

Vienna, 8 – 11 September 2025









#### Dear Brothers in the Episcopate,

I am delighted to welcome you to Vienna for the 26th Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches in Europe. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Barbareum in Vienna, a place where young men from different cultures, languages and traditions found a place of shared education, prayer and brotherhood. The grateful memory of this formative educational institution has shown how important and valuable the experience of unity in diversity is to this day – for the Church and for Europe.

Today, we are invited to take a look at the current situation of the Eastern Catholic Churches and the challenges we face. The vibrant diversity of the Eastern Catholic Churches is a precious treasure and a source of enrichment. How can a united Church contribute to strengthening Europe and working for peace and reconciliation? Let us take to heart the wish expressed by Pope Leo XIV in his inaugural address: "Brothers and sisters, I would like our first great desire to be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world." We are invited to promote the desire for unity more and more in our appreciation of diversity – especially in times of political, social and societal tensions and divisions in Europe.

In the days ahead, we will engage in prayer, dialogue, and reflection together. May these moments deepen our communion, guide us on our shared journey in a spirit of synodality, and inspire visions for peace and reconciliation that our Church and world so desperately need.

With heartfelt blessings,

+ Chutyh Kardinal Schönborn

Ordinary for the faithful of the Eastern Catholic Churches in Austria



© Altarpiece of the Greek Catholic Church of St. Barbara in Vienna (Subotić Moses, 1775, oil on wood, 150×80 cm).

# **Program**

# Monday, 8 September 2025

8:00	Seminary Dining Hall, Strudlhofgasse 7, 1090 Vienna
10:00	Byzantine Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church of the Holy Family, Familienplatz 8, 1160 Vienna
13:00	Lunch for Early Arrivals Seminary Dining Hall
14:00	Byzantine Divine Liturgy for travellers (optional) Seminary Church, Strudlhofgasse 7, 1090 Vienna
15:00	Arrivals and Check-in Seminary, Strudlhofgasse 7, 1090 Vienna
	Refreshments
16:30	Departure with the buses from the Seminary to St. Barbara Church St. Barbara Church, Postgasse 8-12, 1010 Vienna
17:30	St. Barbara Church – Prayer. Opening remarks. Word of Welcome
18:30	Departure with the buses from St. Barbara Church to the Mayor's Hall
19:30	Dinner Reception hosted by Mayor of Vienna, Dr. Michael Ludwig Stadtsenatssitzungssaal Wiener Rathaus, Lichtenfelsgasse 2, 1010 Vienna
21:30	Departure for the Seminary

# Tuesday, 9 September 2025

7:00	Holy Qurbana – Eucharistic Liturgy in the Syro-Malabar Rite Seminary Church
8:15	Breakfast Seminary Dining Hall
9:00	Official opening. Word of Welcome Rev. Dr. Richard Tatzreiter, Rector of the Archbishop's Seminary Vienna Mag. Josef Grünwidl, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Vienna H. E. Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, Ordinary for the faithful of the Eastern Catholic Churches in Austria Seminary Conference Room
9:15	"Unity in Diversity: Obstacles along the Way." H. E. Claudio Cardinal Gugerotti, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches
9:45	Work unit
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	"Communion among the Eastern Catholic Churches of Europe" H. E. Gintaras Grušas, President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE)

13:00	Lunch & Coffee
14:30	Departure from the Seminary by bus to the Apostolic Nunciature in Austria Theresianumgasse 31, 1040 Vienna
15:30	Afternoon Courtesy Visit with the Apostolic Nuncio H. E. Archbishop Dr. Pedro López Quintana
16:30	Departure from the Apostolic Nunciature by bus to Augustiner-Chorherrenstift Klosterneuburg Stiftsplatz 1, 3400 Klosterneuburg
17:30	Guided Tour at Stift Klosterneuburg (2-3 groups available in English, Italian, and Ukrainian)
18:30	Standing reception with the Provost Anton Höslinger CanReg and monastery sparkling wine in the vestibule of the Kuppelsaal
19:15	Dinner at the Stiftsrestaurant
21:30	Departure for the Seminary

Work unit

# Wednesday, 10 September 2025

7:00	Byzantine Divine Liturgy (optional) Seminary Church
8:15	Breakfast Seminary Dining Hall
9:00	"Communion between the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Latin Rite Church in Europe" H. E. Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, Ordinary for the faithful of the Eastern Catholic Churches in Austria
9:30	Work unit
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Work unit
13:00	Lunch & Coffee
14:30	Departure from the Seminary by bus to the Archbishop's Palace Rotenturmstraße 2, 1010 Vienna

15:30	Encounter with the EU Commissioner and Representatives of the Austrian Government Archbishop's Palace
17:00	Refreshments Arcade Courtyard of the Archbishop's Palace
17:30	Vesting and Procession Formation Archbishop's Palace
18:00	Byzantine Divine Liturgy St. Stephen's Cathedral
20:15	Departure from Stephansplatz to the Seminary
21:00	Pre-Dinner Aperitif at the Courtyard of the Seminary followed by a Formal Dinner at the Dining Hall

### Thursday, 11 September 2025

7:00	Seminary Church
8:15	Breakfast Seminary Dining Hall
9:00	Supplementary Presentation: "Eastern Catholics in Austria: Historical Presence in the Habsburg Empire and Current Research in Vienna." UnivProf. Dr. Dr. Thomas Mark Németh, Chair of Theology and History of Eastern Churches of the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Vienna
9:30	Work unit – Conclusion
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Work Unit – Diverse Topics and Plans for the Upcoming Meeting
13:00	Lunch & Coffee
	Departure

### Important addresses and locations of the Plenary Assembly:

#### **Meeting Venues:**

**Archbishop's Seminary Vienna** (in the text referred to as "Seminary"):

Strudlhofgasse 7, 1090 Vienna

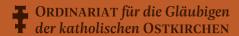
Archbishop's Palace: Rotenturmstraße 2, 1010 Vienna, Entrance: Wollzeile 2

#### **Accommodation:**

Archbishop's Seminary Vienna: Strudlhofgasse 7, 1090 Vienna

Hotel Boltzmann: Boltzmanngasse 8, 1090 Vienna Hotel Strudlhof: Pasteurgasse 1, 1090 Vienna

Hotel-Pension Bleckmann: Währinger Straße 15, 1090 Vienna



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The Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches of Europe is hosted by the Ordinariate for the faithful of the Eastern Catholic Churches in Austria, under the auspices of the Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe (CCEE), in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Vienna and the Archbishop's Seminary Vienna.