



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Peace of Christ be with you!

I am writing to you with joy and hope in my heart, as I prepare for a very special event in the life of our Archdiocese and beyond. On **Friday, November 7, 2025**, at the **St. Elias Centre here in Ottawa**, we will gather for, ***Light in the East: CNEWA Canada's 20th Anniversary Fundraising Gala***.

This evening promises to be an evening of gratitude and encounter with the living Body of Christ and donors from across the country and beyond. The Church in the East, our brothers and sisters in faith who often face war, poverty, persecution, and displacement, greatly need our prayers and solidarity.

CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) has long been a vital instrument of the Holy Father in extending charity and aid to those most in need. Through my role as Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, I serve as a the de-facto Chair of the Board of Directors.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden"* (Mt 5:14). This gala is an opportunity for us, as the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, to let our light shine brightly in communion with the Eastern Churches. Together, we can witness to Jesus Christ's love through concrete action which will support the vulnerable, up-lift the suffering, and ensure that the faith continues to take root where it is under threat.



I warmly encourage you, your families, and parish communities to take part in this Gala, and be inspired by stories of faith, courage, and resilience. Come and share fellowship with one another in the spirit of unity. Yet most of all, come to be a living sign of Christ's presence to those who desperately need his hope. By joining this Gala, you will be part of a mission of mercy that carries the light of Christ into some of the world's darkest places.

Let us entrust this event to the intercession of Our Lady, the beloved Mother of God. May she accompany us as we prepare to gather in charity and faith on November 7.

With gratitude for your generosity and with every blessing in Christ, I hope to see you on November 7. You can buy your tickets at cnewa.org/ca/gala-tickets or 613-738-9666.

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

✠ Marcel Damphousse
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall