

Visit of Right Reverend, The Bishop of Tropaïou, Polyefotos
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America

To the University of Pittsburgh

February 15, 1956

Signature of Bishop of Tropaïou Polyefotos

Walter Reed Hovey

Benjamin W. Hasettine

Ernest Scarke

Dr. Stephen Templeton

James W. Falaris

Diamantis Frangos

Cleopatra Frangos

Peter Pappanoulas

William Angulo

Frangos

A MESSAGE BY BISHOP POLYEFKTOS DELIVERED AT
PITTSBURGH UNIVERSITY, ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1956

I am indeed very happy to be here today in this majestic temple of knowledge. I extend to all professors and students blessings and salutations and my best wishes and felicitations for their splendid achievements. I am extremely pleased to visit this monument to a great culture which has been created and inspired by noble personalities as an expression of gratitude to the thought which has contributed so much to the betterment of humanity.

In all sincerity, I feel, in this enchanting atmosphere the presence of the magnificent mind of ancient Greece embracing the comparable civilization and the similar ideals of our Country, the United States of America.

It is here that, the philosophically sublime thought of the great Aristotle which says, that God imparted motion to matter and then retired from the scene, echoes a message of great heights on the revelation of the past. Also from this rythm of simple colors, architecture and beauty surrounding this impressive space, is heralded somehow a fatherhood of the ancient Hellenes on the theory of the atom (Democritus), the enlightenment on many humanitarian aspects of life and science, the light on many contemporary problems and on a glorious herritage of art, philosophy and physics. To a certain extent, even the introduction by Anaxagoras of an Intelligence and Mind that started the whirl of matter can satisfy the curiosity of the explorations and the discoveries of today's science.

It is not needless on this occasion to say that science and religion are two provinces of one kingdom. The kingdom of God. They seem to have separate roads in their evolution though when they meet in their labor or when they unfold, they glorify the supreme cause of God.

Religion closely follows knowledge and science, undertaking to project the light of truth whenever egotism and self-will refuse to surrender, thus causing confusion not only in the search but also in the purpose of knowledge and science.

It is well said by Balfour that "science depends on measurement and things not measurable are therefore excluded, or tend to be excluded from its attention." But these things, which are not measurable have a mission, a cardinal purpose and a beneficent application on life that only by Divine Grace can be explained objectively.

I am certain that in this honorable laboratory, which has as its purpose the constant cultivation of the field of learning, not only the soul but also the mind have witnessed the hand of the Almighty and His omnipotent kindness toward placing trust to what lies beyond our daily contradictions, successes, scientific definitions, and the so-called facts and phenomena.

What we accept usually and intellectually is a result of two objects. What man is and what he has convinced himself that he is worthy to be. In this twofold question one cannot ignore the fact that science cannot achieve much because its process follows a different approach and contains a different interest. Moral truth, human dignity, humility, virtue and tolerance which are connected in more than one point with the question on hand function in another sphere of interest; the sphere of religious faith which in many cases overcomes the hypothesis, the diagnosis and the knowledge of science.

Consequently we must note in our lives not what is knowledge, but what is good knowledge; not how much we contribute in the search and discovery, but how we can practice our discoveries with a sense of responsibility towards eternity and a sacred duty to our fellow man and God.

Science is far from the truth without a divine beginning in its depth because "all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was light; and the life was the light of man. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (John 1,3)

With these few thoughts in mind, I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the invitation extended to me. And I consider it a privilege to be here today. Truly a great work is being done here, will, I believe, continue to be done in this Cathedral of Learning for us, for humanity, and for God.

Χαίρομαι πολύ στην αφορμή αυτή να μιλήσω, εφ' όσον
είναι ένα όνειρο να είμαι μέλος της οργάνωσης των φοιτητών
της Παιδείας της Αμερικής διότι είναι η οργάνωση της αλήθειας
και της δικαιοσύνης και ανδραγαθίας των ιδεών της.

Είμαστε ποιοί
Ευχαριστώ

Φεβ. 15, 1956.

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Register of Guests: Rt Rev. Bishop of Tropaion Polyefktos

Walter Read Hovey

Benjamin W. Haseltine

~~Paul Arnold~~

Ernest Searles

Dr. Stephen Timpkins

John W. Katsafanos

Diamantis Trangoz

Cleopatra Trangoz

Peter Pappanolas

William Anastos

Frangoulas

Register of Guests:

Mrs George W. Balanus

Mrs. Stephen Pamphile's

Mrs C. Ferris

Mrs Sam Hanna

Mrs. John P. Robin

Mrs John Poulter

James Cannon

J. Poulter

Register of Guests:

Mrs. Sam Angelis
Miss A. Gray
Mrs. Cyril A. Pyros
John G. Harris
Mrs. John G. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Diamantopoulos