

From an Orthodox standpoint, Pope Francis' ministry bore witness to virtues of humility, mercy, and concern for the marginalized, which reflect elements of the Gospel ethos. His openness to inter-Christian dialogue and his call for a more inclusive and compassionate world echo the spirit of conciliarity and philanthropy cherished in the Orthodox tradition. Pope Francis has been a notable figure of humility, dialogue, and compassion. His emphasis on social justice, care for the poor, and environmental responsibility resonates beyond confessional boundaries. While we may differ theologically, his life and ministry reflected a sincere commitment to the Gospel. We entrust his soul to the mercy of God, praying that he may find rest among the righteous, in the light of Christ's eternal Kingdom.

I feel personally grateful that he suggested the expansion of the Academy and that I became a member of a great school of thought. Every time he met us at the General Assembly of the Academy, he taught us with his simplicity and ethos. In Greece, believers and non-believers, we admired his courageous speech to the powerful of the earth, in favor of the weak and the oppressed. His visit to the "place of martyrdom", to the refugees of Lesbos with our Patriarch and our Archbishop, was a peak moment of religious and humanitarian greatness. Since this morning, Greek friends have been commiserating with me, knowing my relationship with the Academy. Pope Francis showed how the modern Christian should stand in the face of the challenges of our times. We pray that his successor will follow in his footsteps.

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