



УКРАЇНСЬКА ГРЕКО-КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА
Верховний Архєпископ Києво-Галицький

UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Major Archbishop of Kyiv and Halych

Kyiv,
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Jack Figel
Eastern Christian Publications
3574 University Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Mr. Figel,

Together with this letter, I am sending a congratulatory letter for publication in the festschrift in honor of Archbishop Vsevolod (Majdansky). Much would I like to write an article for this festive publication to honor the good Archbishop and to support him in his very noble ideas and intentions. But such a task is above what I can do now, in my state of health.

My intention was to write you a letter immediately after my return from Istanbul. I am doing this only now, but not less sincerely. The purpose of the letter was to thank you very heartily for your kind and generous invitation to take part in the Istanbul meeting. It was the first time I had a chance to be in this company. I stress company, even before the subject matter, because I feel the singularity of the meeting. The presentations were non-confessional; at least I did not feel the need to classify the speakers by their church membership. This, my impression, which I tried in a very impromptu way to express at our meeting on Thursday was strengthened even further by my meeting on Thursday night with Archbishop Kallistas. To my mind, the whole relationship of the participants was not a buddy-buddy friendship, but something that I imagine could be considered as a foretaste of perfect communion - realized unity. Another impression: how damaging is politics to Church unity. I feel that the extraordinary atmosphere which so impressed me was due to the absence of political ambitions. Maybe I am naïve, but I communicate to you how I felt, and why I am so grateful to you. All I can ask of you is, please continue gathering us. Maybe, we will be able to give a more articulate and effective expression to our experience at the Orientale Lumen meetings.

May God bless you.

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