

## His All Holiness Bartholomew 1st

Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch



### Personal

Date of Birth: 29 February 1940 born Dimitrios Arhondonis

Place of Birth: Hagioi Theodoroi, Island of Imvros (Gökceada), Turkey

### Languages

Classical: Greek and Latin

Modern: Greek, Turkish, Italian, French, German, English

### Awards

The U.S. Congressional Gold Medal, Washington DC, 1997

The Sophie Foundation Award for the Environment, Oslo Norway, 2002

The Binding Foundation Award, Principality of Liechtenstein, 2002

United Nations Environmental Protection Award, Champions of the Earth for 2004

Premio Galileo 2000 Award for Peace, Florence Italy, 2006

Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, Athens, 2008

*Highest decorations from numerous State authorities, including Greece, Hungary,  
Lebanon, Estonia, and Romania*

*Numerous ecclesiastical awards and medals*

### Memberships

Society of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches, Founding Member and Vice President

Faith and Order Committee of the World Council of Churches, Vice President

Executive and Central Committees of the World Council of Churches, Member

Orthodox Academy of Crete, Fellow

*Pro-Oriente* Foundation in Vienna, Honorary Member

Academy of Athens, Honorary Member

Academy of Romania, Honorary Member

### Clerical Status

August 13, 1961 – Ordained to the Diaconate (Imvros), receiving the name Bartholomew

October 19, 1969 – Ordained to the Priesthood (Istanbul)

December 25, 1973 – Elevated to Metropolitan of Philadelphia (Asia Minor)

January 9, 1990 – Elevated to the Metropolitan of Chalcedon (Asia Minor)

November 2, 1991 – Enthroned 270<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch  
 (Elected October 22, 1991)

#### **Church Positions**

1968-1971 Assistant Dean: Patriarchal Theological School of Halki  
 1972-1990 Director: Private Patriarchal Office (Ecumenical Patriarchate)  
 1974-1991 Member: Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate  
 1991-Present Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical  
 Patriarch

#### **Education and Formation**

Primary and Secondary: Island of Imvros and Zografeion Lycée, Istanbul  
 1954-1961 Patriarchal Theological School of Halki (Highest Honours)  
 1961-1963 Military Service, Reserve officer in the Turkish Army  
 1963-1966 Ph.D., Pontifical Oriental Institute (Gregorian University), Rome.  
 Thesis topic: *The Codification of the Holy Canons and the  
 Canonical Constitutions in the Orthodox Church*  
 1966-1967 Ecumenical Institute, Bossey Switzerland (Ecumenical Theology)  
 1967-1968 University of Munich, Germany (Canon Law)

#### **Honorary Doctorates**

Adamson University, Manila Philippines, 2000 (Ecology and Peace)  
 Aegean University, Mytiline Greece, 1994 (Philosophy and Environment)  
 Aix-en-Provence University, Berlin Germany (Canon Law)  
 Burgas Free University, Bulgaria, 2010  
 Catholic University of Hungary, 2001 (Law)  
 City University, London England (Philosophy)  
 Exeter University, United Kingdom, 2000 (Law)  
 Flinders University, Adelaide Australia, 1996 (Theology)  
 Fordham University, New York, U.S.A., 2009 (Theology)  
 Georgetown University, Washington D.C., 1997 (Theology)  
 Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea, 2005  
 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Boston, 1997  
 Panteion University of Athens, 2005 (Psychology)  
 Plovdiv Medical University, Bulgaria, 2010  
 Sherbrooke University, Toronto, 1998 (Theology)  
 Southern Methodist University, Dallas, 1997 (Theology)  
 St. Andrew's College, Winnipeg, 1998 (Divinity)  
 St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, New York, 1997  
 The Orthodox Theological Institute of Saint Sèrge, Paris,  
 The University of Edinburgh, Scotland, (Divinity)  
 The Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, 1996 (Theology)  
 Theological Academy of Moscow, (Theology)  
 Tufts University, Boston, 1997 (International Law)  
 University of Athens, Greece, 1990 (Theology)  
 University of Batum, Georgia, 2003  
 University of Bucharest, Romania, 2000 (Theology)  
 University of Crete, (Philosophy)  
 University of Florina, Greece (Pedagogy)  
 University of Iași, Romania (Theology)  
 University of Ioannina, Greece, 1999

University of Panama, 2006 (Environment)  
University of Ravenna, 2002 (Cultural Treasures)  
University of Thessaloniki, (Theology, Law, Philosophy and Forestry)  
University of Thessalia, Greece  
University of Manaus, Brazil, 2006 (Environment)  
Yale University, New Haven, 1998 (Theology)  
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, 2010 (Theology)  
Burgas Free University, 2010

#### **Conferences and Events Initiated**

1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of Orthodox Primates, Istanbul, 1992 (March)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of Orthodox Primates, Patmos, 1995 (September)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of Orthodox Primates, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, 2000 (January)  
4<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Orthodox Primates, Istanbul and Nicaea (modern Iznik), 2000 (December)  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Orthodox Primates, Istanbul, 2008 (October)  
Convocations of Hierarchs of the Ecumenical Throne, Ecumenical Patriarchate, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000 (Jubilee Celebration), 2002, 2007 and 2008 (of Europe)  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew reorganized the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Church of Constantinople in a historical move, henceforth including in the Synod six local Hierarchs and six Hierarchs from abroad (2004)  
Consecration of the Holy Chrism, Ecumenical Patriarchate, 1992 and 2002  
1<sup>st</sup> International Clergy-Laity Conference, Istanbul, 2000  
1<sup>st</sup> World Youth Conference, Istanbul, 2000  
2<sup>nd</sup> World Youth Conference, Istanbul, 2007  
International Scientific Symposium on St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, Istanbul, 2007  
International Pauline Biblical Symposium, Istanbul, 2008

