

New Wave of Violence

The complete islamization of the Muslim

world in process...

In its 10th pastoral letter, the Council of Catholic Patriarchs of the Middle East examines the challenges facing Arab Christians across the region. The council issued the letter at a time this summer when Iraq was suffering new waves of bombings against Christian churches in Baghdad and in the Kurdish north. Entitled The Christian Arab Confronts the Challenges of Today, the letter was released in Arabic and French.

The patriarchs continue to regard Christians as integral members of the Arab society, who hope to be equal members of their respective communities. While they regard Islam as a formative force in the Arab world, they see a shared future for Christians and Muslims if together they "form a common front to challenge new extremist movements which are a threat to all, Christians and Muslims alike." ($\pi\epsilon\rho\iota\sigma\sigma\acute{o}\tau\epsilon\rho\alpha...$)