

Bartholomaios, Patriarch of Constantinople

Translation from the Greek original reproduced on the following page

„To the most gracious Professor Dr. Renate Pillinger, president of the committee for the publication of the volume honouring the Reverend Proto-presbyter professor Dr. Petro B.T. Bilaniuk, may the grace and peace of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

We were most pleased to receive your letter dated June 1, 1992, and carefully read how you and your selected co-workers have take the thoughtful initiative of honouring the reknown Proto-presbyter and professor, the Reverend Petro B.T Bilaniuk, an elect labourer in the Spirit, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his birthday. If every spiritual agent in this world is worthy of recognition and attention, a priest, as is the honouree, „is worthy of double the honour“. Thus, we thank you for making this spiritual celebration known to the Sacred Centre of Orthodoxy. We, personally, and the Most Reverend brother hierarchs around us, join you noetically, in spirit, in congratulating the honouree. We are certain that the due honour given one whose hair has turned grey, an active worker in the Lord's vineyard, a scholar of our church history and champion of our Traditions, as is the Reverend Fr. Petro, will indeed gratify him, but at the same time will provide an opportunity for example and instruction to the youth. This, we may otherwise say, is internationally the deeper significance of such festivities and celebrations, which can be witnessed here as well in the sensitivity and attentiveness of the organizing committee.

Praying that our God the Father of Lights, will show forth others who will continue and imitate the work of the celebrated and rightly honoured Proto-presbyter and professor, we bestow upon him, and you, gracious lady, along with your selected co-workers, our heartfelt paternal and Patriarchal blessing.

July 22, 1992

[signed: Your fervent intercessor to God, B(artholomew)]

[seal of the Patriarch of Constantinople]“

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΥΓΕΝΕΣΤΑΤΗΣ ΚΥΡΙΑΣ ΡΕΝΑΤΗΣ PILLINGER, ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΡΙΑΣ, ΠΡΟΕΔΡΩ ΤΗΣ 'ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗΣ ΕΚΔΟΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΜΟΥ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΙΜΉΝ ΤΟΥ ΑΙΔΕΣΙΜΟΛΟΓΙΩΤΑΤΟΥ ΠΡΩΘΙΕΡΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΘΗΓΗΤΟΥ ΔΡΟΣ ΡΕΤΡΟ Β.Τ. ΒΙΛΑΝΙΟΥΚ, ΧΑΡΙΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΙΡΗΝΗΝ ΠΑΡΑ ΘΕΟΨ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ 'ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ.

Τῇ Εὐγενεστάτῃ κυρίᾳ Ρενάτῃ Pillinger, Καθηγητρίᾳ, Προέδρῳ τῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς ἐκδόσεως Τόμου πρὸς τιμὴν τοῦ αἰδεσιμολογιωτάτου πρωθιερέως καὶ καθηγητοῦ Δρος Ρετρο Β.Τ. Bilaniuk, χάριν καὶ εἰρήνην παρὰ Θεοῦ Πατρός καὶ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Εὐχαρίστως ἐγενόμεθα κάτοχοι τῆς ἀπὸ τῆς α΄ τοῦ παρελθόντος μηνός Ἰουνίου ὑμετέρας ἐπιστολῆς καὶ μετὰ προσοχῆς ἀνέγνωνμεν περὶ τῆς εὐγενοῦς πρωτοβουλίας ὑμῶν καὶ τῶν ἐκλεκτῶν συνεργατῶν ὑμῶν, ὅπως τιμήσητε τόν καὶ ἄλλοθεν γνωστόν ἡμῖν πρωθιερέα καὶ καθηγητὴν αἰδεσιμολογιώτατον κύριον Πέτρον Β.Τ. Bilaniuk, ἐκλεκτόν ἐργάτην τοῦ πνεύματος, ἐπὶ τῇ ἐξηκοστῇ ἐπετείῳ τῶν γενεθλίων αὐτοῦ. Ἐάν δέ πᾶς πνευματικός παράγων ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ τοῦτῳ εἶναι ἀξιὸς ἀναγνωρίσεως καὶ προσοχῆς, ὁ ἱερωμένος, ὡς ὁ τιμώμενος, "διπλῆς τιμῆς ἀξιοῦται". Ἐπομένως εὐχαριστοῦμεν καὶ ὑμῖν διότι ὑπεβάλατε τῷ καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἱερῷ Κέντρῳ τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας περὶ τῆς πνευματικῆς ταύτης ἐκδηλώσεως, τὴν ὁποῖαν ἡμεῖς προσωπικῶς καὶ οἱ περὶ ἡμᾶς Ἱερώτατοι ἀδελφοὶ Ἱεράρχαι παρακολουθοῦμεν νοερῶς, τῷ πνεύματι, καὶ συχαίρομεν τῷ τιμωμένῳ. Εἴμεθα δὲ βέβαιοι, ὅτι ἡ ὀφειλομένη τιμὴ πρὸς τόν πολίον καὶ ὀτρηρόν ἐργάτην τοῦ Ἀμπελώνος τοῦ Κυρίου, τόν ἐρευνητὴν τῆς Ἐκκλησιαστικῆς ἡμῶν Ἱστορίας καὶ πρόμαχον τῆς Παραδόσεως ἡμῶν, αἰδεσιμολογιώτατον π. Πέτρον, ἀσφαλῶς θά ἴκανοποιήσῃ τόν ἴδιον, θά εἶναι ὁμως συγχρόνως καὶ εὐκαιρία παραδειγματισμοῦ καὶ διδασκαλίας τῶν νεωτέρων. Τοῦτο, ἄλλωστε, εἶναι διεθνῶς τό βαθύτερον νόημα τῶν τοιοῦτων ἐπετηρίδων καὶ ἐορτασμῶν, οἵτινες μαρτυροῦσιν ἐκ παραλλήλου καὶ περὶ τῆς εὐαισθησίας καὶ προσοχῆς τῶν διοργανωτῶν αὐτῶν.

Εὐχόμενοι ὅπως ὁ Θεὸς καὶ Πατὴρ τῶν φώτων ἀναδείξῃ καὶ ἄλλους συνεχιστὰς καὶ μιμητὰς τοῦ ἔργου τοῦ ἐορταζομένου καὶ δικαίως τιμωμένου πρωθιερέως καὶ καθηγητοῦ, ἐπιδαφιλεύομεν αὐτῷ, τῇ ὑμετέρα Εὐγενείᾳ καὶ τοῖς ἐκλεκτοῖς συνεργάταις αὐτῆς ὀλοθύομεν τὴν πατρικὴν καὶ Πατριαρχικὴν ἡμῶν εὐλογίαν.

Ἐπισημασθε Ἱουλίῳ κβ΄. Διάσουσθε ἁεὶς θεὸν εὐχέσθε β.