

TOWARDS FULL-COMMUNION
November 2003

1. A small number of priests and one bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East met occasionally in recent months and have decided to form a group (**Group** or **G**) in order to initiate canonical and moral reforms in the Assyrian Church of the East – the ultimate objective of which is to reestablish full-communication with the Catholic Church, within the context of ecclesiastical unity with the Chaldean Catholic Church.
2. **G** shall continue episcopal and priestly ministries in the Church of the East in accordance with the timeframe outlined in *Phase A* (see # 4a).
3. During this timeframe, **G** shall systematize its plan and execution through two phases – Phase (A) and Phase (B) – in order to implement its reforms and achieve its objectives.
4. **G**'s Phase (A) shall entail the following:
 - a. Phase (A) shall start as of the date of this document (November (9) 2003) and shall last for a period of time between two (2) to ten (10) years.
 - b. Also as part of *Phase A*, **G** shall establish new guidelines as standards for priestly teaching, church administration, liturgical practice and moral conduct to be adopted by bishops and priests members in **G** and ultimately by all the Church of the East.
 - c. **G** shall also integrate into the components of its *Phase A* the message of the Gospel, the mandate of the Sunhadus, the sense of the Church's Liturgy and the teachings of the Church Fathers, so that a genuine Catholic and Apostolic Church of the East Tradition, which is ultimately oriented towards the Kingdom of God and solely faithful to the Divine Will of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, will rise from the ashes of moral corruption and religious ignorance that are continuing to isolate the Church of the East from the rest of the Body of Christ.
 - d. Members of **G** shall Implement through concrete action their *Phase A* through the following personal action and media-based tools:
 - i. Personal Life Witness
 - ii. Preaching
 - iii. Lecturing
 - iv. Reading Academic Papers
 - v. Intervening in Conferences
 - vi. TV Programs
 - vii. Radio Programs
 - viii. CD/DVD Publications
 - ix. Publishing Books

x. Authoring articles

- e. During the timeframe of *Phase A*, Members of G shall also do their best to rehabilitate the hierarchy and the clergy of the Church of the East and bring them into a path of church life that is consistent with the Gospel message and the Church Canons, and, at the same time, compatible with the spirit of the Liturgy and the Church Fathers of the Church of the East, so that the vision of full-communion with the Catholic Church and of ecclesial unity with the Chaldean Catholic Church is accepted by the faithful and ultimately realized by the Patriarch and the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East, within the time frame of *Phase A*.
- f. But, if such attempts shall all fail in that the main objective of this reform, which is the reestablishment of full-communion with the Catholic Church, within the context of ecclesiastical unity with the Chaldean Catholic Church, is not achieved properly and in due time, then a consideration for the beginning of *Phase B* shall immediately be commenced.

5. G's Phase (B) shall entail the following:

- a. Bishops and priest who are members in G shall consult among themselves and also obtain the general opinion of their deacons and faithful supporters before they officially declare their full communion with the Catholic Church. Such a declaration however shall also take place after consultation and collaboration with the Chaldean Patriarchate and agreement of the Catholic Church.
- b. The model for this full-communion shall be for G to unite with the Chaldean Church, declaring the establishment of the Chaldassyrian or the Assyrochaldean Church of the East, in communion with Rome, but also benefiting from the negotiated results of promoting the rights and privileges of the Patriarchate of the Church of the East to new standards above of what is presently enjoyed by the various Eastern Catholic Patriarchates to an extend that will guarantee the survival of the Church of the East Tradition, theological expression, liturgy and cultural identity of its Assyrochaldean (Chaldassyrian) people.

6. The method through which the decision of achieving full ecclesial union with the Chaldean Church and entering into full-communion with the Catholic Church shall be taken is by the consent of the majority of the Bishops and Priests of G. In either case, the minority members must adhere to the decision of the majority.
7. In case a member or more of G is deprived from his stipend or salary due to his work in G (namely, as a result of his personal conviction and labor towards full-communion with the Catholic Church), then the bishop(s) in-charge of G shall immediately offer him full support at least in standards and measures similar to what he was enjoying until that time.