



جامعة البلمند
معهد القديس يوحنا الدمشقي اللاهوتي
University of Balamand
St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology



No: 113 – 14/15

Balamand, March 20, 2015

V. Rev. Fr. John Behr
Dean
Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
575 Scarsdale Road,
Yonkers, NY 10707
USA

Dear Fr. John:

Christ is Risen!

It is with bright sadness that I received the news of the falling asleep in the Lord of Father Thomas Hopko, Dean Emeritus of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and noted Orthodox theologian, preacher, and speaker.

Fr. Thomas gave much to Orthodoxy, as an author of numerous books and articles and as a prolific speaker and preacher at Church and international conferences, numerous retreats, and public lectures. Most of all, his spiritual guidance and presence impacted many seminarians and priests. He was a "theologian at prayer." Indeed, our beloved Fr. Thomas was a dedicated servant of Christ who used his many talents for the glory of God. Thus, we pray that he hears today the words of the Lord: "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Mat. 25:23).

In the name of the Balamand Faculty, students, and staff, I would like to send our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the St. Vladimir Seminary community, to his wife Matushka Anne, and to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In this time of preparation for the Holy Resurrection of Christ, our sadness turns into a "joy-creating sorrow," as St. John Climacus writes. May the Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, give Fr. Thomas eternal repose with the saints.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Porphyrios Georgi
Dean