



### **Goodbye, Father of the tormented and suffering.**

Yes, we will miss His Holiness, the voice that stood against Herod, listening to the cries of the children of Gaza and the screams of their mothers, echoing throughout the world. How can we not miss you, when you were the voice of those who have no voice? Your advocacy was always rooted in justice, truth, peace, and human brotherhood in a world exhausted by Herod's tyranny.

### **Your Holiness,**

your departure is not the end, but the beginning of a renewed journey, inspired by your life as an example of giving and sacrifice, and by your rich legacy as a torch illuminating the paths of life.

In your last message, just hours before your transition to the house of our Heavenly Father, you called us to restore hope—that peace is possible. This year's Easter, celebrated together by Catholics and Orthodox, you prayed that the light of peace would shine from the Holy Sepulchre, in the Holy Land, and indeed, throughout the entire world. You expressed your closeness to the suffering of Christians in the Holy Land, as if on this day, Holy Saturday, you heard our cries and our pain in the streets of Old Jerusalem and around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, as we face barriers, closures, and the brutality of Herod's soldiers.

### **Our promise to you:**

We, the Christians of Palestine—the land of holiness—will continue to carry the cross, spread justice and peace, and instill hope for the Resurrection, preserving the message of the Gospel and our authentic existence in the face of those who persecute and deceive us. We promise you that we will continue your path—the path of truth, peace, and brotherhood—that you began and wished to be a light for the world, with all the strength and faith you possessed.



**This is the last farewell meeting between His Excellency and His Holiness, and this blessed hand tells everything that is in the heart...**