



ST VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
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31 January 2016

**Reverend Dr John Chryssavgis**  
**Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Throne**

Theologian and teacher, scholar and interpreter, servant of the Ecumenical Throne and defender of God's creation:

In your theological scholarship—translating, interpreting, and presenting the spiritual masters of the early Church—you have nourished countless faithful today, showing them how to find blessing in brokenness and comfort and guidance in ancient wisdom;

In your educational work across continents—establishing an accredited seminary in Australia and teaching in this new world—you have been guided by the faith which, as St Gregory the Theologian says, gives fullness to reasoning, showing the fruits that come from education at the highest level in the students that you have inspired and who now bear witness to Christ in this world;

In your labors on behalf of the environment—speaking, writing, and advocating on its behalf—you have made us all aware of the vulnerable and fragile beauty of God's creation, encouraging us all to be better stewards of this good earth;

In your service to the Orthodox Church in this country—helping build good inter-church relationships, especially between the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Orthodox Church in America, and working to build up the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA—you have shown yourself to be a servant of all, self-effacing and thereby all the more effective;

And in your service to the Ecumenical Throne—as Archdeacon of the Throne, theological advisor, and consultant on inter-Orthodox affairs—you have worked to build up a culture of conciliarity and consensus for Orthodoxy worldwide, so that we might indeed be able to speak with one heart and one voice, for the life of the whole world and its salvation;

In all of this you have amplified and exemplified the vision of faith, theological learning, and ecclesial being to which we at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary aspire,

THEREFORE, we are honored to affirm that:

By virtue of the power vested in the Board of Trustees and the Faculty of St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, the degree of Doctor of Divinity (D.D.), *honoris causa*, is bestowed upon the Reverend Doctor, John Chryssavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Throne.