

Ecumenical Patriarchate
Holy Metropolis of Ierapytna and Siteia

Salutation of his Eminence the Metropolitan Eugenios of Ierapytna and Siteia at the
International Scientific Conference “Extreme-Astrophysics in an Ever-Changing
Universe”

(Center for Cultural and Social Care of the Holy Metropolis of Ierapytna and Siteia,
June 16-20, 2014)

Dear participants,

We have the great honor and pleasure to welcome you at the historical city of Ierapetra, as the Bishop of the Local Church of the historical Holy Metropolis of Ierapytna and Siteia, which belongs to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

We have the great pleasure to host at the new facilities of the Center for Cultural and Social Care of our Metropolis, the 5-day International Scientific Conference, under the general titled: “Extreme-Astrophysics in an Ever-Changing Universe”.

At the biblical scripture of the Old and the New Testament there are unique and vivid expressions which describe the beauty, wisdom and splendor of the sky, the stars and the whole universe, such as: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork” (Psalm 19,1).

The Orthodox Church considers the progress of the science of Astrophysics and the utilization of the scientific knowledge in general, as the ability of human to meet God and find the deeper meaning of the Creation of the humans and the world.

Einstein used to believe that religion without science is blind, but also science without religion is lame, based on the fact that both have Truth as their target. Science, according to Plato, is the effort of human to investigate the *epistiton*, which is the constructed or the perceptible world, in order to conceive the perfect and true knowledge. On the other hand, theology means to investigate the knowledge and the revelation of the imperceptible, which is the revelation of the God, through the perceptible world.

The Orthodox Church does not refuse either the scientific knowledge itself and in this case the science of Astrophysics, or the achievements of research and technology, which are considered to be beneficial for the people, based on the Jesus Christ’s sermon that “ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”.

We congratulate the Organizing Committee with its handpicked members, but especially our fellow from this city, Dr Emmanouil Aggelakis and his collaborators for the responsibility of organizing this event.

We wish you to enjoy the hospitable and gifted from the Creator God city of Ierapetra, with its long history, which starts at the Minoan times, discover its beauties and its peaceful and traditional habitants.

In conclusion, we welcome you again and wish you heartily to accomplish the scientific objectives of this great conference in order to promote the science of Astrophysics and the scientific achievements of the International academic Institutions and Organizations you represent.

May the God be with you and wish you the best success!