

# *Laudatio*

We honour the Hoppe Family – Nathan, Gabriela, Tristan, Katherine and Daniel – by awarding them the Silver Rose of St. Nicholas 2018

\* for their incessant response to the call of Jesus: “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, and for their incessant confidence in Jesus’ word: “And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time” (Mt 28:20);

\* for their participation in the process of resurrection of Church and Society in Albania, proclaiming generously the light of hope for human beings – in a country where Church buildings and hearts have been devastated by a totalitarian regime;

\* for their commemoration of suffering and death, knowing – from Lynette Hoppe and others – about the virtue of giving one’s life, and entrusting the destiny of victims and offenders to the infinite mercy of God.;

\* for the mutual trust between them and the Church hierarchy, especially for taking up the inspiring perspectives of Archbishop Anastasios, and for their deep confidence in the prayer of the faithful community;

\* for their missionary work with children and families by which they prepare the next generation of Christians, deeply rooted in faith, hope and love;

\* for their support given to different forms of ecumenical dialogues and exchange, among them new ecumenical networks that contribute to a deeper communion of all Christians in prayer, witness and reflection, including bridges between orthodox and evangelical movements;

\* for their way of combining practical ministry with solid academic formation, contributing in this way to a deeper understanding of our world and to a more competent capacity of acting in the light of faith.