

## **Introductory Note**

*by the Director of the Ecclesiastical Foundation  
for Byzantine and Traditional Music of the Archdiocese of Athens*

**T**he Saints of our church and faith are a very great treasure. By their example they give strength to all of us to continue in our daily struggles in the Christian life. In every part of Greece there are local Saints who illumine the path of the faithful as ever shining lights, and Athens likewise has her own Saints, who either came from, or lived in, or were martyred in the city.

By the grace of God and with the blessing of the saints and of our revered Pastor, His Beatitude the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, Hieronymus II, the School of Byzantine and Traditional Music of the Church of the Life-Giving Spring in Athens and the Music Foundation of the Archdiocese of Athens, have, in collaboration with the Radio Station of the Church of Greece, produced this digital album with hymns from the services of some of the most famous Saints connected with the historic city of Athens. This is a recording of magnificent hymns performed by the students of our School under the direction of Konstantinos Angelidis, whom I thank most particularly.

Warm thanks are also due to Mrs. Aikaterini Sofianou Belefanti, Archontissa of the Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa, who, together with support from the Radio Station of the Church of Greece, undertook to sponsor this musical project. She is, as she has told us, very pleased to sponsor the project, since she supports not only the work of the School in Athens, but also the corresponding School in her homeland of Egypt, so that we may see young musicians taking up positions as cantors in the choir stalls of our Churches.

Finally, I offer warm thanks to all the young students and graduates of the School who continually contribute in every way they can to our work.

**Archimandrite Irenaios Nakos**

*General Director of the Ecclesiastical Foundation for Byzantine and Traditional Music of the Archdiocese of Athens*