Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, and friends,

It is great honour to be the host of the 25th Congress of World Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations.

I am very proud to see all of you coming from all the parts of the world.

I know that it was not easy to come from United States, Canada, South America, Australia, and Asia, as well as from many countries from Europe. I am sure that our work on ethics issues in next few days will be beneficial for our everyday work. With the papal blessing I am sure that we can influence on menacing culture of death and promote the culture of life.

I am deeply grateful to our ecclesiastical assistant bishop Pozaić, and the Archbishop of Zagreb, His Eminence Cardinal Josip Bozanić that approved our proposal for organizing this congress.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 25<sup>th</sup> Congress of World Federation of the Catholic Medical Associations I would like to thank numerous institutions, donors and sponsors that have financially supported our congress.

On behalf of Croatian Catholic Medical Society I wish you a fruitful work and agreeable sojourn in Zagreb, and Croatia.

Prof. dr. Ana Planinc-Peraica, dr. med.

President

Croatian Catholic Medical Society