

CITATION

His Beatitude JOHN X, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East

Pastor and patriarch, monk and theologian, scholar and teacher, ecumenist and liturgist, musician and engineer, and devoted son of God-fearing parents, raised in the heart of Antioch, with deep and abiding love for all of her people,

You have devoted your life and God-given talents to serving Jesus Christ and the Orthodox Church:

Through the distinction of your scholarship in liturgical theology and Byzantine music, you have taught and inspired countless students at the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology at the University of Balamand as professor and dean,

Through your books on liturgy, theology, music, and education, you have transmitted the Orthodox faith to archbishops, priests, deacons, and laity,

Through grace and asceticism formed in the Holy Mountain at the Athonite Monastery of St. Paul, you founded a monastic community and school of ecclesiastic studies as Abbot of St. George Al Humayrah Patriarchal Monastery in Syria, and as Abbot you led Our Lady of Balamand Patriarchal Monastery,

Through obedience and zeal, as Bishop of Pyrgou in the Valley of Christians in Syria and as Metropolitan of Europe, as pastor in the East and in the West, you distinguished yourself by your ecclesiastical, national, and ecumenical presence, serving the faithful on two continents by teaching the pilgrim, engaging with scholars, inspiring youth, and encouraging the elderly,

Called to leadership of the great Church of Antioch, as the 158th successor to Saints Peter and Paul, you have taken up the Cross of the suffering Church, of all who suffer from upheaval in your beloved Middle East, and of all captives, reassuring the threatened, comforting the bereaved, and encouraging the displaced, as a tireless messenger of peace and dialogue, you insist that protection of the Christians of the Middle East can only be ensured by protection of all peoples in the region,

Through your tireless courage and vision, you have gathered the children of Antioch, listening to the voices of the faithful from every corner of the globe, reinforcing the institutions of the Church of Antioch in Syria and Lebanon, even in the midst of turmoil, and so have demonstrated that Christians are and will remain rooted in the lands of the Levant, just as are the Cedars of Lebanon, and will continue to walk in the footprints of the saints, in the place where the disciples of Jesus first were called "Christians."

Now, Therefore,

By virtue of the power vested in the Board of Trustees and the Faculty of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* is bestowed upon His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East.