

المجمع السونهادوسي المقدس
لكنيسة المشرق الآشورية



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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE HOLY SYNOD
CONCERNING THE CONVOCAION OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE
ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST, 22-29 APRIL 2020**

For Immediate Release

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 His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, has convoked a special session of the Holy Synod, to be held in the patriarchal see of Erbil, Iraq, from the 22nd to the 29th of April, 2020.

His Holiness has stated in his epistle of February 3rd to the bishops of our holy Church that he is still in the process of recuperating from his illness, recently suffered during his sojourn in Germany in the month of December 2019. His Holiness' medical condition has been a heavy burden on him personally, and this has caused him to reflect deeply on his ability to carry out the duties of his sublime office. Thus, His Holiness the Patriarch has indicated in his letter to the bishops, in which he is formally convoking a special session of the Holy Synod, that of his own free will and after much deep reflection and prayer, he has decided to retire from the exalted office and duties of Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East on April 22nd.

As the holy Church will soon begin the liturgical season of the Great Fast on February 23rd, the 'Sunday of the Entrance Into the Great Fast', let us all keep His Holiness Mar Gewargis III in our prayers, with gratitude for his ministry to the Church as Catholicos-Patriarch. The members of the Holy Synod further ask that all of the faithful pray and beseech the Great Shepherd of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, to aid them in electing the new Father of Fathers, the Catholicos-Patriarch, according to the will of God the Father and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Given this 19th day of February, 2020; from the Secretariat of the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East.

✠ **Awa Royel**

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

