

Pope Francis: “Tawadrūs Is Leading His Church Forward”

Pope Francis I, Pope of the Vatican, said that Pope Tawadrūs II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the Holy See of St. Mark, leads the church forward, pointing out that there is a strong friendship that brings them together. He added in a press statement that the Roman Catholic Church has friendly relations with the Orthodox Church, which supports the unity of both denominations. He pointed out that the door is open to the consolidation of relations between the two churches, and it is necessary to continue to move forward to overcome the existing problems, and that the joint declaration signed by both churches’ leaders confirmed the mutual recognition of the sacrament of Baptism, which has been an issue so far.

The Roman Catholic Pontiff added: “Four meetings were held with President `Abd al-Fattāḥ al-Sīsī, Dr. Aḥmad al-Tayyib the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Pope Tawadrūs II, and the Patriarch of the Coptic Catholic Church, Ibrahīm Ishāq.” Asked on the details of the talk, Pope Francis I refused to give any, stressing the importance of defending peace in the world, to achieve harmony between peoples and equality among citizens, regardless of their religious affiliations. The pope called on everyone to look at the countries suffering from internal wars, and considered that the United Nations is called upon to take control of the matter, to settle differences existing in peaceful and diplomatic ways. [Fātimāh Khamīs, *al-Mūjaz*, Apr. 30, 2017] <http://www.elmogaz.com/node/384253>