

Athens, February 2 2010

Press Release - Speech of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



Eminent Bishop of Messinia, Chrysostom, And Eminent Brothers, Honorable Lord Actuarius of the Holy Great Church of Jesus Christ, Mr. Dimitriadis, Director of the “Mediterranean Holiday Dialysis Center”, dear ladies and gentlemen, and all those visiting the area of Messinia to celebrate the Visitation, with great pleasure we received the kind invitation of the Management of the “Mediterranean Holiday Dialysis Center” to officially inaugurate this new unit, under the name “Mesogeios”.

Jesus Christ has always had a special interest for people who suffer. He is interested in the mental and physical health of His children, as well as their dignity. He, together with the Apostles and all Saints, taught us that, and this is what we are trying to do today. We care for those who are sick, we are standing next to them, we are worried about them, we empathize, pray and seek for help from God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. At the same time, we care about the dignified and seamless continuation of their activities, which are either way limited by their sickness. We want for those who are sick to actively participate in the society, to enjoy the basics in life, even their vacations, which will mentally relax and strengthen them, and contribute to the improvement of their quality of life.

In earlier times, renal patients did not enjoy the privilege of treatment. Today, medicine has reached new levels and the miracle of dialysis became a reality, prolonging the life of many people. We wish for this number to become even greater. And we also wish for a second greater miracle; this of kidney transplantation, which will offer patients a brand new life. On this occasion, we would like you to give some serious thought to organ donation.

We shall repeat a slogan we saw in many cars in Australia, during a past visit: “Don’t take your kidneys with you in heaven. Some people need them on earth!”. Unfortunately, in Greece, we have many car accidents and a painfully large number of victims. The greatest commemoration for those who have left us is to donate their organs. This would not only save lives, but also offer great satisfaction to those who left, thinking they can still be useful after they are gone and have their name gratefully blessed. We think the work of the “Mediterranean Holiday Dialysis Center” is admirable.

The Messinian patients do not have to relocate anymore to receive treatment, but also many visitors from Greece and abroad can enjoy the high quality services, and exceptionally warm environment this Center

provides, simultaneously enjoying their vacation in this lovely place. It is also self-evident that this Center shall contribute –with its presence and operation- in many ways in the improvement of the current state of affairs in Messinia.

We would like to warmly congratulate the creators of this Center, our compatriot Mr. Dimitriadis, the management, the scientific and administrative personnel, and we hope that with the grace of Jesus Christ and His Mother, our fellow nephropathy brothers shall improve their lives with dignity and under comfortable conditions.

With great pleasure, we would like to bless and officially inaugurate this Medical Center.

For more information please contact:

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