



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

June 22, 2018

My Beloved Brothers in Christ,

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.”
(Matthew 25:21)

I greet you with love in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is my most solemn responsibility to inform you of the loss of a Hierarchy of this Archdiocese, Bishop Iacovos of Catania. His Grace Bishop Iacovos leaves behind a beautiful legacy, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Bishop Iacovos was born on August 10 1927, outside of Athens, Greece. Raised in the Orthodox faith by his deeply pious parents, he was inspired to enter the Priesthood, eventually receiving his degree from Athens Theological School in 1951. After entering a monastery, and then serving, as a Deacon, Bishop Iacovos was ordained a Priest on April 26, 1952. A transfer to London in 1953 enabled him to study religious philosophy in Oxford, before arriving in the United States in 1959, where he served in parishes in Canada and New York. His service at St. Barbara's in New York allowed him to pursue his studies even further. He was awarded his Master's in Philosophy at Columbia in 1963, and ordained as Bishop of Catania on May 21, 1967.

As you can see, Bishop Iacovos (who was a classmate of our Archbishop Demetrios) proved himself to be a distinguished scholar, with many deeply felt writings concerning both the liturgics and the life of our Church. However, beyond his intellectuality, Bishop Iacovos was truly a Hierarchy of the Lord.

This loss is an especially painful one for our Metropolis of Atlanta, because Bishop Iacovos had a direct impact on our work here. His Grace served here, in what was first the Charlotte Diocese, for four years; beginning in 1973 (this was after serving as Bishop of the South American Diocese). His relationship with the Southeast did not end, even after his active retirement in 1977. In the year between the falling asleep of Bishop Phillip, and my subsequent succession, His Grace Bishop Iacovos served in what was then the Diocese of Atlanta, as an auxiliary Bishop. As a result, this means that there are some of our clergy who were ordained by him during his two periods of service. Additionally, having resided in this Metropolis for most of his life, he is as much a member of our Metropolis of Atlanta family, as you or I; and so I believe all our prayers for his soul are greatly effective.

The funeral service (εξοδιος ακολουθια) will take place on Monday morning at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, following the Divine Liturgy, which begins at 9 AM. I will be in attendance as a representative of His Eminence, our Metropolis, and the Holy Synod. It is my heartfelt request that you join with me in spirit, by offering a Trisagion on Monday morning in Bishop Iacovos' honor.

May the Lord our God Who in His "inexpressible wisdom created man out of the earth, giving him form and adorning him with beauty," give rest to the soul of His departed servant, Bishop Iacovos, in "the company of the righteous," letting him be forgiven, both, "in the present age and in the age to come." May his memory be eternal!

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta