

To Alexei Bodrov
Rector of
St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute

Monastery of Bose
21 September 2015

Dear Alexei!

I wholeheartedly congratulate you and all professors and collaborators of St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute on its 25th Anniversary.

We thank you for your work in translating and publishing so many books of leading European theologians and philosophers, in organising so many conferences and encounters and in offering an innovative curriculum in Scripture and theology.

I am particularly happy of the collaboration between St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute and our monastery, since the seminal conference in October 2007, devoted to «*Apostles Peter and Andrew – the icon of the future*».

In this spirit of dialogue and mutual comprehension your work has always been carried on, offering an important opportunity for a better understanding of Russian philosophical and theological tradition in the West, and for a better knowledge of Western biblical and theological studies in Russia.

Any dialogue requires a constant interpretation of the traditions and the way of thinking of the other. That's why we devoted a long part of our meetings in Bose to the problem of hermeneutics in general and hermeneutics of ecumenism in particular, in a post-modern context. The long list of past and forthcoming conferences gives an idea of the work done and the task that still remains to be fulfilled. *History and Theology: Historical Consciousness as a Way to Church Unity* (October 2015); *Theology of Communion* (October 2014); *Ecumenical Theology and Hermeneutics in the Post-Modern Age* (Bose, Italy, 16-19 October 2013); *The Unity of the Church: Ecumenical Theology and Hermeneutics in the Post-Modern Age* (October 2012); *Theology of Beauty* (October 2011); *Theology of Person in Eastern and Western Christianity* (October 2010); *All-Unity and Universalism* (October 2009); *Sobornost, Conciliarity and Communion: from Khomiakov to Zizioulas* (October 2008).

I wish you and all our friends every blessing from the Lord on you and your work,

In communion of prayer



Fr. Enzo Bianchi,
Prior of Bose