



CONGREGATION FOR THE EASTERN CHURCHES

THE CATHOLIC EAST



VALORE ITALIANO





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2019

1st English edition edited by:

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THE CATHOLIC EAST

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Preface

The Catholic East is the fruit of a long and intense effort. It is published by the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, the dicastery of the Roman Curia entrusted with supporting the Eastern Catholic Churches. The dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium* of the Second Vatican Council placed the Churches of the East most appropriately within the communion of Churches:

By divine providence it has happened that various Churches, founded in various places by the apostles and their successors, over the centuries have formed into many groups that are organically united, which, saving the unity of the faith and the single divine constitution of the universal Church, enjoy their own discipline, their own liturgical custom, their own theological and spiritual patrimony. Some of these, particularly the ancient patriarchal Churches, as mothers in the faith, have given birth to others as their daughters, with which they remain connected up to our day by a very tight bond of charity in sacramental life and in mutual respect for rights and obligations. (n. 23)

Thus, Christ's Church is the spouse *circumdada varietate* (Psalm 44: 15). Many motivations led our dicastery to promote this new edition of *The Catholic East*: first of all, the desire to make the Catholic faithful know honour, and love the Churches of the East in full communion with the Apostolic See of Rome, whose rich diversity is great and yet too little recognized.

To this aspiration is added the aim of presenting a tool for work and consultation that is combined with an effort at objective and academic historical reconstruction, but always capable of being refined and updated, in the hope that the full ecclesiality of our Churches, progressively rediscovered beginning with the pontificate of Pope Leo XIII, may be appreciated more and more.

Third, *The Catholic East* desires to be a tribute to the Churches of the Christian East, Catholic and Orthodox, and to their numerous martyrs and confessors of the faith. When the Jubilee Year 2000 was approaching, the Congregation for the Eastern Churches organized a conference, "Faith and Martyrdom", and published its proceedings. Unfortunately, tragic

persecutions are being repeated even today, and the Christians of the East pay a very heavy price for the hatred that oppresses them and divides them one from another. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have lost everything as they fled from their cities and villages, dispersed far from their lands and communities of origin. Others have been taken hostage and are imprisoned only because they believe in Jesus Christ.

In a context of historic upheaval, *The Catholic East* is a sign of trust in God for the future, and a bold invitation never to lose hope. This work is also a sign of gratitude for the pastors, witnesses of hope, who remained with their flock, despite indescribable suffering and tears.

This publication offers an apt occasion to recall a glorious but equally painful past. At the same time, it prompts gratitude for the journey that began with Vatican II: the decrees *Orientalium Ecclesiarum* and *Unitatis Redintegratio* (1964), the magisterium of Saint John Paul II in *Orientalis lumen* and *Ut unum sint* (1995), the Jubilee Year 2000, the apostolic exhortation *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente* of Benedict XVI (2012), and the Jubilee of Mercy promoted by Pope Francis in 2015.

We are fully aware that the Eastern Catholic Churches over the years have been considered simultaneously as bridges and stumbling blocks. Yet the self-understanding of these Churches goes beyond simple stereotypes: they live with great seriousness a full, rich, and responsible ecclesial life, aware of their individuality and uniqueness, and of their *par dignitas* with the other Churches of East and West. Through their fidelity to the liturgical and spiritual patrimony that they share with sister Orthodox Churches, they can promote the full communion which is so strongly desired:

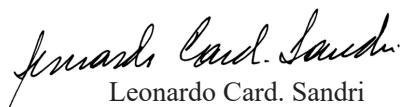
In the meantime, all Christians, both Eastern and Western, are strongly invited to raise to God fervent and continual prayers, even daily, so that, with the aid of the most holy Mother of God, all may become one. They should pray also so that the fullness of comfort and consolation of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, may be poured out on those many Christians of every Church who, courageously confessing the name of Christ, suffer and are oppressed. (*Orientalium Ecclesiarum* n. 30)

It is my sincere hope that *The Catholic East*, the first English edition appearing forty-five years after the previous Italian edition, contributes to a greater appreciation of the abundant gifts that these Churches offer the universal Church and of the sacrifices that their faithful

have made for love of their full communion with the Apostolic See. Their presence, which is a great blessing, calls for more recognition and appreciation.

Finally, I recall with loving memory the late Jesuits Fathers Vincenzo Poggi († 2016) and Robert Taft († 2018), and I express renewed gratitude to the president of the scientific commission of the Italian edition (2017), Fr. Ronald G. Roberson, C.S.P. I desire now to thank the scientific commission of the present English edition, which has worked in full harmony with competence, dedication, and selflessness, and whose learning and scholarly authority are well known: the president, Abbot Michel Van Parys, O.S.B., Prof. Fr. Edward Farrugia, S.J. and the secretary, Dr. Gianpaolo Rigotti. I am also very thankful for the other scholars for their capable assistance, and I express my deep appreciation to Dr. Mario Pirolli for the innovative proposal of co-publishing this work.

14th October 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonardo Card. Sandri". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leonardo Card. Sandri
Prefect

Editorial note

For the realization of the Italian edition (2017), the Congregation for the Eastern Churches (website: www.orientchurch.va) constituted a Scientific Commission that, between 2003 and 2017, met in twenty-two working sessions in Rome, at the Palazzo dei Convertendi on the Via della Conciliazione 34, the headquarters of the dicastery.

The commission was composed of: the president, Ronald G. Roberson, associate director of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; the secretary, Gianpaolo Rigotti, archivist of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches and professor of Ecclesiastical Archivistics and Latin Language at the Pontifical Oriental Institute; Vincenzo Poggi († 26 May 2016), formerly teacher of the history and institutions of the Christian East and director of *Orientalia Christiana Periodica* at the Pontifical Oriental Institute; Robert Taft († 2 November 2018), formerly professor of Eastern liturgy and director of *Orientalia Christiana Analecta* at the Pontifical Oriental Institute; Michel Van Parys, abbot emeritus of the Benedictine Monastery “Sainte-Croix” of Chevotogne and of the Greek Abbey of Grottaferrata.

For the realization of the English edition (2019), the commission met in six working sessions in Rome and was composed of: the president, above mentioned abbot Michel Van Parys, O.S.B.; the secretary, above mentioned archivist Gianpaolo Rigotti; Edward Farrugia, S.J., emeritus professor of Dogma and Eastern Patristic Theology and director of *Orientalia Christiana Analecta* at the Pontifical Oriental Institute.

At the recommendation of the commissions, the Congregation invited various specialists to offer scholarly contributions on the historical, liturgical, spiritual, disciplinary, and artistic patrimony of the Christian East, on the institutions associated with it, on the ecclesiological and ecumenical aspects, and on the individual Eastern Catholic Churches *sui iuris*.

The texts were formulated at very different times, due to the great number of collaborators involved and their individual availability. Thus, there is a certain discrepancy with regard to the scientific depth of the chapters, of which the commission is fully aware. In general, the first two phases of formulating the texts involved, for each chapter, the drafting of the text and its critical revision by different scholars. The next step was the

direct involvement of the respective local Churches, which in turn sent observations and updates. The commission examined all the texts and further revised them, sometimes substantially, before submitting them for the approval of the superiors of the dicastery: the prefect, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri; the secretary, Archbishop Cyril Vasil', S.J.; and the undersecretary, Lorenzo Lorusso, O.P. In other cases, given the drafters' authority on the matter, the commission considered the received text as definitive, without submitting it to further revision, except for the necessary editorial interventions.

The acquisition of the material for the maps, to define the boundaries of the ecclesiastical circumscriptions, was particularly difficult, especially for the areas of the Middle East and Africa. The scale reduction of the map sections was linked to the primary need to depict in the best way possible not only the diffusion of the Eastern Catholic circumscriptions on the various continents, but also the territorial extent and borders of each of them.

The source for all statistical data is the *Annuario Pontificio*; however, the commission believes that, in certain cases, the instability of some regions, the massive phenomenon of migration, and the failure to update estimates through a wide census of the faithful significantly impact the reliability of the statistical data provided. Also, the individual ecclesiastical circumscriptions – in the section “Statistics and Maps” at the end of the relevant chapters – are named according to the terminology in use in the aforementioned *Annuario Pontificio* and are listed in alphabetical order, subdivided by continent.

For the criteria adopted in the drafting of the *Analytical Index*, which covers names of (a) persons, (b) places, institutions, and entities, refer to the explanatory note that precedes it (cf. p. 978).

