

Dear True Life in God Readers,

On June 7, 2025, Pope Leo XIV publicly announced that the Catholic Church is open to establishing **one common date of Easter** among all Christian churches, thereby upholding the initiative of his predecessor Pope Francis and one of the goals of the Council of Nicaea that convened just over 1,700 years ago.

Pope Leo stated this desire of his to the participants of the symposium *Nicaea and the Church of the Third Millennium: Towards Catholic-Orthodox Unity*, which took place one year ago at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Thanks be to God and to you, this initiative is a first in the Church, but it is not enough! We must step up our prayers, sacrifices and petitions to Almighty God and to our Blessed Mother Mary by submitting anew to the Roman Pontiff and the Patriarch a renewed appeal to unite the dates of Easter!

when will they all pass a decree by unanimous vote to celebrate the feast of Easter all in one date? (Dec. 21, 1992)

Why is this appeal so important?

+ Fr. Joseph Leo Iannuzzi, STL, S.Th.D.



Pope Leo XIV and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
during their second meeting at Vatican City on May 30, 2025

Petition

We encourage all True Life in God readers to **submit to Pope Leo XIV and to the Patriarch Bartholomew** the petition below that many of you submitted to the pope's predecessor days before his passing. We nurture a profound hope in this Jubilee Year of Hope that something positive will emerge from the meeting this November in Nicea between the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Leo XIV to commemorate together the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of 325.

Please sign and submit the below petition to Pope Leo XIV and to Patriarch Bartholomew and to your own Bishops and Patriarchs. ***Please do so today.***

URGENT APPEAL to the POPE and to the PATRIARCH for ONE DATE OF EASTER

In this year of our Lord 2026 we, united members of the mystical Body of Christ of eastern and western churches throughout the world, humbly and earnestly appeal to the Roman Pontiff Leo XIV, to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and to all Patriarchs and Bishops throughout the Christian world:

Our appeal is inspired by Popes Saint John Paul II, Francis and Leo XIV. Pope John Paul related that the third Christian millennium will be marked by a millennium of unifications;¹ Pope Francis affirmed that *“The Catholic Church is open to accepting the date on which everyone has agreed: a date of unity... a common date for Easter”* (Pope Francis, January 25, 2025). And Pope Leo signed a historic Joint Declaration reaffirming their commitment to full communion between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches and added, *“We thank Divine Providence that, in this year 2025, the entire Christian world celebrated Easter on the same day. It is our shared and ardent desire that the process of finding a permanent common date for the Feast of Feasts continue”* (Pope Leo XIV, 29 November 2025).

More recently on **Friday, September 4**, in Budapest, at the conclusion of the 27th International Congress of the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches, Patriarch Bartholomew I called and indeed pleaded for Catholic-Orthodox unity. He stated, ***“We hope, by the grace and help from on high, for the restoration of full communion with the Church of Rome within the one Body of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.”***

Therefore, WE HUMBLY IMPLORE YOU TO PLEASE SIGN A TREATY TO UNITE THE DATES OF EASTER when our divided world cries out for unity. We, as a body of Christian believers throughout the world, have been praying and offering sacrifices for many years for the longed-for day of unity.

And so, we appeal to all of you beloved shepherds and Church leaders to whom we look for spiritual guidance, to be the sign of “hope” by uniting the dates of Easter.

WHATEVER DATE YOU CHOOSE WE HUMBLY EMBRACE!

¹ *“The Pope does indeed cherish a great expectation that the millennium of divisions will be followed by a millennium of unifications”* (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Salt of the Earth, San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1997).

As Christians of the third Christian millennium we believe that one common date of Easter will stand out as a visible and liturgical sign of the unification so deeply longed for by all, and a testament to our common faith in the Resurrection of Christ. One date of Easter will bring much joy and immense reparation to the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Blessed Lord Jesus revealed, *“May all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me”* (Jn. 17:21).

We express our profound gratitude to all of you shepherds for working for this much-needed unity, and we will pray for you every day, in particular Pope Leo XIV, Patriarch Bartholomew and all other Patriarchs and Bishops of eastern and western Churches.

Sign your name _____

Print your name _____

Date _____

Submit to:

Cardinal Kurt Koch Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity Via della Conciliazione, 5 - 00193 Rome Email: office@christianunity.va Tel: +39 06 698 83072 Fax: +39 06 698 85365	Office of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: Email: patriarchate.office@gmail.com
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