

**WELCOME TO THE COLLOQUIUM OF ARCIC III AND IARCCUM
ROME, OCTOBER 5TH 2016, 9.00 hrs. FR. NUNO GONÇALVES**

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to welcome you most warmly to the Pontifical Gregorian University today on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Anglican Centre in Rome. I offer a special welcome to scholars and bishops of both the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and its sister organization the International Anglican and Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), who gather for this theological symposium this morning.

I extend a particularly warm welcome to His Grace The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as to Archbishop David Moxon, the representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury here in Rome, and Director of the Anglican Centre. It is also my pleasure to welcome His Eminence, Cardinal Kurt Koch President of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, as well as Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the same Council. In addition, I welcome the co-chairs of IARCCUM, Bishop David Hamid and Archbishop Don Boland. *(In fact, I recognize that we also have with us His Eminence, Cardinal Walter Kasper, former President of the PCPCU, and we welcome you also most warmly, Cardinal Kasper).*

ARCIC and its sister organization IARCCUM are involved in a collaboration that includes both official theological dialogue, and plans for practical collaboration between Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses. I offer a special welcome to the sixteen pairs of bishops present today, who will be mandated this evening by Archbishop Justin and by Pope Francis to undertake such collaboration.

Your meeting represents an admirable marriage of approaches: theoretical and practical, theological and pastoral, demonstrating a concern for both Christian unity and for justice in the world. Indeed, you represent ideals to which we here in the Gregorian University aspire. In this our first week of our teaching semester you serve as an example for all of us who wish to form young Christian leaders of the future in how to blend theory with practice. I wish you success in carrying out the interesting series of discussions you have planned for this morning. Above all I pray that the God of Jesus Christ, who is the source of all unity, may reward your efforts with abundant success.