We thank the principal specialists who, in various ways and with different responsibilities, have helped bring this work to a good finish.

For the Italian edition (2017): Cesare Alzati, Michel Berger, Thomas Bremer, Marco Dino Brogi, Tymon Tytus Chmielecki, Giuseppe Maria Croce, Andrew McLean Cummings, Ivan Elenkov, John D. Faris, † Eleuterio Francesco Fortino, Sergiusz Gajek, Basilius J. Groen, Borys Gudziak, Claudio Gugerotti, Hervé Legrand, George Mifsud, Enrico Morini, Roberto Morozzo della Rocca, Ines Murzaku, George Nedungatt, Paul Pallath, Osvaldo Raineri, Dimitrios Salachas, Mark Sheridan, Ana Victoria Sima, Louis Sako, Constantin Simon, Tamás Végheő, Dietmar

Winkler, Ugo Zanetti, Boghos Levon Zekiyán. Worthy of special mention were the contributions of Riccardo Cataldi, for drawing up the Analytical Index, and Cesare Giraudo, for his scholarly and editorial assistance.

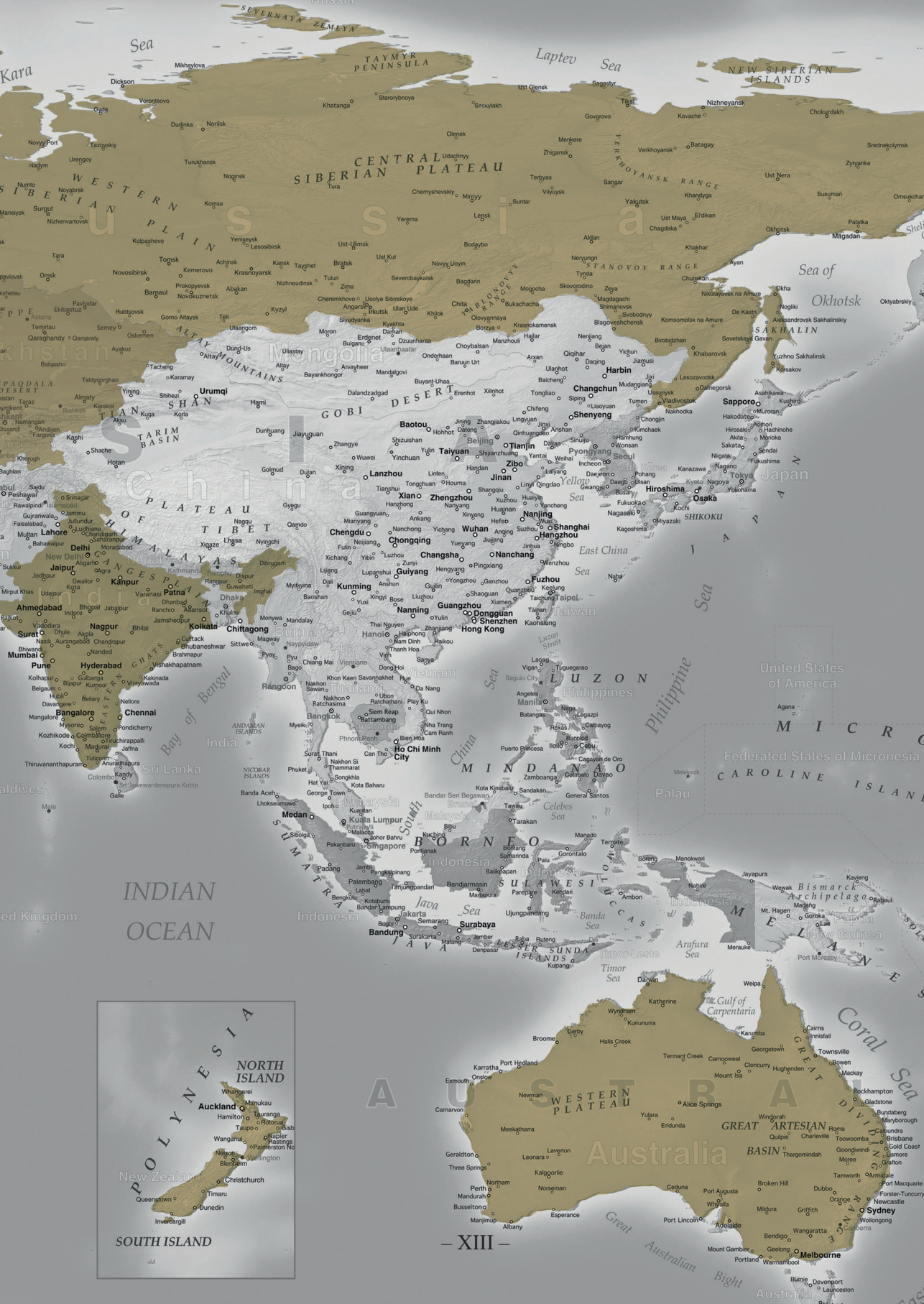
For the present English edition (2019): Stefano Caprio, Renata Caruso, Mariam de Ghantuz Cubbe, Pablo Gefaell, Philippe Luisier, Athanasius McVay, Ronald Roberson, Gaga Shurgaia, in addition to the above mentioned scholars. Worthy of special mention were the contributions of Sean Doyle, for the English translation, Anthony O'Mahony, for scholarly collaboration, Khrystyna Ditchuk, for the editorial assistance and drawing up the Analytical Index, and Kim D'Souza, for the rereading of the proof copy.

