

SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE  
OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST  
BAB TOUMA, P.O.BOX 22260  
DAMASCUS - SYRIA



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Christmas 2017

His Eminence Mor Yacoub Eduardo Aguirre  
Archbishop of Central America

«أَبٌ وَتَسَامِبُ أَسْبُ كَلُّهُ هَا كَبُّهُ أَيُّهُ: أَلْبُ وَتَسَامِبُ أَسْبُ وَلَانُّهُ  
رَحْمَةُ كَلُّهُ تَعْمَلُ وَكَلُّهُهُ لُحْمُ» (كُنْيَةُ أَفْرَمُ: كَبُّتُهُمَا وَحَمُّهُ كَبُّرًا)

"We came to see You as God, and, Behold! You are a man:  
we came to see You as man, and there, shines forth the Light of Your Divinity!"  
(Mor Aphrem, Hymns on the Nativity)

Your Eminence,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

On a cold and dark winter night, a light shone on earth from a small manger in Bethlehem. A bright star in the skies led to a wonder Child on earth. In the sky of Ephrathah, the Angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2: 14). On earth, the kings worshiped the King of peace, born as a child to Whom the shepherds chanted.

From our Orient that is suffering from wars and crises, shines our hope that peace will dwell again in our countries, and that God, who became flesh to save humankind, will not leave us in tribulations. Emanuel, the Child of Bethlehem, is the source of our determination to remain witnesses to Him where He was born.

We extend our warm greetings and wish Your Eminence a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In Christ our Lord, we remain fraternally,



Ignatius Aphrem II  
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East