

Anniversary of enthronement of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I



Monday marks the 29-year anniversary of the enthronement of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, at the patriarchal cathedral of St. George in 1991 — as the 270th Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch.

Bartholomew was born on the northeast Aegean island of Imbros in February 1940, the son of Christos and Merope Archontónis.

He attended primary school on his native island and continued his secondary education at the Zographeion high school in the Bosphorus metropolis. Bartholomew studied theology as an undergraduate at the Halki Seminary, from which he graduated with highest honors in 1961, and was immediately ordained a deacon, receiving the name Bartholomew.

Bartholomew pursued his postgraduate studies at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in

Rome, the Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland and the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. His doctoral research was on canon Law.

As the Ecumenical Patriarch he has worked tirelessly to resolve standing problems faced by Patriarchate in Turkey, especially in reopening historic Christian houses of worship in that country, as well as organizing a landmark inter-Orthodox synod on Crete in 2016.

Bartholomew has also continued a dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church and spearheaded global efforts aimed at environmental protection, often called by the international press the “Green Patriarch”.