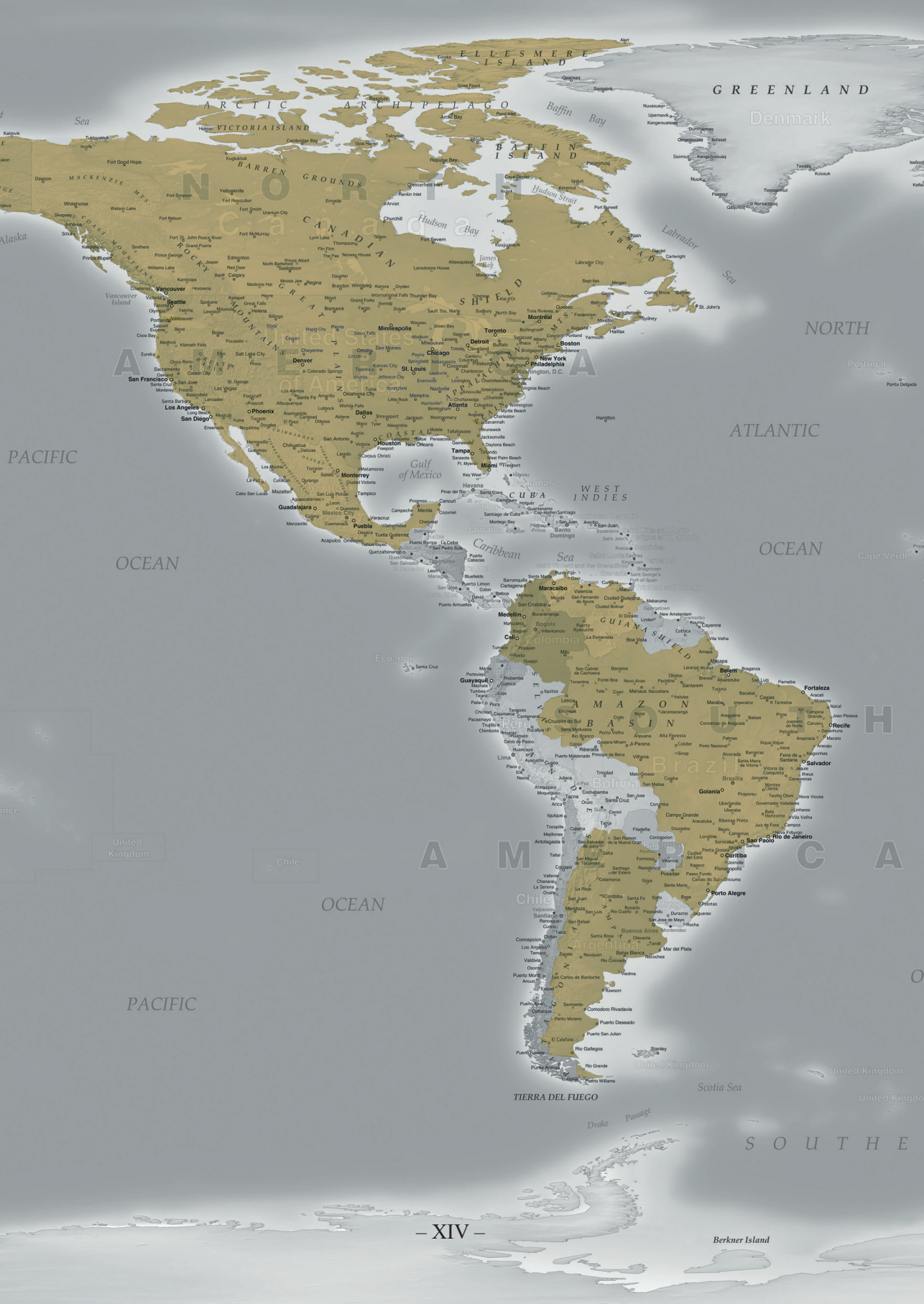
Both Italian and English editions are also available in an electronic format at the official site of the publication (www.orientecattolico.com) and will be periodically updated by the Congregation for the Eastern Churches.

