

## **Message of Archbishop Ieronymos**

### **Archbishop of Athens and All Greece**

His Eminence  
Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re  
Dean of the College of the Cardinals  
Rome

Your Eminence,

It is with great sorrow that we would like to express our most heartfelt condolences on the passing of His Holiness the late Pope Francis to You and to all the faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church. May we assure you of our partaking of the grief and mourning of the Christians around the Earth.

He was a powerful personality, who spent himself for the prevalence of all that is good and of the values of the human being as God's creature. Throughout his ministry as Bishop of Rome, every lowliest brother, the poor, the migrant, the refugees, in particular, occupied a central place in it.

With great emotion we retain in our heart the experience of our interaction and of all that we lived side by side during the two visits of the late Pope to our country, which alone demonstrate the love and the respect he had both for the Church of Greece and for the Greeks and Greece more broadly.

Indeed, everyone in Greece will always remember him, not least for his exemplary generosity [of returning three fragments from the Parthenon marbles](#) in view of their re-unification with this monument of paramount significance to the entire mankind.

His contribution to the sincere dialogue between the Churches and his anxiety for the desideratum of the unity of all were the main axes of his pastoral activity throughout his papacy.

May his memory be eternal.

With our deepest sympathy,

ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND ALL GREECE