18/05/2022

Sydney: Event dedicated to “The Neomartyrs” presented by the Greek Orthodox Christian Society (Enosis)



This was the theme of the sixth presentation commemorating 200 years since the 1821 Greek Revolution presented by the Boys Omathes (Orthodox Youth Fellowship) of the Greek Orthodox Christian Society (Enosis) with the blessing and in the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia. His Grace Bishop Christodoulos of Magnesia, other clergy of our Holy Archdiocese and over 500 people were also in attendance.

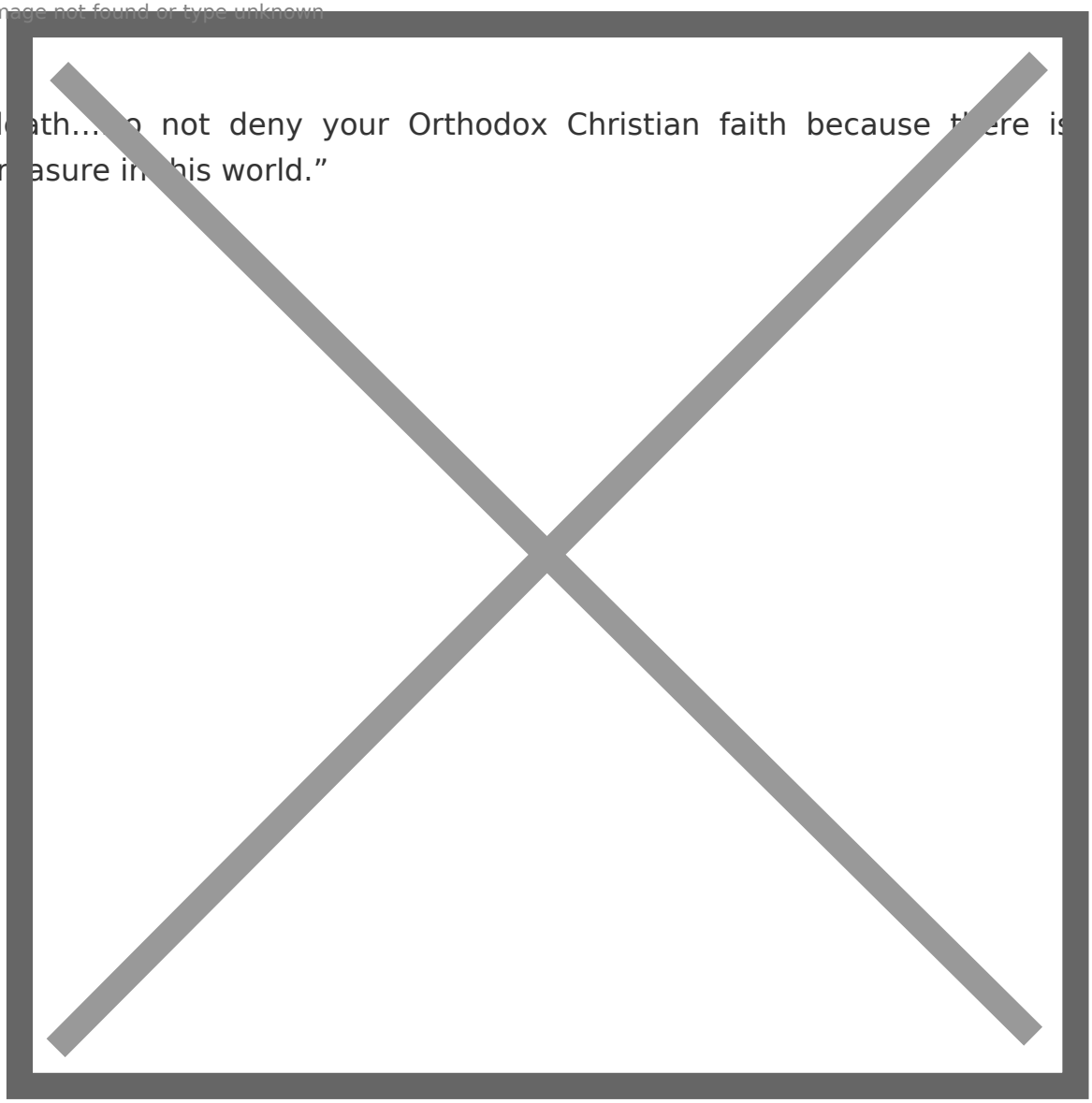
The presentation focused on the role the ‘Neomartyrs’ had in preserving our Orthodox Christian faith through 400 years of Ottoman occupation. We know about them due to the incredible work of St Nicodemus the Hagiorite who located, compiled and published their lives. This inspired and gave courage to the Greeks who refused to succumb to pressure to compromise their faith for an easier life. With their resistance and martyrdom, they became the first heroes of the 1821 Greek Revolution.

The boys related stories of many Neomartyrs in a video presentation, performed songs and dances in their honour, and presented a play on the life of St Pavlos of Peloponnesus, who was martyred in Tripoli in 1818.

Deeply moved by the presentation, His Eminence congratulated the young people for their efforts. Noting the sad fact that many today have abandoned the Orthodox faith and are disconnected from their Greek heritage, he encouraged everyone to reject pressure to conform to the values of this world, remain firm in our faith, and struggle for our Greek Orthodox heritage and values. Through this, we can help others remain connected to Christ and His church, just like the Neomartyrs did.

To quote St Nicodemus the Hagiorite: “It is right to thank God that under the heavy yoke of Turkish occupation there were so many athletes who strove to preserve the freedom and dignity of their Christian faith. They disregarded the wealth and the pleasures of life, and they willingly surrendered themselves to martyrdom and

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death... do not deny your Orthodox Christian faith because there is no greater treasure in this world.”


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