



# ST VLADIMIR'S

## ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### **The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew Louth** *Honorary Degree Citation*

January 30, 2026

Theologian, priest, professor and scholar—Fr. Andrew Louth, your teaching, writing, and tireless commitment to sharing with others the truth, the beauty, and the mystery of heavenly theology has glorified Jesus Christ and His Holy Church.

As a lifelong Christian, you were born in 1944, the son of a Church Army evangelist. Then you were ordained a curate in 1968 and served for several years at a parish in Bristol. After your diligent study of the Church Fathers, in 1989 you were received into the Orthodox Church by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), and in 2003 you were ordained to the Holy Priesthood.

As a theologian, following the example of the Three Hierarchs, you have dedicated your life in service to others through your selfless commitment to your many students, and through your tireless support of scholars throughout the world. You began your studies at Cambridge in Mathematics and then changed to Theology. Upon completing a master's degree at the University of Edinburgh, in 1970 you were appointed as Fellow and Tutor in Theology and Chaplain at Worcester College, Oxford. Then you taught for ten years at Goldsmiths' College, London: beginning in 1985 as Senior Lecturer, then in 1989 as Reader in Cultural Studies, and finally as Professor of Cultural History from 1992 to 1995. In 1996 you were appointed Reader in Patristics at Durham University and in 1998 you were made Professor of Patristic and Byzantine Studies, a position you held until your retirement in 2010; and now you are Professor Emeritus of Patristic and Byzantine Studies, at the University of Durham.

As an esteemed scholar and author, you have opened up a treasury of blessings in the inspired works of the Fathers, through your many publications, including: *The Origins of the Christian Mystical Tradition: From Plato to*

*Denys* (1981); *Discerning the Mystery: An Essay on the Nature of Theology* (1983); *Denys the Areopagite* (1989); *The Wilderness of God* (1996); your translations of St. Maximus the Confessor (1996); your magisterial study, *St John Damascene: Tradition and Originality in Byzantine Theology* (2002); *Modern Orthodox Thinkers: From the Philokalia to the Present* (2015); and then your volume, titled, *Greek East and Latin West: The Church AD 681-1071* (2007), which is part of the St. Vladimir's Seminary Press series *The Church in History*. These remarkable volumes, along with your many articles, chapters, and encyclopedia entries, in addition to your editorial projects, such as the *Oxford Early Christian Studies* series, other translations and contributions to publications at SVS Press, surely guided and will continue to guide generations to come in the Spirit of Truth.

Therefore, in thanksgiving to God for your many academic achievements and your service to the Church, it is the distinct honor and privilege of the Board of Trustees and the Faculty of St. Vladimir's Seminary, by unanimous decision and by the power vested in them by the Board of Regents of the State of New York, to bestow upon you, Archpriest Andrew Louth, the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.