

*A word by H.H Pope Tawadros II Pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the see of St. Mark.*

*To the Benedictine conference held in Rome*

Most Reverend abbot primate of the Benedictine order, brothers and sisters.

I would like to send my greetings to you on the occasion of this monastic conference, praying to God that He may bless all those present, and grant success to the conference.

I have repeatedly declared in our Coptic Church that the success of a Church stands on two poles: First, successful theological and educational institutes in the church, since they preserve for us the true faith which we believe, Second, a successful monastic life.

The monastic life is the walls erected by the Holy Spirit around the church to protect it *“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth”* (Is 62:6-7).

Although there are many religious orders whose job is ministering, preaching and charitable works, besides monastic orders dedicated to prayer and solitude, yet the religious life in general is responsible for prayer and supplication to God, day and night, according to the commandment of our first fathers, and the heritage handed down to us. The Holy Bible commanded us: to *“pray without ceasing”* (1Th 5:17) and *“to watch and pray in order not to enter into temptation”* (Mk 14:38). This important spiritual task is the responsibility of all monks and nuns in all Christian Churches, inasmuch as it realizes the kingdom of God on earth. It also contributes to the success of the Church in its ministry, and to the salvation of Christian souls. Moreover it attracts God’s mercy by warding off world disasters, violence, terrorism, hostility and enmity among mankind.

Let us all pray for the Church of Christ that the Lord may keep her pure without blemish until His second advent.

Please accept my love in Christ Jesus.

Pope Tawadros the second Pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the see of St. Mark.