MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV
ON THE CENTENARY OF THE 1925 ECUMENICAL MEETING

Dear brothers and sisters,

I extend heartfelt greetings to all gathered in Stockholm for the 2025 Ecumenical Week marking the centenary of the 1925 Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work, as well as the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, a profound event in the history of Christianity.

In the year 325, bishops from across the known world gathered in Nicaea. In affirming the divinity of Jesus Christ, they formulated our creedal statements that he is "true God from true God" and "consubstantial (*homoousios*) with the Father." Thus, they articulated the faith that continues to bind Christians together. That Council stood as a courageous sign of unity amidst difference – an early witness to the conviction that our shared confession can overcome division and foster communion.

A similar desire animated the 1925 Conference in Stockholm, convened by the pioneer of the early ecumenical movement, Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, then Lutheran Archbishop of Uppsala. The gathering brought together around 600 Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant leaders. Söderblom's conviction was that "service unites." He therefore called on his Christian brothers and sisters not to wait for agreement on every point of theology, but to unite in "practical Christianity" – to serve the world together in the pursuit of peace, justice and human dignity. ***(To Be Continued)***