



Prot. №. 22/2025 TR

İzmir, 21 Nisan 2025

**Statement by the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Türkiye on the death of His Holiness Pope Francis**

Strong in the hope of Easter, we join in the profound sorrow of the universal Church that mourns the death of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. His much desired visit to Türkiye on the occasion of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea will no longer be possible, but he will accompany us from the Eternal Home of the Father.

Pope Francis led the Catholic Church from March 13, 2013 to April 21, 2025. He was a prophet in the difficult times of the world and the Church, carrying forward the teaching of the Gospel in solidarity with the poor and in hope for the Church.

As a witness of mercy and compassion, he marked the life of the Church with his profoundly evangelical attitude, seeking to open the hearts of the faithful to respond to the challenges of the world with fidelity to Christ. With courage he undertook the synodal renewal for the profound communion of all the faithful, always reminding us of the evangelical values, solidarity for the poor, mission, social justice and dialogue with the world.

He was a messenger of peace for all humanity, fighting against the tragedy of war and violence. Pope Francis has launched numerous appeals for peace (especially in Ukraine, Syria, the Holy Land, Africa), for the reception of migrants and for the protection of the environment. He has also been involved in initiatives to promote ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, such as his historic trip to Iraq (2021) and the meeting with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar.

Our Christian community remembers with gratitude his Apostolic Journey to our country between 28 and 30 November 2014. Last year in February he received the bishops of Turkey on their visit ad Limina Apostolorum, demonstrating the concern of the universal pastor for small Catholic communities and minorities.

We are all indebted to him for his paternal love, therefore we are united by his memory, and by the duty to pray for his eternal rest.

Live forever in Christ the Holy Father!



+ Most Rev.

† Martin KMETEC, OFMConv  
Arcivescovo Metropolita di Izmir  
Presidente della CET

**CET:** Satırcı Sok. No. 2; 34373 İnönü Mah., Şişli – İSTANBUL (TÜRKİYE)  
**Tel:** +90 212 230 73 12; **Fax:** +90 212 230 31 95; **Tel&Fax:** +90 212 219 00 89  
**E-mail:** sekretariat.cet@gmail.com;  
**Web:** www.katolik-kilisesi.org