Cardinal Kurt Koch
Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity President

Cardinal Kurt Koch is the President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. He was born on 15 March 1950 in Emmenbrücke, diocese of Basel (Switzerland). He studied theology at the University of Munich and at the University of Lucerne and was ordained a priest on 20 June 1982. He served as parish priest of St. Marien in Bern until 1985, as well as lecturer in fundamental theology at the Faculty of Fribourg.

In 1987, he completed his doctorate in theology and in 1989 became Professor of dogmatic theology and liturgy at the University of Lucerne, eventually becoming rector of the faculty of theology in 1995. On 6 December 1995 he was appointed Bishop of Basel and was consecrated on 6 January 1996 in Rome. From 1998 to 2006, he was Vice-President of the Swiss Bishops’ Conference, then President from 2007 to 2009.

On 1 July 2010 he was appointed President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity with the title of Archbishop.

Created and proclaimed Cardinal by Benedict XVI in the consistory of 20 November 2010, of the Title of Nostra Signora del Sacro Cuore (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart), Deaconry elevated pro hac vice to presbyteral title (3 May 2021).