#### **Major Events Attended** (selection)

500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Community of Venice, Italy (1998)  
1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Xenophontos Monastery, Mt. Athos (1998)  
1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christianity, Norway (1995)  
2000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nativity of Christ, Jerusalem  
Historic Return from Rome of the Relics of St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom, personally escorted to the Patriarchal Cathedral (2004)  
550<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Patriarchal Great School of the Nation, Istanbul (2004)  
200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Church of St. George, Vienna (2004)  
Opening Ceremonies, 2004 Olympic Games, Athens  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. Nicholas Church, Tarpon Springs, Florida (2006)  
1020<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Christianization of the Kieven Rus, Kiev (2008)  
500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passing Away of the Patriarch of Constantinople St. Neophon, Mt. Athos, 2008

#### **Major Meetings and Conferences Attended** (selection)

4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: World Council of Churches, Uppsala, 1968  
6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: World Council of Churches, Vancouver, 1983  
7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: World Council of Churches, Canberra 1991  
Preparatory Inter-Orthodox Committee for the Holy and Great Synod, 1990  
World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 1999 and 2006

*Numerous Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Christian Meetings*

#### **Formal Addresses and Messages**

The European Parliament, plenary session, 1994  
 6<sup>th</sup> Gen. Assembly, World Conference on Religion and Peace, Riva del Garda, Italy, 1994  
 U.N.E.S.C.O., General Assembly, 1995  
 Turkish-Greek Business Council and the Young Businessmen's Association, 1997  
 United States Congress, Washington DC, 1997  
 Forum 2000 Gathering, Prague, 1999  
 Address and Prayer for Peace, Novi Sad, 1999  
 The Greek Parliament, 1999  
 The Polish Parliament, 2000  
 UN World Conference: Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, Brussels, Belgium, 2001  
 Official Visit to Iran: "Religion and Peace in the Contemporary World," 2002  
 "Witness to Peace," Inter-Religious Peace Summit, Assisi, 2002  
 3<sup>rd</sup> European Ecumenical Assembly, Sibiu, Romania, 2007  
 The European Parliament, plenary session, 2008  
 International Bishops Conference of the Roman Catholic Church, Rome, 2008  
 13<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference, Athens, Greece, 2008

### **Environmental Initiatives and Activities**

#### *Environmental Conferences Organized*

Ecological Conference, Crete, 1991

Ecological Seminar, Halki, 1992

Scientific Millennial Conference, Istanbul, 2000

Five International Environmental Seminars, Istanbul, Turkey

- Summer Seminar, Halki: "Environment and Religious Education" (1994)
- Summer Seminar, Halki: "Environment and Ethics" (1995)
- Summer Seminar, Halki: "Environment and Communications" (1996)
- Summer Seminar, Halki: "Environment and Justice" (1997)
- Summer Seminar, Halki: "Environment and Poverty" (1998)

The Halki Ecological Institute, educational institute held in Istanbul, Turkey, 1999

International Symposia organized by His All Holiness's Environmental Task Force, *Religion, Science and the Environment*:

- Symposium I: "Apocalypse and Environment 95-1995 A.D," Aegean Sea (1995)
- Symposium II: "The Black Sea in Crisis" (1997)
- Symposium III: "The Danube: A River of Life" (1999)
- Symposium IV: "The Adriatic Sea: A Sea at Risk, a Unity of Purpose" (2002)
- Symposium V: "The Baltic Sea: Common Heritage, Shared Responsibility" (2003)
- Symposium VI: "The Amazon River: Source of Life" (2006)
- Symposium VII: "The Arctic: Mirror of Life" (2007)
- Symposium VIII: "Restoring Balance: The Great Mississippi River" (2009)

#### **Patriarchal Encyclicals, Exhortations and Addresses** (selection)

Christmas Day: annual message on the Feast of the Nativity (since 1991)

Great Lent: annual message on the season of prayer and fasting (since 1992)

Easter Sunday: annual message on the Feast of Feasts (since 1992)

Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Natural Environment: annual messages on September 1<sup>st</sup> (since 1992)

Santa Barbara Environmental Conference: "Caring for God's Creation" (1997)

Visit by HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and President: WWF (1992)

Message of the Assembly of the Primate of the Orthodox Churches, Phanar (1992)

13<sup>th</sup> International Theological Post-Graduate Seminar in Chambésy: "The Ecological Problem Today: Perspectives on the Contribution of the Christian Churches" (1992)

14<sup>th</sup> International Theological Post-Graduate Seminar in Chambésy: “The Ecological Problem and the Churches in Europe” (1993)

Ecological Conference of Leros and Kalymnos: “Orthodoxy, Ecology, Environment” (1993)

Visit to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, London (1993)

Ecological Conference, Athens Educational Association “St. Basil”: “The Patristic Ascetic Tradition of the Orthodox Church as a Basis for Solutions” (1994)

University of the Aegean: “Orthodoxy and Environment,” Lesvos, