



EPISCOPUS DIOECESIS SANCTISSIMAE TRINITATIS IN ALMATA

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**Dearest Brothers and Sisters,**

It is difficult to express in a few words the feelings that fill the hearts of Catholics in our diocese these days. The death of our beloved Bishop Henry Theophilus Howaniec has left an indelible mark. The circumstances of his passage to the house of the Father have been for all of us to sign of God's blessing and tenderness towards his dearest are. The testimony of his death is a source of hope that confirms us in our faith in the risen Jesus Christ. It has been the last teaching that, as a good pastor, Bishop Henry has left to all of us: the one who dies with Christ, will live with Him!

We thank the Lord for the time he has given us to receive on earth the fruits of the ministry of Bishop Henry. In it, we could all see not only a good bishop, but a faithful disciple of St. Francis and an excellent person.

It is impossible for us to be physically present at the funeral, but we are all praying these days for him. Next week we have in Almaty the meeting of all the priests and religious of Kazakhstan, with the presence of all the bishops and the apostolic nuncio. On Thursday April 12 we can all celebrate together a Eucharist for his eternal rest.

Our warmest thanks to all those who have helped him in recent years. We are sure that he will continue to take care of all of us wherever he is.

Finally, I want to convey to you the words that I received today from Cardinal Parolin through our nunciature:

**His Holiness Pope Francis was saddened to learn of the death of Bishop Henry Theophilus Howaniec, and he sends sincere condolences to you, the clergy, the religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of the Most Holy Trinity in Almaty. Pope Francis joins you in giving thanks to Almighty God for the late Bishop's Episcopal ministry and faithful he commends his soul to the merciful love of our heavenly Father. To all who mourn his passing, especially his family and religious confreres, His Holiness cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of consolation and peace in the Risen Lord.**

**Cardinal Petro Parolin**  
**Secretary of State**

In union with all the bishops and ordinary people of Kazakhstan, and with all the faithful of our diocese, yours in the risen Christ,

† Jose Luis Mumbiela Sierra

*Bishop of the Diocese of the Most Holy Trinity in Almaty*