

FRANCIS, BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD, to the venerable brother Pierbattista Pizzaballa, O.F.M. hitherto titular Archbishop of Verbe and Apostolic Administrator, *sede vacante*, of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, chosen in place of the Patriarch himself, salutations and Apostolic Blessing.

The people who followed Christ, humbly entering Jerusalem, happily acclaimed: "*Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*" (Jn 12:13). We, therefore, considering these words of the Gospel, by the will of Our Lord, taking care of the whole Catholic Church, attentive to the spiritual good of that city that wishes to follow the Lord Jesus and believe in him, we consider it appropriate, this time, to procure them a Shepherd. In reality, His Beatitude Fouad Twal having resigned more than four years, the leadership of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, you, Venerable Brother, have diligently taken care, as Apostolic Administrator, *sede vacante*, of the duties of this community. Having carried out this mission well and having demonstrated the necessary skills and abilities, we have come to the conviction that you, now, with a good experience of what to do, can take on this important role as Patriarch in this beloved community.

For this reason, having listened to the opinion of the Most Eminent Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, by virtue of Our Apostolic Power, we appoint you Patriarch of the Church of Jerusalem of the Latins, with the same rights and obligations connected with this office according to Canon Law, the commitments related to the previous titular see dissolved.

Certainly, you will ensure that the clergy and the people of this Patriarchate are diligently aware of these Our Letters; I fervently urge them to bear you worthy esteem, obedience, adequate cooperation, and affection.

Finally, I cordially urge you, Venerable Brother, to have constant trust in Jesus, with the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God and all the holy Bishops who, from the beginning, have faithfully followed the Good Shepherd, you may serve with great commitment the flock that is entrusted to you, considering and proposing to them the warning of the Apostle: "Accept with docility the word of God that has been planted in you and can lead you to salvation" (James 1:21).

Given in Rome, at the Lateran, on 24 October 2020, the eighth of Our Pontificate.

FRANCESCO PP.