1st October 2019

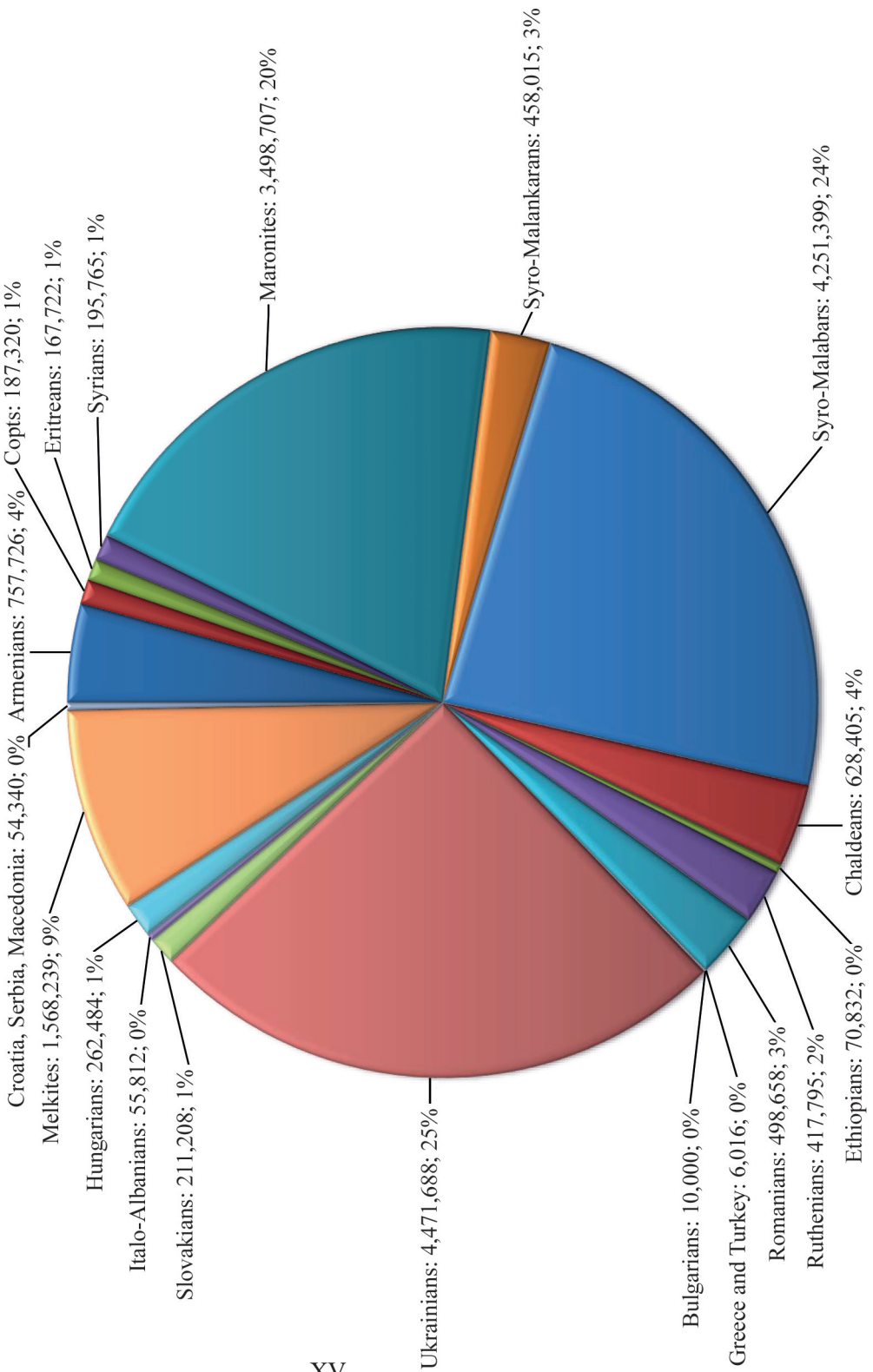
Abbot Michel Van Parys, O.S.B.
President

