



Chairman, Katz Prize Committee

The dear Katz family and the Katz Prize initiative suffered a great loss last July with the passing of the Katz Prize founder, Mordechai Marcos Katz.

Marcos was a man of great stature, a respected family man, a distinguished industrialist, a community leader, a philanthropist and an educator.

As a first-hand witness to the turbulent events of the 20th century, Marcos saw great importance in maintaining Jewish identity and the Halachic laws, while harmonizing them with the ever-changing reality. The four recipients of this year's Katz Prize have made substantial contributions to this ideal.

Rabbi Shlomo Dichovsky is the former Presiding Judge of The Supreme Rabbinical Court and a legal scholar who has had an immense influence on the way the rabbinical courts judge on matters of "Agunot" - women whose husbands cannot, or refuse to, grant them a divorce.

Rabbi Mordechai Halperin is a physician, Chief Officer of Medical Ethics for The Israeli Ministry of Health, Director of The Falk Schlesinger Institute for Medical-Halachic Research and author of many notable publications on medical ethics and Jewish Law. The Institute for Torah and the Land of Israel gathers Rabbis, scientists and agronomists for research, practice, education and public information on matters of land-related Mitzvoth and the integration of modern agriculture with the Halacha.

Mishpetai Eretz Institute is an academy for Halacha and Law, which



emphasizes finding Halachic answers to modern judicial questions and on educating for rabbinical justice that goes hand-in-hand with modern life.

I wish to thank my honorable colleagues in the Prize Committee, Rabbi Haim Sabato and Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to express my deep condolences to the dear Mrs. Adina Katz and the entire Katz family. May Marcos' soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

Kind Regards,

Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson

President, Hebrew University of Jerusalem