



Τῷ Ἐλλογιμωτάτῳ Καθηγητῇ κυρίῳ Δημητρίᾳ Μόσχῳ, Προέδρῳ τοῦ Τμήματος Θεολογίας τῆς Θεολογικῆς Σχολῆς τοῦ Ἑθνικοῦ καὶ Καποδιστριακοῦ Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνῶν, τέκνῳ τῆς ἡμῶν Μετριότητος ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγαπητῷ, χάριν καὶ εἰρήνην παρά Θεοῦ.

Μετ' ἴδιαιτέρας χαρᾶς ἀπευθύνομεν τὸν δίκαιον ἔπαινον τῆς ἡμῶν Μετριότητος πρός τὸ Τμῆμα Θεολογίας τοῦ Ἑθνικοῦ καὶ Καποδιστριακοῦ Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνῶν διά τὴν θεσμοθέτησιν τῆς «Ἐτήσιας Διάλεξης Μητροπολίτη Περγάμου Ιωάννη Ζηζιούλα», πρός τιμήν τῆς μνήμης καὶ τῆς προσφορᾶς τοῦ μακαριστοῦ μεγάλου θεολόγου καὶ Ακαδημαϊκοῦ, καὶ εἰς ἔνδειξιν τοῦ συνδέσμου τοῦ Τμήματος ὑμῶν μετά τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, μέλος τῆς Τεραρχίας τοῦ ὅποιου ὑπῆρξεν ὁ ἀείμνηστος ἀδελφός ἀπό τοῦ ἔτους 1986.

Ἡ πρωτοβουλία αὕτη ἐκφράζει τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς θεολογίας τοῦ Μητροπολίτου Περγάμου, ἀλλά καὶ τὴν ἐπιστημονικήν ταυτότητα τοῦ καθ' ὑμᾶς Τμήματος Θεολογίας, τὸν προσανατολισμὸν δηλονότι πρός μίαν «διαλεγομένην θεολογίαν», μέ τὴν διπλῆν ἀναφοράν εἰς τὴν ἀλήθειαν τῆς Παραδόσεως τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας καὶ εἰς τὰς ὑπαρξιακάς ἀνάγκας καὶ τὰς ζωτικάς ἀναζητήσεις τοῦ ἔκαστοτε συγχρόνου ἀνθρώπου.

Ο Περγάμου Ιωάννης ἔθεώρει τὴν θεολογίαν ως «τὴν δύναμιν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ὑπέρ πᾶσαν ἄλλην διπλωματικήν ἢ οἰκονομικήν ἰσχύν». Ἐπίστευεν ὅτι ἀπό αὐτήν ἐξαρτάται ἡ πορεία τῆς Οἰκουμενικῆς Κινήσεως ἐφ' ὅσον μόνον ἐπί θεολογικῆς βάσεως δύνανται νά ιαθοῦν αἱ διασπάσεις τῆς Χριστιανοσύνης. Ο μακαριστός διετύπωσεν ἐμπνευσμένας προτάσεις διά τὴν ὁργάνωσιν τῶν θεολογικῶν σπουδῶν καὶ διεκήρυξεν ἐμφατικῶς ὅτι ἡ ἀνοικτοσύνη ἀπελευθερώνει τὴν θεολογίαν ἀπό τὴν ὁμολογιακήν στενότητα.

Ο ἀείμνηστος ἀδελφός συνέβαλε μεγάλως εἰς τὴν πρόοδον τοῦ θεολογικοῦ διαλόγου μεταξύ τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου καὶ τῆς Ρωμαιοκαθολικῆς Ἐκκλησίας ως Συμπρόεδρος τῆς σχετικῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς καὶ διά τῆς «εὐχαριστιακῆς ἐκκλησιολογίας» του, ἡ ὁποία ἀποτελεῖ τὴν βιβλικῶς, πατερικῶς καὶ συστηματικῶς τεθεμελιωμένην ἀφετηρίαν διά τὴν ὁρθήν κατανόησιν τῆς συνοδικότητος καὶ τῆς καθολικότητος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ τὴν προσέγγισιν τοῦ θέματος τοῦ Πρωτείου.

Ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τούτῳ, ἐκφράζομεν τὴν χαράν ἡμῶν διά τὴν πρόσκλησιν ἐφέτος τοῦ Ὁσιολογιωτάτου Πρωτάνεως τοῦ Ποντιφικοῦ Πανεπιστημίου Angelicum π. Thomas Joseph White, ὁ ὄποιος θά όμιλήσῃ περὶ τῆς «Σχεσιακῆς ὄντολογίας» ἐν τῇ χριστιανικῇ θεολογίᾳ, ἐν ἀναφορᾷ πρός τὸν Ἀκινάτην Θωμᾶν καὶ τὰς σχέσεις Ρωμαιοκαθολικῶν καὶ Ὁρθοδόξων. Εἴμεθα βέβαιοι ὅτι ὁ ἐκλεκτός εἰσηγητής, ὁ ὄποιος ἥδη εἰς τὸ ἔργον του διαλέγεται κριτικῶς μὲ τὰς θέσεις τοῦ Περγάμου, ἐσπιάζων εἰς τὴν θεολογίαν τῆς σχέσεως καὶ τὸ θέμα τῆς ἐλευθερίας, θά ἀναδείξῃ μετ' ἐμβριθείας τὴν σχετικήν διδασκαλίαν τοῦ Ἀκινάτου ἀναφορικῶς πρός τὴν ὁπτικήν τοῦ Μητροπολίτου Περγάμου, ἡ ὁποία συνοψίζεται εἰς τὴν φράσιν «ὁ Θεός εἶναι ἔνας, ἀλλά δέν εἶναι μόνος... ἡ ἐνότητά Του στηρίζεται στὴν ἀδιάρρηκτη

ἀγαπητική σχέση πού ἔχουν τά τρία Πρόσωπα μεταξύ Τους ... ὁ Θεός μας εἶναι Θεός σχέσεων».

Ἐπί δέ τούτοις, χαιρετίζομεν τήν ὀργάνωσιν τῆς δευτέρας κατά σειράν  
ἐτησίας διαλέξεως εἰς μνήμην τοῦ μακαριστοῦ Μητροπολίτου Περγάμου Ιωάννου,  
καταστέφοντες δέ τούς ὑπευθύνους καὶ πάντας τούς συμμετέχοντας καὶ συμπνευ-  
ματιζομένους, διά τῆς Πατριαρχικῆς ἡμῶν εὐλογίας, δεόμεθα ἐκ Φαναρίου ὅπως  
Χριστός ὁ ἀληθινός Θεός ἡμῶν, πρεσβείαις τοῦ ἡγαπημένου μαθητοῦ Αὐτοῦ Ιωάν-  
νου τοῦ Θεολόγου, προστάτου καὶ πάτρωνος τοῦ ἀειμνήστου ἀδελφοῦ, χαρίζηται  
πᾶσιν ὑμῖν τά οὐρανια δωρήματα Αὐτοῦ.

βκε' Μαρτίου ιβ'

Επί τούτων  
διάσημος θεοφίλες β.

To the Most Distinguished Professor Dr. Dimitrios Moschos, President of the Department of Theology, Faculty of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Our Modesty's beloved child in the Lord, grace and peace from God be unto you.

With great joy, we extend the rightly deserved praise of Our Modesty to the Department of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens for the establishment of the "Metropolitan of Pergamon John Zizioulas Annual Lecture," in honour of the memory and contribution of the late eminent theologian and member of the Academy of Athens. This initiative also signifies the Department's connection with the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of which Our departed brother was a member of Her Hierarchy since 1986.

This initiative reflects both the spirit of Metropolitan John of Pergamon's theology as well as the scientific identity of your Department of Theology, which is oriented towards a "dialogical theology" that maintains a double reference to the truth of Orthodox Tradition and to the existential needs and vital quests of contemporary humanity.

Metropolitan John of Pergamon regarded theology as "the power of the Church above all other diplomatic or economic powers." He firmly believed that the course of the Ecumenical Movement depended on theology, as only through a theological foundation can the divisions of Christianity be healed. The late Metropolitan formulated truly inspired proposals for the organisation of theological studies and emphatically proclaimed that openness liberates theology from confessional narrowness.

Our late brother made a significant contribution to the advancement of theological dialogue between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches as Co-President of the relevant Commission and through his "Eucharistic Ecclesiology." This ecclesiological perspective, firmly grounded in Scripture, Patristic tradition, and Systematic theology, provided the foundational basis for the correct understanding of Synodality and Catholicity in the Church and for approaching the topic of Primacy. It is in this spirit, that we express Our delight at the invitation this year extended to the Reverend Rector of the Pontifical University Angelicum, fr. Thomas Joseph White, who will speak on "Relational Ontology" in Christian Theology in reference to Thomas Aquinas and the relations between Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians. We are confident that the distinguished speaker, who has already, in his work, discussed Metropolitan John of Pergamon's theological positions—focusing on the theology of relation and the theme of freedom—will highlight Aquinas' teachings on this matter, taking into consideration the perspective of the late Metropolitan of Pergamon, which can be summarised in the Metropolitan's very own words: "God is one, but He is not alone... His unity is grounded in the indissoluble relationship of love shared among the three Persons... Our God is a God of relations."

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly greet the organisation of this second annual lecture in memory of Metropolitan John. Bestowing upon the organisers, as well as all participants, Our Patriarchal blessing, we pray from the Phanar, that Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His beloved disciple John the Theologian—patron and protector of our late brother—may grant unto you all our Lord's heavenly gifts.