THE EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES:
MAPS AND GENERAL STATISTICS





The Eastern Catholic Churches (2019)



LEGEND OF COLOURS AND SYMBOLS
USED IN THE INDIVIDUAL MAPS

The colours given to the various types of ecclesiastical circumscriptions, Eastern and Latin, identify their respective territorial extent in the map sections at the end of the relevant chapters. The tone of the colours on the maps is connected to the topographical characteristics of the territory.

	LATIN		EASTERN	
patriarchal diocese				patriarchal or major archiepiscopal (arch)eparchy
				patriarchal or major archiepiscopal exarchate
metropolitan archdiocese				metropolitan archeparchy <i>sui iuris</i>
				metropolitan archeparchy (of the patriarchal or major archiepiscopal Churches)
archdiocese				archeparchy
diocese				eparchy
apostolic vicariate				apostolic exarchate
				ordinariate
apostolic administration				exarchic monastery

ABBREVIATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

A.A.	Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionists)
B.N.S.C.	Byzantine Nuns of Saint Clare
B.S.	Basilian Order of the Most Holy Saviour of the Melkites
C.A.M.	Mekhitarist Order (Mekhitarists)
C.M.	Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists)
C.M.I.	Carmelites of Mary Immaculate
C.O.	Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri (Oratorians)
C.P.	Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionists)
C.R.	Congregation of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Resurrectionists)
C.R.S.A.	Confederation of the Canons Regular of Saint Augustine
C.S.C.	Congregation of Holy Cross
C.S.P.	Missionary Society of Saint Paul the Apostle
C.S.S.	Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata (Stigmatines)
C.Ss.R.	Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists)
I.C.P.B.	Patriarchal Clergy Institute of Bzommar
M.Afr.	Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers)
M.I.C.	Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception (Marians)
M.S.U.	Ukrainian Studite Monks
O.A.O.C.	Antonine Order of Saint Hormisdas of the Chaldeans
O.C.D.	Order of Discalced Carmelites
O.C.S.O.	Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists)
O.Carm.	Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Carmelites)
O.F.M.	Order of Friars Minor
O.F.M. Cap.	Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (Capuchins)
O.F.M. Conv.	Order of Friars Minor Conventual (Conventuals)
O.F.M. Ref.	Order of Friars Minor Reformed
O.I.C.	Order of the Imitation of Christ (Bethany)
O.L.M.	Lebanese Maronite Order (Baladites)
O.M.M.	Mariamite Maronite Order (Aleppians)
O.P.	Order of Preachers (Dominicans)
O.Praem.	Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré (Premonstratensians)
O.S.A.	Order of Saint Augustine (Augustinians)
O.S.B.	Order of Saint Benedict (Benedictines)

O.S.B. Cam.	Camaldolese Congregation of the Order of Saint Benedict
O.S.B. Oliv.	Olivetian Benedictine Congregation (Olivetans)
O.S.B.I.	Italian Basilian Order of Grottaferrata
O.S.B.M.	Basilian Order of Saint Josaphat (Basilians)
S.D.B.	Salesian Society of Saint John Bosco (Salesians)
S.J.	Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
S.M.A.	Society of African Missions
S.M.S.P.	Society of Missionaries of Saint Paul (Paulists)



BENEDICTUS XV
(Giacomo della Chiesa)
1914-1922



CONGREGATION FOR THE EASTERN CHURCHES

In the meantime, all Christians, both Eastern and Western, are strongly invited to raise to God fervent and continual prayers, even daily, so that, with the aid of the most holy Mother of God, all may become one.

(Orientalium Ecclesiarum n. 30)



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