

Your Holiness,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) and Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos, who unfortunately was unable to attend due to commitments outside Greece, I would like to express my deep appreciation and honor at being here tonight for this special inauguration ceremony of the Monument to the Neomartyrs of the Nation.

As for the work's symbolic and artistic dimensions, we believe it is best to let the monument speak for itself. Special mention must, of course, be made of the artist who created the work, Praxitelis Tzanoulinos. The monument has much to reveal, not only to those familiar with this chapter of our history, but also to all those, including young people, who may not be aware of the contributions of the Greek Orthodox Church during the dark centuries of Ottoman rule and the Greek Revolution. At the same time, the monument stands as a constant reminder that it was only through harmony and the convergence of all forces that the seemingly impossible was achieved: the liberation of the Greek nation.

Of course, we cannot fail to express our warmest thanks to the man who is the main reason why we are all here today: the Protopresbyter Father Thomas. We have a long-standing relationship of mutual respect and collaboration with Father Thomas, as he has repeatedly assisted the Foundation with regard to grants and matters of an ecclesiastical and broader religious nature. It is worth noting that, among other things, we had previously collaborated on the renovation of the new Museum at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Athens, as well as the creation and completion of the Ecclesiastical Museum of Amorgos.

Throughout our long journey from 1996 to the present day—now closing in on 30 years—and having supported more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations in over 130 countries, we have come to understand that no matter how ambitious and visionary a project may be, it cannot possibly thrive without the dedication and ethos of the people who serve it—people who are willing to contribute meaningfully and consistently. The *team* and the *individual* are intertwined in terms of significance. Without one, the other cannot exist.

In closing, I would like to express our delight that the general public will now have the opportunity to visit the monument and learn about its history up close, in the heart of Athens.

Thank you very much.