



29 February 2024

*it is good that we are here* (Mark 9:5)

Holy Father,

Beginning on the Second Sunday of the Holy Season of Lent, where we heard the Apostle Peter say to the Lord, *Rabbi, it is good that we are here* (Mark 9:5), we, the officers and representatives of the Episcopal Conferences of the Americas – Canada (CCCBC), the United States (USCCB), the Episcopal Council for Caribbean and Latin America (CELAM), met for three days to pray and discuss our common work as ministers of the Gospel. It was, indeed, good for us to be here together.

Following a tradition of coming together that began in 1959, in our meeting we had substantive discussions on several topics we know to be close to your heart, including the Instituted Catechist, migration, and the ecological threats to our common home, and the rise of euthanasia. We also reflected and shared ideas around the central question raised by Cardinals Grech and Hollerich, who asked us to meet as a continent and reflect on “how we can be a synodal Church on mission.”

As in the past, much fruit came of our discussions, and we have begun to explore the possibilities of several joint initiatives, especially on the environment and on migration.

During these three days, our minds and hearts were with you, our Shepherd. Please know of our prayers and gratitude for you and for your Petrine Ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Timothy Broglio  
Archbishop William Lori  
Bishop A. Elias Zaidan  
Bishop Mark Seitz

Archbishop Jaime Spengler  
Archbishop José Azuaje Ayala  
Bishop Santiago Rodriguez  
Bishop Lizardo Estrada

Bishop William McGrattan  
Bishop Pierre Goudreault  
Bishop Gerard Bergie  
Bishop Christian Rodembourg