

**Statement of the SYNDESMOS Festival  
Saint-Maurin, France, 25 August – 2 September 2001**

Glory to God in the Highest!

At the end of this Festival which brought together Orthodox youth from all over the world and from all local Churches, we thank God for the unity that we have experienced.

This experience has given us an intense awareness of the living tradition of SYNDESMOS, a tradition of service of the Church, mutual understanding and the quest for the realization of unity in diversity.

SYNDESMOS has, since its beginning, been a dynamic bond of Orthodox youth which emerged from the heart of the Orthodox Church. It always remains under the guidance and the blessing of the canonical Churches and it aims to serve with sincerity, humility and enthusiasm the whole Orthodox Church in her witness in the modern world.

We have received this tradition as an inheritance from the past, but we recognize that it is our responsibility to keep this flame alive. We are profoundly conscious of our mission to ensure this continuity in this time of challenge and opportunity.

*1 September 2001*