

Ecumenical Patriarch after meeting with Archbishop Ieronymos: 'Blood thicker than water'; Ukrainian Church issue broached



The Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, used the well-known adage of “blood being thicker than water” to describe his meeting on Wednesday afternoon with Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos.

The meeting took place at the Archdiocese of Athens in the afternoon, shortly after the Patriarch of Constantinople landed in Athens for a closely watched visit.

“We had a good and fruitful discussion with His Beatitude, my brother, Archbishop Ieronymos. It was our first meeting since certain woes arose between us. This is human nature. We must have the strength to overcome and persevere for the good of the Church,” he said.

The Patriarch said various issues were discussed, including the contentious issue of

the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by the Patriarchate.

“There was a mutual briefing over issues that affect both the Patriarchate and the Church of Greece. We part this evening very pleased,” he added.

On his part, the Primate of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece merely expressed his agreement with the Patriarch’s statements, while citing his gratitude “for the opportunity to have our Patriarch with us.”

The two Orthodox hierarchs will attend the inauguration of a elderly care and geriatric research unit in the coastal town of Dilesi, north of Athens, on Thursday afternoon – a facility sponsored and funded by the Church of Greece.













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