

**"INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN  
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCHES"**

Sponsors: Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate of Egypt [ [www.coptic.org](http://www.coptic.org) ],  
Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East – Damascus [ [www.syrian-orthodox.com](http://www.syrian-orthodox.com) ],  
Armenian Apostolic Church: See of Etchmiadzin, Armenia – Catholicosate of Antelias, Lebanon  
[ [www.armenianorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.armenianorthodoxchurch.org) ],  
Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church [ [www.ethiopianorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.ethiopianorthodoxchurch.org) ],  
Orthodox Church of Eritrea, Malankara Orthodox Church in India [ [www.malankaraorthodoxchurch.in](http://www.malankaraorthodoxchurch.in) ],  
and Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity [ [www.christianunity.va](http://www.christianunity.va) ]

*The first rapprochement between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches came about by some common declarations:  
COMMON DECLARATIONS*

May 12, 1970 – Rome

Pope Paul VI and Vasken I, Supreme Catholicos-Patriarch of All Armenians

October 27, 1971 – Rome

Pope Paul VI and His Holiness Patriarch Mar Ignatius Jacob III of the Syrian Orthodox Church

May 10, 1973 – Rome

Pope Paul VI and Shenouda III, Pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the See of St. Mark

June 23, 1984 – Rome

Pope John Paul II and His Holiness Mar Ignatius Zakka I Iwas

December 13, 1996 – Rome

Pope John Paul II and Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians Karekin I

January 25, 1997 – Rome

Pope John Paul II and Catholicos of Cilicia Aram I Keshishian

September 27, 2001 – Etchmiadzin, Armenia

Pope John Paul II and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians Karekin II

April 28, 2017 – Cairo, Egypt

Pope Francis and His Holiness Tawadros II

*FIRST SERIES (2003-)*

*Preparatory Committee for the establishment of a Dialogue Commission involving representatives of the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches – Rome, January 27-29, 2003 – PRESS RELEASE*

MEETINGS:

1. January 27-30, 2004 – Cairo, Egypt

*"Review of the studies and activities over the past 30 years; planning for the second meeting" – REPORT*

2. January 26-29, 2005 – Rome, Italy  
*“Understanding of communion, constitutive elements of communion; Particular and universal communion, meaning of sister churches and of Church families; Full communion and degrees of communion, common ecumenical goal” – REPORT*
3. January 27-30, 2006 – Etchmiadzin, Armenia  
*“Bishops in apostolic succession; Primacy and synodality/conciliarity; Synods, local and ecumenical (their ecclesiological meaning); appointment of a drafting committee” – REPORT*
4. January 28 - February 3, 2007 – Rome, Italy  
 January 29-30 – Oriental Orthodox delegates met  
 January 30 – Catholic delegates met  
 Joint commission met January 31 – February 2  
*“Mission, witness, service and problem of proselytism; salvation of non-believers; marriage between Catholics and Muslims; Mixed marriage with non-believers” – REPORT*  
 May 28-30, 2007 – Rome, Italy  
 Sub-committee drafting meeting
5. January 27 - February 2, 2008 – Maarrat Saydnaya, Syria  
 January 27-28 - Delegations met separately  
 Joint commission met January 29 – February 2  
*“Study of draft document; Goals of the dialogue” – REPORT*  
 Drafting sub-committee June 25-26, 2008 – Rome, Italy
6. January 26-30, 2009 – Rome, Italy  
 January 26 - Delegations met separately  
 Joint commission met January 27-30  
*“Nature of the communion of our churches shared in the first half of the first millennium” – REPORT and COMMON DOCUMENT*
7. January 27-31, 2010 – Antelias, Lebanon  
 January 27 - Delegations met separately  
 Joint commission met January 28-30  
*“The ways in which the churches expressed their communion with one another in the first five centuries; The reception of councils; Approval of agreed statement ‘Nature, Constitution and Mission of the Church’” – REPORT*
8. January 25-28, 2011 – Rome, Italy  
 January 25 - Delegations met separately  
 Joint commission met January 26-28  
*“Communion and communication among the churches until mid-fifth century; Role of monasticism; Petrine ministry” – REPORT*
9. January 17-21, 2012 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
 January 17 - Delegations met separately  
 Joint commission met January 18-21  
*“Martyrdom and communion; Ecclesial communion in the New Testament; Prayer and liturgy as means of communion and communication” – REPORT*
10. January 23-27, 2013 – Rome, Italy  
 January 23 (morning) - Delegations met separately  
 Joint commission met January 23-26  
*“The ways in which full communion among our churches was expressed in the first five centuries; Saints as elements of communion and communication; Processes of canonization and mutual recognition of saints as a constitutive element of communion” – REPORT*

11. January 28-February 1, 2014 – Pampakuda, India  
January 28 - Delegations met separately  
Joint commission met January 29-February 1  
*“Full communion in the first five centuries; Development of Eucharistic anaphoras; Significance of pilgrimage”* – REPORT
12. January 24-31, 2015 – Rome, Italy  
January 26 - Delegations met separately  
Joint commission met January 27-30  
*“Approval of ‘The Exercise of Communion in the Life of the Early Church and its Implications for our Search for Communion Today’; Sacraments of initiation”* – REPORT and COMMON STATEMENT
13. January 30-February 6, 2016 – Cairo, Egypt  
February 1 - Delegations met separately  
Joint commission met February 2-5  
*“The Sacraments of Initiation”* – REPORT
14. January 22-27, 2017 – Rome, Italy  
January 22 and 23 - Delegations met separately  
Joint commission met January 24-27  
*“The historical, theological, and ecclesiological aspects of the Holy Eucharist; discussion of modern pastoral issues, touching upon communities in diaspora, the challenges of secularism, reaching the younger generation, and the possibility of pastoral adaptation of traditional liturgies”* – REPORT
15. January 29 - February 5, 2018 – Etchmiadzin, Armenia  
January 30 - Delegations met separately  
*“Consideration of the sacraments with special emphasis on Penance/Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders”* – REPORT
16. January 27 - February 2, 2019 – Rome, Italy  
January 28 and 31 - Delegations met separately  
*“Consideration of the sacraments with special emphasis on Marriage”* – REPORT
17. January 26 - February 1, 2020 – Atchaneh, Lebanon  
January 27 and 29 - Delegations met separately  
*“Focus on the fundamental aspects of sacramental theology, including the question of who ministers the sacrament, who can receive a sacrament, and other canonical issues related to matrimony”* - REPORT  
  
January 24-30, 2021 - Rome, Italy – cancelled
18. January 26-28, 2022 - online  
*“Study of a draft document on the sacraments in the life of the Church, concluding the third phase of the dialogue”* - REPORT
19. June 20-24, 2022 - Rome, Italy  
*“Finalization of the document on the sacraments; the main theme of the meeting will be ‘The Virgin Mary in the teaching and life of the Church’”*

CO-CHAIRS: H.E. Cardinal Walter Kasper, President, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity – Vatican City (2003-2010)  
H.E. Cardinal Kurt Koch, President, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity – Vatican City (2011-)  
H.E. Anba Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church – Egypt (2003-2018)

CO-SECRETARIES: Msgr. Johan Bonny, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2003-2008)  
Msgr. Gabriel Quicke, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2009-2018)  
Rev. Father Hyacinthe Destivelle, OP, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2019-)  
Rev. Dr. John Mathews, Secretary, Committee on Inter-Church Relations (2003-2010) (later as bishop Metropolitan Youhanon Mar Demetrios, Assistant Bishop of Delhi) (2011-)