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## **30-year anniversary of election to the Throne of Mother Church of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I**



A patriarchal and synodal Divine Liturgy was celebrated today at the Patriarchal cathedral in Constantinople to mark the 30-year anniversary of the election of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to the throne of the Mother Church.

His All Holiness was elected in October 1991 by a unanimously vote of members the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

On Thursday, the Ecumenical Patriarch officiated at the Great Vespers at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George.

Afterwards, he received the best wishes of the hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne and members of the Patriarchal chambers, led by the Grand Protosyncellus, or principal deputy, Theodoros.

In a brief address, Ecumenical Patriarch pointed out, among others, that during all

the years of his stewardship, he has showed a particular interest in including young people into the ministry of the Mother Church.

Young people, who he said, exhibit "... an ecclesiastical mindset, education, and have open horizons, young people who are pious and intelligent, with love for the fellow man."

Footage from Greek state television shows the first message issued by Bartholomew after his election as Ecumenical Patriarch, where he solemnly said he assumes the momentous work of the Holy and Great in Christ Church without faintheartedness.

In a related development half way around the world, festive events were held around Australia this week by Greek Orthodox ministries on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the elevation of His All-Holiness to the Ecumenical Throne.



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