

Dear Mr. Secretary General José Henríquez,

Dear sisters and brothers in Pax Christi International!

On behalf of the Orthodox Institute of missiology and ecumenism and Interchurch Partnership "Apostolic City – Nevskaya Perspective" in St Petersburg (Russia) please accept our congratulations with the 70th anniversary of the Pax Christi International movement.

With every day, and with every year, we here in Russia like people all over the world get growingly aware of the need of international and inter-confessional cooperation.

Listening attentively to the words of Easter greetings of Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill makes us feel obliged to co-work in confident and brotherly manner to secure reconciliation in every kind of conflicts. Pope Francis, in his Easter message reminds us that "those who bear within them God's power, his love and his justice, do not need to employ violence; they speak and act with the power of truth, beauty and love." His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia sent Paschal greetings to the heads of the non-Orthodox Churches. He writes: "... Giving praise to the Lord for His ineffable goodwill to humanity, let us promote cooperation among Christians in the name of the triumph of God's truth and for strengthening in society high evangelical ideals of charity, kindness and mercy, and truly spiritual and moral values".

One of our missionary tasks now is to find ways to combat the rise of religious extremism. For an innovative response to radicalization in the world, we need radical Christian love. We need inter-confessional dialogue, we need inter-religious dialogue, and we need dialogue between religious and non-religious people. In addition, each step of this way we, Orthodox and Roman-Catholic Christians, stay in our missionary solidarity. We need to study your experience and cooperate with you in each important peacemaking initiative.

In prayer to all our Common Saints

and with them to our Lord Jesus Christ

Yours orthodox sisters and brothers and one of them

archpriest Vladimir Fedorov,

Director of the Orthodox Institute of Missiology and Ecumenism, president of the Interchurch Partnership "Apostolic City – Nevskaya Perspective"