



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

Dear brothers and sisters,

In the past months, the Christian communities present in Turkey, together with those spread throughout the world, have followed the synodal path desired by Pope Francis to manifest in a concrete way the mystery of communion that is the essence of the Church and to foster the active participation of all the faithful, according to the charisms and gifts that Holy Spirit arouses in each, in the life of the ecclesial community. In it we recognize the Lord who lives and continues in every place and in every time his work of salvation.

At the end of the activities proposed in the different diocesan realities, the time has now come to experience together a new stage of our journey: the Synodal Convention of the Church of Turkey that will take place in Ephesus and İzmir on **October 8 and 9, 2022**.

On behalf of all the bishops who are called to lead the Christian communities in our country, I would like to invite each of you, according to your own possibilities, to participate in this major ecclesial event. Therefore, I inform you that our Synodal Conference will be held according to the following schedule:

Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.: Solemn concelebration of the Eucharist in the ancient basilica of the Council of Ephesus on the traditional anniversary of the dogmatic proclamation of Mary Mother of God (Theotokos). The liturgy will be presided over by His Excellency Most Rev. Marek Solczyński, Apostolic Nuncio to Turkey. We will be honored by the presence of His Holiness Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who will deliver the homily during the celebration.

Sunday, October 9, 2022 9:00 a.m.: Gathering at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Izmir and beginning the work of the Conference, which will continue until the afternoon. Lunch will be offered to all present. At 5 p.m. a solemn celebration of the Eucharist will conclude the conference.

I ask each of you for the gift of prayer so that through this meaningful community moment the Church present in Turkey may grow in discernment of God's will and renew its commitment to implement it with total dedication and evangelical trust.

I cordially greet you, invoking upon you, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God, the Lord's blessing.

Izmir September 24, 2022

+ *Martin Kmetec*

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President of CET