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XXIV International Ecumenical Conference of Orthodox Spirituality

MARTYRDOM AND COMMUNION

Bose, 7–10 September 2016
in collaboration with the Orthodox Churches

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• Athanasios N. Papathanassiou - “Sono il frumento di Dio” (sant’Ignazio di Antiochia). La dimensione eucaristica e comunionale del martirio

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• Andrew Louth - Ricerca della comunione e testimonianza della verità: Massimo il Confessore e papa Martino

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The second day of the conference has been framed by the feast of the Nativity of Mary. The Orthodox Divine Liturgy celebrated at the beginning of the day was presided by Athenagoras (Fasiolo) and has been a mosaic of languages and melodies from all over the Orthodox world. At midday we celebrated the Catholic Mass, presided by Gabriele Mana, bishop of Biella.

The proceedings were opened by the message of Metropolitan Chrysostom of Cyprus and that of Rev. Olav Tveit, Secretary of the World Council of Churches. The first two lectures have reported the patristic approach to martyrdom. Professor Papathanassiou has shown how for Ignatius of Antioch martyrdom was a vital expression of the Eucharist sacrifice.

True martyrdom is the participation to Christ's gift of life to all men, goes beyond any border, even the Christian identity. This can be the only solution for the difficult issue of martyrs, victims of other Christians confession. This was the subject of the paper read by Father Andrew Louth, which focused on Maximus the Confessor and Pope Martin I.





The afternoon session was opened by the message of Gabriele Mana, bishop of Biella, and those of the Metropolitan Antonij of Boryspil, rector of the Theological Academy of Kiev, and the Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens.

The two papers of Kirill Kaleda and the Anglican Bishop John Stroyan opened the long reflection of the conference dedicated to contemporary martyrs of the different Churches. They are witnesses belonging to a particular church and victims of a well-defined historical context. Their death is a sign of belonging to the same Lord, Jesus Christ. Martyrs of each church are martyrs of the whole church.