



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM  
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

*E Civitate Vaticana, die* 7 February 2018

PROT. N. 185/2018/e

MS GRETCHEN CASTLE  
*General Secretary*  
Friends World Committee for Consultation

Dear Ms Castle,

Please allow me to bring to your attention an announcement made by Pope Francis at his Angelus address on Sunday 4 February 2018. In light of the ongoing social-political tension and violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, His Holiness Pope Francis has called a day of prayer and fasting for peace in those countries, to be held on 23 February, that is, Friday of the first week of Lent according to the Gregorian calendar. It is the hope of Pope Francis that Christians of all Churches, together with those belonging to other religious traditions and all people of goodwill, may join this initiative in the forms they deem to be appropriate.

Our Pontifical Council would be profoundly grateful for your consideration of this invitation of Pope Francis, and for whatever it is felt may be opportune to undertake in this regard. The prayer of all Christians on that day for the gift of peace would be an authentic sign of solidarity and closeness to those suffering in these nations and above all to the many Christians from different Churches who live there, and moreover would be a tangible step in the shared witness to the Gospel of peace, of which the world is in such need.

With the assurance of my prayers as we approach the holy season of Lent, I take the opportunity to convey my most respectful greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

Cardinal Kurt Koch  
*President*