St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary Honorary Degree Citation

Dr Robert P. George

Professor, jurist, author—Dr Robert P. George, you are a tireless advocate for the dignity of the human person, a resolute defender of civil rights, and an apologist for public morality. You exemplify the teaching of the Apostle James to manifest a life of Christian faith through good works (Jas 2.22).

As a graduate of Swarthmore College, you also hold M.T.S. and J.D. degrees from Harvard University and the degrees of D.Phil., B.C.L., D.C.L., and D.Litt. from Oxford University. As a judicial fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States, you received the Justice Tom C. Clark Award. And as the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University, prolific author, and public speaker, you have influenced multiple generations of leaders through your critical thought and scholarship.

As a renowned author, your books include Making Men Moral: Civil Liberties and Public Morality (Oxford University Press, 1993), In Defense of Natural Law (Oxford University Press, 1999), The Clash of Orthodoxies (ISI, 2001) and Conscience and Its Enemies (ISI, 2013). Your articles and review essays have appeared in the Harvard Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, the Columbia Law Review, the University of Chicago Law Review, the Review of Politics, the Review of Metaphysics, the American Journal of Jurisprudence, and Law and Philosophy. You have also written for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and First Things; and among multiple editorial roles you serve as a senior editor for Touchstone Magazine.

As a dedicated servant for the public good, you have served as chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. You have also served on the President's Council on Bioethics, as a presidential appointee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, and as the U.S. member of UNESCO's World Commission on the Ethics of Science and Technology. And you continue to serve on the board of numerous prestigious organizations, such as the Templeton Foundation Religion Trust, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Ethics and Public Policy Center, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, and the Center for Individual Rights.

As an internationally recognized political philosopher and scholar you have received the United States Presidential Citizens Medal, the Honorific Medal for the Defense of Human Rights of the Republic of Poland, the Philip Merrill Award of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a Silver Gavel Award of the American Bar Association, the James Q. Wilson Award of the Association for the Study of Free Institutions, and Princeton University's President's Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Therefore, giving thanks to God for the work that He has accomplished through your manifold service, 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, Dr Robert P. George, the degree of Doctor of Canon Law, honoris causa.