

**ADDRESS**  
**OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NEKTARIOS**  
**OF HONG KONG AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF HIS ENTHRONEMENT**

Your Eminence Athenagoras, Metropolitan of Mexico, Representative of his All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch,  
Your Grace Amvrosios, Bishop of Zelon,  
Your Eminence Joseph Zen, Cardinal of Hong Kong,  
Your Eminence Paul Kwong, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Hong Kong,  
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and Consuls of Greece,  
Most Honourable Mr Papadopoulos, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,  
Respected Clergy,  
Beloved People of God.

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour be with you all!

Christ's Great Church, in its mission to spread the Gospel of the True Word to every corner of the Earth, has chosen my Humbleness to serve as Metropolitan of the Holy Apostolic Metropolis, and has sent me to your side, that I may bring to you the joyous word of His Gospel, the revelation of the love of God the Father and the sanctifying sacraments that are celebrated in this Church, with the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

This mission of the Church does not lie simply in the improvement of the world and of each individual human being. It is also its mission to bear witness to the martyrdom of Christ and to complete His mission. The presence of the Orthodox Church in the countries of the Far East has as its goal to reach out to all the people, and together, to follow in the footsteps of Christ and to find salvation.

Christ says *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*. His is the only road to salvation; that is, to the divine. His intercession is the bridge across the abyss that divides man the sinner from God, and that reconciles man to Him. Christ is the *Truth* because He showed us how to live in the Truth, the way to True Life.

The Way and the Truth are united in Christ. The only way to God is through the Truth. Any group of people who adopt the name of *ecclesia*, but who forget the True God, the *Theanthropos*, the Perfect God and Perfect Man, shall find it impossible to achieve salvation. That is the tragedy of those who live far away from the True Light. This is the cornerstone of Christianity and the teaching of the Church. Faith is not merely an abstract. It is the Truth writ large in the Gospels, in the lives of the saints, in the Apostolic tradition. It is this that has the power to heal. The faithful draw strength from this to find the true path to salvation. Jesus is the seal that secures the salvation of man. On this rests the Orthodox Faith, as handed down by the Holy Fathers. Christ is the incarnation of the Way of the Truth.

Christ is Life; the One Who conquered Death. His Resurrection is the stone on which the very existence of the Church rests. His taking on the Flesh unlocked the mystery of human existence and opened the gates to eternal life. In a world worn out by corruption comes the hope of everlasting life. Christ's resurrection is the decisive victory over death, where life goes on in the Grace and Love of God.

When Christ offered up his Body and his Blood at the Last Supper, He was not merely founding a philanthropic institution. He established the Church to save us from death, from sin and from the Devil. Only if we accept this, can we live in brotherhood. The true life in the Church is the ongoing journey of the Resurrection. In the sacraments and in the spiritual life, the faithful Christian conquers death in his daily life and participates in the Resurrection of Christ. To repent is to be free of the chains of sin and to be welcomed into the Arms of the resurrected Christ.

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is the mission that the Church gave to me. To be among you as a candle, to shine my humble light, to be the bearer of the Light of the Resurrection and of God's Hope and Love. I know that we are not many. But Christ gives us courage, and the example of Paul the Apostle gives us strength with his words:

*I can do all things, in Him Who strengthens me.* (Philippians: 4:13)

I am constantly aware that we are here not to prevail, nor to impose our will by force, but to welcome all our Brothers and Sisters into God's House.

Your Eminence Athenagoras of Mexico, I thank you for the love you show in coming to celebrate my enthronement. Please convey to his All Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch, my devotion and love. I ask that in

his prayers, he remembers the humble Bishop of the Orthodox Metropolitanate of Hong Kong.

I also give thanks to my predecessor, his Eminence Nikitas, Metropolitan of the Dardanelles, who did so much for the growth of the mission and philanthropic work in the countries of the Far East, for the great sacrifices he made and for the great works he accomplished. May our Lord support him in the new *Diaconia* with which the Church has entrusted him.

I thank the benefactors of the holy Metropolitanate; all those who give generous support to the mission of the Orthodox Church. As they have offered to Christ, so shall they receive all His Blessings.

From my heart, I thank the very reverend Constantine, Chancellor of the Metropolitanate, the clergy, all the monks and the nuns, and all the volunteers, who with such great zeal fulfil the ministry of Christ. These people keep the Light of the Gospel burning, often in dangerous and difficult circumstances. They are always in my heart and in my prayers and they have my full support in all they do. I pray every day for the Lord to give them strength, and to guide and support them in all their endeavours.

I thank Their Excellencies, the Ambassadors and Consuls, who came today to share in the joy of our Church. I look forward to working productively together.

I give special thanks to the representatives of the Christian Churches who have honoured us with their presence and have come to share our joy. I am sure that we will continue to work together to fulfil God's Work.

Last, but not least, I thank all of you, faithful Christians and blessed people of God. I stand with you as father and as brother. And I offer myself wholly to the fulfilment of your spiritual needs. In return, I ask you humbly to remember me in your prayers, and to continue, each according to his ability, to support the Apostolic Mission of the Church.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.