25/11/2021

Week-long pastoral visit to Athens by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I concludes



A week-long pastoral visit to Athens by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, concluded today, following a busy itinerary of meetings with Greek leadership, Church of Greece hierarchs, as well as a series of events, special Church services and celebrations in his honor throughout the past week.
The pastoral visit coincides with the 30-year anniversary of the Ecumenical Patriarch's election to the throne of the Mother Church.

On Thursday morning His All Holiness received the leader of the main political opposition in Greece, former prime minister Alexis Tsipras, at his downtown Athens lodgings.

A day earlier on Wednesday evening, the Ecumenical Patriarch was honored on during an event at the Athens Concert Hall, where addresses were given by Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

The event was organized by the Orthodox fraternal association Panaghia Pamma-KA-ristos.

Attendees included official title-holders bestowed by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece hierarchs, office-holders and Mount Athos civil governor Athanasios Martinos.

On her part, Sakellaropoulou referred to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as "…a leader of global stature and a pillar of Hellenism, Orthodoxy and Christianity… He is one of those individuals who personify the spiritual and historical continuity of Hellenism's universality."

Greek Premier Mitsotakis lauded the Primate of the Mother Church as a person of "…international renown, beyond nationalities and religions … the Ecumenical Patriarch's long path from his enthronement has turned him into a pioneer of inter-faith dialogue throughout the world."

Earlier in the day, His All Holiness met with the ambassador of Turkey in Athens, Burak Özügergin, for cordial talks.