Holy Church; but also in the number of faithful and communities. The number of converts continues growing. But we have also experienced different forms of persecutions, slander and intrigues, trying to divide, discourage and create confusion among the faithful. Nevertheless, the merciful Lord has sustained us in the midst of the challenges and has made us stronger in the profession of the Apostolic Faith and has kept us steadfast in the fulfillment of the mission that has been entrusted to us, as part of our Holy Church.

Thank you again, Your Holiness and Your Eminences, for all what you have done and are doing for us; you can be sure that from our poverty and littleness, we are sharing continuously with you our love, our prayers and our concern.

Your Holiness, we implore from you your Apostolic Blessing. Your Eminences, please keep us in your prayers.

Barekmor!



Mor Yaquib Eduardo Aguirre Oestmann.  
Archbishop of Central America