



# The Holy and Great Council

## PENTECOST 2016

### "He CALLED ALL TO UNITY"

*His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,  
on the Holy and Great Council*

With the grace of God – who has instituted and inspired the Church through the ages, who has guided and enlightened the Fathers of the Church through local and ecumenical councils – we will convene the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete this June.



His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch. Photo: Nikolaos Manginas

All of the Primate of the fourteen Autocephalous Orthodox Churches, together with delegations of hierarchs and advisors, will assemble in order to demonstrate and declare the unity of the Body of Christ, as well as to pronounce and proclaim a message of hope and love to a world that longs for the joy and life of the Gospel of Christ.

The foremost goal of this Pan-Orthodox Council is to profess that the Orthodox Church is the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church united in the holy sacraments, the sacred canons, and the ecumenical councils.

We recognize that the world expects a vibrant voice on many pressing challenges, but we considered it necessary also to address some pastoral issues within our Church. The fact that Orthodoxy will express its conciliarity on a global level after so many centuries constitutes a very decisive step.

We fervently ask the plenitude of the Church – clergy and laity, men and women, old and young – to pray for this unique and historical event. We especially ask that you implore God to strengthen and inspire the leaders of the Church to manifest their unity in a world afflicted by conflict and division.

**May God bless the Holy and Great Council.  
And may His abundant grace be with all of you.**

### *About His All-Holiness*

## ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

*Is the first Ecumenical Patriarch to...*

- Assemble all Orthodox primates in the world since 1872 (1992)
- Receive U.S. Congressional Gold Medal (1997)
- Convene a Great Council since the 9<sup>th</sup> century (2016)

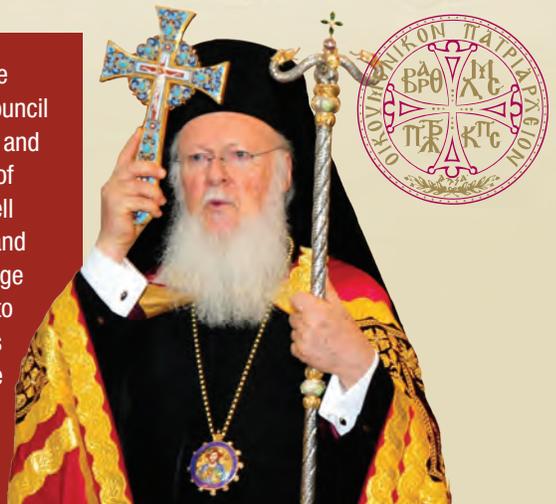
*Is known...*

- As the convener of the world's Orthodox Churches
- As the "First among Equals" among all Orthodox Bishops
- As the "Green Patriarch" for his environmental initiatives
- For promoting dialogue and peace among all religions
- For his pastoral visits all over the globe
- For his love of walking and hiking
- As a charming and personable leader

*Speaks:*

Greek, Turkish, Italian, French, German, English

"The purpose of the Holy and Great Council is to demonstrate and declare the unity of the Church, as well as to pronounce and proclaim a message of hope and love to a world that longs for the joy and life of the Gospel of Christ."



**February 29, 1940**

Born on the island of Imvros (Turkey)

**1957**

Completed primary and secondary education at Imvros and Istanbul

**1961**

Completed Halki Theological School



**1963**

Completed military service as Reserve Officer in Turkey

**1966**

Completed doctoral studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute

**1967**

Post-doctoral studies at Ecumenical Institute of Bossey

**1968**

Post-doctoral studies in Munich

**1968-1972**

Assistant Dean of Halki Theological School

**1972-1990**

Director of the Private Patriarchal Office under Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios

**August 13, 1961**

Ordained deacon, receiving the name Bartholomew

**October 19, 1969**

Ordained priest

**December 25, 1973**

Elected bishop (Metropolitan of Philadelphia)

**January 14, 1990**

Elevated to senior Metropolitan of Chalcedon

**October 22, 1991**

Elected Ecumenical Patriarch

**November 2, 1991**

Enthroned as 270<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

**1992**

Convenes 1<sup>st</sup> ever Assembly of Orthodox Primates in Istanbul

**1995**

Begins a series of eight international ecological symposia



**1998**

Presides over the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Xenofontos Monastery on Mt. Athos

**2000**

1<sup>st</sup> international Clergy-Laity Conference in Istanbul

**2000**

1<sup>st</sup> World Youth Conference in Istanbul (2<sup>nd</sup> held in 2006)

**2004**

Requests and personally accompanies the Return of the Relics of Sts. Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom from Rome, a gift from Pope John Paul II



**2008**

Presides over 1020<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christianization of Kievan Rus in Ukraine

**2008**

Named by Time Magazine among the 100 Most Influential People in the World

**2013**

First Ecumenical Patriarch in history to attend the installation of a Pope of Rome.

**2014**

Apostolic Pilgrimage with Pope Francis in Jerusalem



**2015**

Convenes Synaxis of all the Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



**2016**

Convenes the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church

CNS graphic courtesy of USCCB Communications



## Official channels of communications

The Holy and Great Council will be held June 16-27 in Crete. For the first time in 1200 years, the primates of the 14 autocephalous (internally self-governed) Orthodox Churches, along with more than 300 bishops, priests, monastics, and laity, will meet to pray and discuss issues of common concern. Stay informed of daily updates and connected to the Council by visiting [www.orthodoxcouncil.org](http://www.orthodoxcouncil.org) and by using the communications channels of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

**Website:** [www.orthodoxcouncil.org](http://www.orthodoxcouncil.org) • **Facebook:** [@ecumenicalpatriarchate](https://www.facebook.com/ecumenicalpatriarchate)

**Twitter:** [@EcPatrPress](https://twitter.com/EcPatrPress) • **Flickr:** [@patriarchate](https://www.flickr.com/photos/patriarchate) • **YouTube:** [@Patriarchate](https://www.youtube.com/Patriarchate)

