



THE ARCHBISHOP
UPPSALA

His Holiness
Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark

Uppsala, December 11, 2016

CAIRO

Dear Brother in Christ,

“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God ... A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:1, 3)

These words of comfort and hope were read in the Church of Sweden today, the Third Sunday of Advent, a day when we especially commemorate the message of St. John the Baptist: “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

With anguish and great sadness we received the news about the bombing in St. Peter’s church today. We pray for the victims and families who have lost their loved ones and for the Christians in Egypt who continue to be a target of senseless violence that kills indiscriminately. I also pray for you, Bishop Thomas and Bishop Abakir, and the whole leadership of your church, that God may strengthen you with the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit.

We implore all people with decision-making power in Egypt to ensure that the country is safe for all people and to find means to counteract and prevent violence. We urge faith leaders who preach or tacitly support violence to repent and hear the voice who cries out: “prepare the way of the Lord”, the Almighty and ever Compassionate.

May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless your important ministry in the succession of St. Mark, who has taught us the true essence of the Church’s service to the world: “They went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.” (Mark 16:20)

To these words of sympathy I would like to add words of sincere gratitude for the warm and generous hospitality shown to our delegation during our recent visit to Cairo, Anafra and Alexandria. It is with deep appreciation for all we have learned and shared that we have returned to Sweden. We hope that our wishes to deepen our relationships through study, visitations, social work and theological dialogue will come true.

May the God of comfort and love be with you all and empower you for each new day!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Antje Jackelén
Archbishop