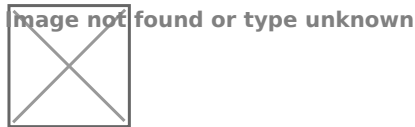


Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: Our Orthodox Church is composed of Christians of many nationalities, languages and traditions, however, it's the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, on Tuesday officiated at the Divine Liturgy at the celebrating Church of St. Paraskevi, in the Picridi district of the Bosphorus metropolis.

The latter parish has been ceded to the Romanian-speaking community of Constantinople by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

On the occasion, His All Holiness addressed "...a greeting of love and honor to Patriarch Daniel of Romania, the scholarly Primate, the distinguished professor and wise theologian, whom we also venerate, wishing him long and blessed years. We wish to assure our dear brother and co-officiator of the constant care and concern of the Holy Church of Christ for the Romanian-speaking faithful here."

The Ecumenical Patriarch noted that our Orthodox Church is composed of Christians of many nationalities and languages as well as customs and traditions, however, it is the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. He added, that in a similar way, all Orthodox who live in the metropolis, regardless of their ethnic origin, are the flock of the Holy Archdiocese of Constantinople, children of the Ecumenical Patriarch, the only sovereign Bishop of Constantinople.

In concluding his address, the Ecumenical Patriarch also welcomed the Church of Cyprus' Metropolitan Tamassos and Orini, His Grace Isiah.

The Cypriot hierarch heads a group of clerics and pilgrims from the east Mediterranean island, who are on a pilgrimage tour to the Mother Church of Constantinople.