



June 17, 2016

Greetings to My Orthodox Brothers in Christ!

I send joyful and fraternal greetings to you as you prepare for the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in discernment of where the Spirit would have you go.

We live in troubled times. But as children of the Resurrected God, we know that grief is always accompanied by hope, because the Kingdom is in our midst, in the here-and-now, if we but have eyes to see it and hearts to embrace it.

As the Vatican-II document *Unitatis redintegratio* (Article 17) notes, Orthodoxy and Catholicism have much in common spiritually, theologically, and liturgically. Despite our historical differences, we are joined together as branches of the One Vine. May we enter ever more deeply into fellowship with one another as members of the united and undivided Body of Christ.

On behalf of the People of God in the American National Catholic Church, I wish you a fruitful Council. You will be in my prayers.

Given under my hand and seal, the 17th day of June in the Year of Our Lord 2016 on the Feasts of Martyr Nectan of Hartland (Orthodox) and St. Albert Chmielowski (Latin).

Yours In Christ,

Most Reverend George R. Lucey
Presiding Bishop