

Elpidoforos elected new Archbishop of America



Members of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople's Holy Synod today elected His Eminence Elpidoforos, the Patriarchate's Metropolitan of Bursa, as the successor to Elder Archbishop of America Demetrios.

Demetrios stepped down from the ecclesiastical throne of the Orthodox Church of America last Saturday.

Elpidoforos was born in 1967 in the Bosphorus metropolis where the Mother Church was founded and has been based for millennia. Beginning in August 2011 he has served as the Abbot Archimandrite of the Monastery of Holy Trinity on the Princes isle of Halki.

Born Elpidoforos Lambriniadis, he attended the Urban School of Makrochorion in the metropolis and completed his primary education in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Elpidoforos studied at the School of Pastoral and Social Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and completed graduate studies at the faculty of Byzantine literature at the University of Bonn.

He was ordained a deacon at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1994, retaining the name “Elpidoforos”. In the same month he was appointed scribe of the Holy Synod.

He subsequently conducted post-graduate work at the theology Faculty of St. John of Damascus in Lebanon, with an emphasis in Arabic.

He acquired his PhD from the School of Pastoral and Social Theology of the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, with his doctoral thesis entitled “The stand of Severus of Antioch against the Synod of Chalcedon”.

Elpidoforos has taught as a visiting professor at the Theological School of the Holy Cross in Boston, Mass, and as an associate Professor of theology at the Aristotle University.