

Most Reverend Excellency,


the news of the death of H.E. Bishop Dimitrios Salachas, titular Bishop of Grazianopolis and Apostolic Exarch Emeritus of Greece, reached us unexpectedly and was a source of sadness. With feelings of sincere condolences on behalf of all my brother bishops of Turkey, the entire ecclesial community living in this nation and my own, I wish to express our participation in the mourning and prayer of your ecclesial community.

With grateful hearts we make remembrance of the generous service that Bishop Dimitrios gave to the universal Church in almost sixty years of his priestly life and in the fifteen years of his episcopal ministry. We express our heartfelt gratitude for the valuable contribution he made to the life and pastoral activity of the Catholic Church in Turkey, in particular by making available his high competence in the field of Canon Law, both as Judicial Vicar at the *Interritorial Tribunal* and *Interdiocesan Tribunal of Turkey*, and for the canonical formation courses held both in Istanbul and Izmir.

We will cherish the memory of Bishop Dimitrios' passionate competence and his friendliness. We wish to continue to follow his example as a builder of dialogue and a pastor who called for putting the human person, with his dignity, at the center of all ecclesial activity, including judicial activity.

Finding ourselves unable to be personally present at the funeral celebration that will take place on Friday next October 20, we wish to let you know that the Catholic Church of Turkey will unite in prayer for the eternal repose of the late Bishop Dimitrios with the celebration of the Holy Mass in Suffrage of him that will be presided by me, on October 27, in Istanbul.

Animated by the Christian hope that flows from the certainty that Christ is risen, we entrust this faithful pastor to the Lord Jesus, the meek judge. We raise fervent prayers that Bishop Salachas, who has always shown himself to be a merciful man, may now obtain mercy and be received at the wedding banquet prepared for all peoples in Heaven.



+ *Mart Kmetec*
+ **Martin Kmetec OFM Conv**
Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir
President CET

To *His Excellency*
Mgr. Manuel Nin i Güell OSB
Titular Bishop of Carcabia
Apostolic Exarch of Greece