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◆ **TELEGRAMMA DI CORDOGLIO DEL SANTO PADRE PER LA MORTE DI SUA BEATITUDINE CHRISTODOULOS, ARCIVESCOVO DI ATENE E DI TUTTA LA GRECIA**

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TELEGRAMMA DI CORDOGLIO DEL SANTO PADRE PER LA MORTE DI SUA BEATITUDINE CHRISTODOULOS, ARCIVESCOVO DI ATENE E DI TUTTA LA GRECIA

Pubblichiamo di seguito il telegramma di cordoglio per la morte dell'Arcivescovo di Atene e di tutta la Grecia, Sua Beatitudine Christodoulos, inviato ieri ad Atene dal Santo Padre Benedetto XVI:

● **TELEGRAMMA DEL SANTO PADRE**

HIS EMINENCE SERAPHIM

METROPOLITAN OF KARYSTIA AND SKYROS

THE LOCUM TENENS

DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE NEWS OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF HIS BEATITUDE CHRISTODOULOS, ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND ALL GREECE, I EXPRESS TO YOU, TO THE HOLY SYNOD AND ALL THE FAITHFUL MY EARNEST CONDOLENCES, ASSURING YOU OF MY SPIRITUAL CLOSENESS TO ALL THOSE WHO MOURN THE PASSING OF THIS DISTINGUISHED PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE. THE FRATERNAL WELCOME WHICH HIS BEATITUDE GAVE MY PREDECESSOR POPE JOHN PAUL II ON

THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO ATHENS IN MAY 2001 AND THE RETURN VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP CHRISTODOULOS TO ROME IN DECEMBER 2006 OPENED A NEW ERA OF CORDIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN US, LEADING TO INCREASED CONTACTS AND IMPROVED FRIENDSHIP IN THE SEARCH FOR CLOSER COMMUNION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GROWING UNITY OF EUROPE. I AND CATHOLICS AROUND THE WORLD PRAY THAT THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GREECE WILL BE SUSTAINED BY THE GRACE OF GOD IN CONTINUING TO BUILD ON THE PASTORAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LATE ARCHBISHOP AND THAT IN COMMENDING THE NOBLE SOUL OF HIS BEATITUDE TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S LOVING MERCY YOU WILL BE COMFORTED BY THE LORD'S PROMISE TO REWARD HIS FAITHFUL SERVANTS.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EMINENCE, THIS EXPRESSION OF MY CLOSENESS IN PRAYER TO YOU AND YOUR BROTHER BISHOPS AS YOU GUIDE THE CHURCH IN THIS TIME OF TRANSITION. WITH FRATERNAL AFFECTION IN THE LORD.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

[00146-02.01] [Original text: English]

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