

Eminence,

Excellences,

Fathers, Sisters,

Ladies and Gentleman,

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, on the first Sunday of Advent, during „Angelus” His Holiness Pope Francis has lighted a candle for the Syria „*tormented by the war for 8 years*”. “May these flames of hope dispel the darkness of war” said the successor of Saint Peter. And added: “ let us pray and help Christians to remain in Syria and the Middle East as witnesses of mercy forgiveness and reconciliation.”

In this way His Holiness has joined a noble human rights campaign of Aid to the Church in Need. Campaign of prayer, bringing help and solidarity : **"Candles for peace. Syrian children`s plea for peace"**.

I`m really moved that today, here in the embassy of the Republic of Poland, in this symbolic way we can support that very important program.

I would like to welcome in a special way: Philipp Ozores a General Secretary of ACN International , His Eminence Cardinal Zenari Apostolic Nuncio to Syria, His Grace Denys Antoine Chahda, Syriac Catholic Archbishop of Aleppo, Alfredo Mantovano, President of ACN Italy, father Andrzej Halemba, and finally witnesses from Syria –sister Fida Chaaya from Damascus and sister Annie Demerjian from Maalula.

Maalula, a heroic city, which was nearly destroyed by the ISIS barbarians, an ancient town where our Christian brothers still talk and pray in Aramaic - a language of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thanks also to CAN, Poland consequently, year after year, gives help to the people of Syria. To the suffering people of Iraq and Lebanon. And especially to the most innocent of them - Syrian children. For the Polish government this is and always will be a priority.

„When I will forget about You Jerusalem, You, Father in heaven forget about me”. In our times a living Jerusalem are our suffering brothers and sisters from the Middle East. And, I`m sure, we will never forget about them.

Thank You so much. Your presence here means a lot...