



HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Prot. No 2315/CBCV

October 4nd, 2023,
Feast of Saint Francis Assisi.

Your Holiness,

On the 28th of September, His Grace Archbishop Marek Zalewski, the Apostolic Nuncio to Singapore cum Non-resident Pontifical Representative for Vietnam gave me your Letter "To the Catholic Community of Viet Nam on the occasion of the adoption of the Agreement on the Status of the Resident Papal Representative and the Office of the Resident Papal Representative of the Holy See in Viet Nam" for publishing on the 29th of September, 2023. The People of God in Vietnam joyfully received your Letter with immense gratitude for you have loved and encouraged the faithful from afar who lives and testifies for the Gospel in our country.

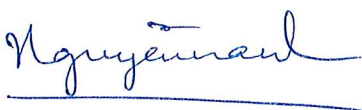
Through this Letter, you confirmed that our pathway is in full conformity with the Gospel and the teaching of the Church, in particular with your guidance, that is to proclaim the Gospel of love with our commitment of service for the little and suffering people. By having dialogue, respect and charity service, the Church in Vietnam has become "trustworthy" before the leadership of civil authority and the society in our country.

We realized of your joy when the relationship between Vietnam and the Holy See "have been able to move forward together and further progress will be possible, recognizing convergences and respecting differences," thus "seeking together the best way forward for the good of the Vietnamese people and the Church." We thank you for your encouraging words to the Church in Vietnam and we promise to take courage to move forward in becoming the witnesses of the Gospel's message and to "enlarge the space of [our] tent" of the Church in accordance with the spirit that our Synod commences. May the Holy Spirit come and carry out the new Pentecost so that the Church can move forward with the synodality in this millennium.

With all filial affection, we ask the Lord to pour out on you His grace and love so that you can fulfill the Petrine ministry. We earnestly invite you to come to Vietnam and desire to gather around the Vicar of Christ who inspires us to strengthen our communion, participation and mission of evangelization.

With our filial love from the People of God in Vietnam,



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+ Giuse Nguyễn Năng

Archbishop of the Archdiocese Ho Chi Minh city
President of CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF VIETNAM