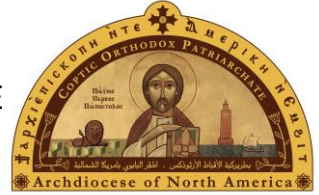




Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Archdiocese of North America & Diocese of NYNE
Papal Visit Joint Committee



Brethren and blessed children, the clergy, servants and all Christ-loving people in the churches of the Archdiocese of North America and the Diocese of New York and New England:

Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Attached is the letter sent by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, may the Lord preserve his life, concerning the postponement of His Holiness's visit to the churches of northeastern United States.

Although we eagerly looked forward to welcoming His Holiness on his first trip to this region as patriarch, as his children, we understand the tremendous responsibilities he carries despite his health conditions. We are united in prayer for our beloved father, that our Lord may grant him healing and divine help to carry out these great responsibilities at home and abroad.

We also want you to be aware that His Holiness took this decision following thorough consultation with us, and with the objective that this very special visit be as comprehensive and conducted under the best circumstances possible.

As we express our great love and longing for the visit of His Holiness, we hope that the churches will continue their arrangements until the new date for the visit is scheduled. We ask that the Lord bless us with the coming of His Holiness in full joy and wellness.

Be well in the Lord.

His Grace Bishop David

*Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
New York & New England*

His Grace Bishop Karas

*General Bishop and Patriarchal Exarch of
the Archdiocese of North America*