



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط

The Middle East Council of Churches

Head Office  
Beirut, Lebanon, P.O. Box 11-5376  
Tel: +961 1 353938 / Fax: +961 1 344896  
info@mecc.org / www.mecc.org

No. 185/2018

Beirut, May 21, 2018

**Your Beatitude Mar Louis Raphael Sako**  
**Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church**

Greetings of Peace in the name of Christ,

On behalf of the Middle East Council of Churches, and in the name of the General Secretariat, we would like to express our tremendous joy in your appointment by Pope Francis as a Cardinal in the Catholic Church. We hereby express our warmest wishes and congratulations as a President of this Council, representing the Catholic family in the East. This new mission you are responsible for, represents undoubtedly, a source of pride for the Chaldean Catholic Church in particular, and for Middle Eastern Churches and the Council in general. It also represents an opportunity to continue your tireless pursuit and efforts to protect the Church in the East by highlighting its heritage, diversity, and theological and spiritual richness to the world. We are certain you hold each and every person from the Churches in this region in your heart, regardless of his or her denomination; and carry in your thoughts the pain, concerns, and struggles of this East, wounded in all its components.

As we offer thanks to our Lord, the Risen Jesus Christ, we multiply our prayers that the Holy Spirit will support your journey and assist you in your patriarchal and cardinal service, for the benefit of the Church and Christian witness, as well as the advancement of a culture of dialogue and brotherhood in the East and in the world.

May you accept, Your Beatitude and Grace, our deepest respect, gratitude, and appreciation.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Souraya Bechealany  
MECC Acting Secretary General

