



❖ *The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East* ❖

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

**STATEMENT FROM THE HOLY SYNOD SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE HEALTH OF
HIS HOLINESS MAR GEWARGIS III, CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH**

For Immediate Release

21 December 2019

The Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East would like to inform all of the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East that on Friday, December 13, 2019, the bishops of the Church were informed by His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of the Diocese of Scandinavia and Germany, that His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III suffered a medical episode that required his transportation to the hospital in Köln, Germany, where His Holiness was resting for a short period at the home of his brother before he was to return to his patriarchal residence on December 17th.

His Holiness was immediately admitted to the emergency unit of the hospital upon his arrival, and a series of tests (including a CT scan and MRI) were performed. The test results came back negative, and thus doctors moved His Holiness to a regular room. All of his vital signs are normal, and his speech has returned to full capacity. We are informed by His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Erbil and Patriarchal Auxiliary, who visited His Holiness in Germany from 16 to 20 December 2019 that His Holiness was in a very good state, both physically and mentally. Doctors have required the patriarch to rest completely for a period of two weeks, at his brother's home. He continues to be monitored in the meanwhile by his physicians in Köln.

We would like to thank His Grace Mar Odisho for remaining with His Holiness the Patriarch, and His Grace Mar Abris for visiting His Holiness as well. Further, we thank His Holiness' brother and family in Köln for seeing to the day-to-day needs of His Holiness during his period of rest and recovery. Kindly unite your prayers, beloved clergy and faithful, with all of the bishops of our Holy Church as we supplicate our merciful God to grant good health and a speedy recovery to His Holiness Mar Gewargis. Further updates on His Holiness' recovery and return to his holy see will be given in the future.

Given this 21st day of December, 2019; from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus the Lord,

+ *Aroyel*

✠ Mar Awa Royel

By Grace: Bishop of California &
Secretary of the Holy Synod



