



World Council of Churches

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 791 6111 Fax: +41 22 791 0361
Email: infowcc@wcc-coe.org www.oikoumene.org

General Secretariat

Direct phone: +41 22 791 6285
Direct e-mail: dcb@wcc-coe.org

Geneva, February 23, 2021

His Holiness Porfirije
Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox
Church

Your Holiness,

With deep gratitude to the Triune God and with great joy we received the good news of your election as the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church. We congratulate the Holy Synod of Bishops for your election on the God-enhanced Throne of Saint Sava and we join the faithful of your Church in their joy of having a new Patriarch and spiritual Father.

The election of Your Holiness is an encouragement for the entire Orthodox family and beyond. Your work for reconciliation among Christians and your contribution to the pacification of the Balkans over the past years is a source of inspiration and builds now on the legacy of your worthy predecessor, Patriarch Irinej, who promoted a culture of peace among peoples and nations. We pray God to strengthen you, to guide you, and to accompany you in your new ministry, as you continue along the path of a very long chain of Primates, going back to the 13th century.

We are fully aware that in these particularly difficult and challenging times locally and globally, your leadership, your spiritual support and your wise counsel as well as your discernment and your guidance are much needed and will be deeply valued by the faithful of the Serbian Orthodox Church and also by all people of good will in your country, and in the world as a whole.

Our times are marked by major challenges and present a degree of complexity that makes it vital to commonly express our Christian heritage and our Christian calling in order to make visible Christ's reconciling, healing and loving presence. We are sure that the long and rich Serbian Orthodox theological, spiritual, and pastoral tradition will guide your patriarchal ministry and mission.

The World Council of Churches recalls with gratitude the active participation of your Church in the ecumenical movement. We are certain that under your patriarchal ministry, the Serbian Orthodox Church will continue to strengthen the faithful contribution to the life and work of this fellowship of 350 churches. May your episcopal gift for welcoming young generations in the life of the Church and for working towards the rehabilitation of those suffering of different addictions become exemplary to our fellowship of churches so that Christian youth be of one mind and feel the presence of Christ's love in all their activities.

On behalf of the entire fellowship of the World Council of Churches, please accept my warmest congratulations, my wishes of many blessed years in the service of the faithful people of Serbia,

and the assurance of prayers for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in the life of the entire Serbian Orthodox Church.

I will be honoured and happy to meet Your Holiness in the near future.

Axios! Mnogaja Ljeta!

With filial respect

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ioan Sauca". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca
Acting General Secretary