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## EDITORIAL

This double issue of the *Quarterly* contains nearly all the papers presented at a conference on “Ecclesiology and Nationalism in the Postmodern Era” held in Volos, Greece, on May 24–27, 2012. The topic is most timely, given that negotiations to prepare for a pan-Orthodox council have in recent years broken down precisely over questions of nationalism, of ways by which autocephaly is achieved, and different views of how to deal with the so-called “diaspora.” Indeed, these failed attempts reveal sharp ecclesiological divisions in the Orthodox world. Added to this is the challenge posed to contemporary Orthodoxy by a globalized, post-modern world. The Orthodox Churches, faced with these internal and external threats, are challenged to find solutions appropriate not to a bygone past, but to the present and the future.

The conference was jointly sponsored and organized by the Volos Academy for Theological Studies (Volos, Greece), the Chair of Orthodox Theology, Münster University (Germany), the Center of Orthodox Christian Studies of Fordham University (New York), the Romanian Institute for Inter-Orthodox, Inter-Confessional, Inter-Religious Studies (INTER, Cluh-Napoca, Romania), the Christian Cultural Center in Belgrade (Serbia), the St Andrew’s Biblical Theological Institute (Moscow), the Valamo Lay Academy (Finland), and the European Forum of Orthodox Schools of Theology (EFOST, Brussels). Generous hospitality for the conference was provided by His Eminence, Metropolitan Ignatius of Demetrias, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Volos Academy. Particular thanks are owed to the staff of the Volos Academy, particularly Dr Pantelis Kalaitzidis, the Director, as well as Volos Academy staff members Nikos Asproulis and Rev Dr Gregory Edwards, who assisted in the collection and translation of the numerous articles in this special issue.

— Paul Meyendorff, *Editor*