



In Memoriam: Archbishop Stylianos

With profound sentiments of both deep sadness, but at the same time of unfailing hope in the Resurrection, we have gathered together here in this Cathedral of the Annunciation of our Lady, to farewell from this life, a pre-eminent Church leader and distinguished Hierarchy of our Ecumenical Patriarchate. Indeed, one could only infer that his 'falling asleep' in the Lord, on the feast day of the Annunciation, was nothing less than divine Providence, for a man who spent his entire life 'announcing' the Word of God and 'preparing the way' for others to follow.

Archbishop Stylianos was truly a great theological scholar and inspiring Teacher of the Christian Faith, an Archbishop who radically changed the course of the Greek Orthodox Church here in Australia upon his arrival in 1975. During his 44 year tenure as Archbishop of Australia, the Church saw the establishment of many benevolent institutions: day schools, aged care facilities, organisations caring for people with special needs, social welfare centres together with the addition of scores of Parishes around Australia, and so much more.

Beyond these achievements, however, that which stands above and apart was arguably his inimitable vision to 'give birth' to an accredited Theological College - which he did in 1986 through the Sydney College of Divinity - knowing full well that such an Institution would maintain the well-being and viability of the Church here in the Antipodes, as he liked to call Australia. Indeed, speaking today, on behalf of all graduates of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, of which I too was blessed to be - and subsequently as a member of its Faculty - we give thanks to God today, at this solemn hour, for our Founding Dean, who 'in the place and type of Christ' can rightly be called the



College's 'chief cornerstone' (cf. Eph. 2:20). It will be incumbent upon all of us who serve in the Theological College to continue to strengthen these firm foundations that he inaugurated.

In hearing his inspirational lectures and in reading his published works - his books, his countless articles and vast poetic anthology - one quickly discerned, not only a consummate scholar, but a man marked by a strikingly inclusive and comprehensive vision of the world, a man with a heart wide open ready to encounter and embrace the uniqueness of all that he beheld. This was most evident in his broad ecumenical openness where he was always ready to learn, receive and be enriched, by all those of good will whom he encountered from the different Christian denominations and other faiths more broadly. He was the first appointed co-Chair in the official international theological dialogue between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches and a host of other bi-lateral and multi-lateral dialogues. His ecumenical acclaim was recognised by the Sydney College of Divinity from which he received an honorary doctorate in 2001 - in-



*Οί εκπρόσωποι των άλλων Χριστιανικών Εκκλησιών
έν Αύστραλία*



*Ο Ρωμαιοκαθολικός Επίσκοπος The Right Rev Bishop
Michael McKenna (Bishop of Bathurst)*

deed, one of a number - and which, several years later, acknowledged him as its first Professor of Theology.

Over and above his academic achievements, he was a man who understood all things to have been created by God out of love, and as therefore being sacred. Not only the human person, but even the slightest blade of grass - and every living creature - was for him, an 'epiphany' of God. In class we would often be reminded never to remain indifferent to anyone or anything. This loving predisposition to uncover the 'original beauty' of creation is seen most distinctly in the Archbishop's poetry. What many of us might, at first sight, have considered mundane, is precisely what is both valued and transfigured in his prodigious anthology; the seemingly 'ordinary' is re-born and recast into its original beauty. Indeed, he wrote that poetry was nothing less than "intensive care over the bleeding creation."

This radical openness to, and love for, all creation can be seen, for example, in a short poem that he wrote about simple seashells: "collecting shells on the beach, you shake hands with the Invisible." As creations of God, these too were able to remind the Archbishop, and reveal to him the love and immediacy of God.

Whilst one could speak at length of his eloquence, I leave you with but one last example, which I believe can console and comfort the loss that we are all experiencing. In a poem entitled *Mother Forgive*, His Eminence compares a person lying in a coffin to "an infant secured in a cradle of worship". If he could speak to us today, he would remind us that we even in our death - lying in our coffin - we all remain God's children - or as the poem states, "infants in a cradle" where our heavenly Father will forever cradle us - namely, keep us secure - in a reality of endless joy and worship.

In the midst of our common sadness, may we all be comforted in knowing that the Archbishop ran the good race to the end, faithful to his calling as a bishop of the Church of Christ, and that he is now in the peace and loving embrace of our Lord and Saviour, in whom we trust now and always. Amen.



Ο Κόπτης Επίσκοπος κ. Δανιήλ άσπαζόμενος τό σκήνωμα
του Αρχιεπισκόπου



St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΙΣ

Έκ της Γραμματείας της Ιεράς Θεολογικής Σχολής του Άποστόλου Ανδρέου γίνεται γνωστόν ότι, οι δωρεές που κατατέθησαν προς ενίσχυση των προγραμμάτων της, άντι στεφάνων εις μνήμην του Αοιδίμου Αρχιεπισκόπου Ίδρυτου και πρώτου Κοσμήτορος της Σχολής κυρού Στυλιανού από την ήμέραν της έξοδίου Ακολουθίας μέχρι σήμερα ανήλθον εις τό ποσόν των \$66,961,70.

Άπαντες, οι διδάσκοντες, οι διδασκόμενοι και τό Διοικητικό προσωπικό της Θεολογικής Σχολής, ευχαριστούμεν όλους όσους έτίμησαν με την παρουσία των και με οιονδήποτε άλλον τρόπον τον έκλιπόντα Ποιμενάρχην και Πνευματικό μας Πατέρα Αρχιεπίσκοπον κυρό Στυλιανό και ευχόμεθα πάν αγαθόν παρά του Δωροδότου Θεού.

Χριστός Ανέστη!

Σύδνεϋ 07-05-2019

Έκ της Γραμματείας της Θεολογικής Σχολής

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Reverend Clergy and Beloved Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

As had been previously announced, donations were collected in support of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in lieu of floral tributes at the funeral service of our late College Dean, Archbishop Stylianos of blessed memory. This had been his own personal wish in light of the fact that the establishment of the Theological College had been a work of his hands and a labour of his love and joy with the collaboration over the years of many co-workers and people of good will.

As of today, being the fortieth day since his repose in the Lord, donations received in memory of the late Archbishop Stylianos have amounted to \$66,961.70 with pledges of more to come.

We express our sincere gratitude for this financial support and for the messages of condolence that have been sent to the Theological College. And we pray for the repose of the soul of our beloved College Dean and Archbishop.

May his memory be eternal!

From the Office of the Theological College.

3 May 2019