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SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 0224

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Il cordoglio del Santo Padre per la morte di S.S. Mar Dinkha IV, Patriarca della Chiesa Assira d'Oriente

Pubblichiamo di seguito il testo del telegramma di cordoglio per la morte di Sua Santità Mar Dinkha IV, Patriarca della Chiesa Assira d'Oriente, inviato da Papa Francesco a S.B. Mar Aprem Mooken, Metropolita per l'India, *locum tenens* della Chiesa Assira d'Oriente:

To His Beatitude Mar Aprem

Locum Tenens of the Assyrian Church of the East

Having learned with sadness of the death of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to Your Beatitude, to the Bishops, clergy and all the faithful and to assure you of the spiritual closeness of all Catholics at this time. The Christian world has lost an important spiritual leader, a courageous and wise pastor who faithfully served his community in extremely challenging times. His Holiness Mar Dinkha suffered greatly because of the tragic situation in the Middle East, especially in Iraq and in Syria, resolutely calling attention to the plight of our Christian brothers and sisters and other religious minorities suffering daily persecution. I recall how we spoke of this at length during the recent visit of His Holiness to Rome. I give heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for the enduring commitment of His Holiness to improving relations among Christians and in particular between the Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. May the Lord receive him into his kingdom and grant him eternal rest, and may the memory of his long and devoted service to the Church live on as a challenge and inspiration to us all.

FRANCISCUS PP.

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