

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF RAMADAN AND THE
CELEBRATION OF THE END OF RAMADAN 2026 (FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 19)
ID-AL-FITR/RAMAZAN BAYRAMI, MARCH 20

“Indeed, Allah guides to Himself those who believe and whose hearts find tranquility in the remembrance of Allah. Is it not through the remembrance of Allah that hearts find tranquility?”
- **Surah Ar-Ra'd (13), 28**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
- **Matthew 11:28-29**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year, Lent and Ramadan began on the same day, a sign of a shared spiritual journey. For us believers, this is a valuable opportunity to remember the deep roots that our traditions share: prayer, fasting, inner conversion, solidarity with the world and with one another. However, this period also confronts us with a reality that many experience - often in complete silence - that of loneliness.

Loneliness is a feeling that the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and Jesus Christ also experienced. When Muhammad felt lonely, God addressed these words of comfort to him: “Your Lord has not forsaken you, nor has He abandoned you.” (*Quran, Surah 93 - The Mounting*). And Jesus, on the cross, cried out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (*Gospel of Matthew 27:46*).

Both of our traditions recognize loneliness and abandonment as a deeply human experience. Even the prophets have experienced it. In our time, social media has multiplied our number of connections, but often at the expense of deep and authentic encounters. Even when surrounded by many people, we can feel alone. The Quran emphasizes the importance of the umma, the community of believers, called to care for one another. Ramadan is a special time to strengthen these bonds, to open our homes and hearts to those who are isolated. In the Bible, God says, “It is not good for man to be alone” (*Genesis 1:18*). In Christian spirituality, the ecclesial community is also a place of consolation and fraternity. Jesus invites his disciples, especially during Lent, to watch over those who are excluded or forgotten.

During this time of shared fasting, may we all acknowledge the feeling of isolation that affects so many lives and offer a caring presence to those who need it. Let us open our hearts, build new friendships, and reach out to others beyond the boundaries of our religious communities.

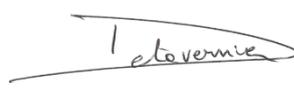
We wish you a fruitful and blessed Ramadan. And when Eid al-Fitr, the feast of breaking the fast, comes, may it be a time of joy, gratitude, brotherhood-sisterhood, and hope for all of you.



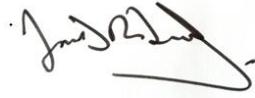
Frédéric Rossignol
Reference Bishop for
Interfaith Dialogue



Lode Van Hecke
Reference Bishop for
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President of the Synod of
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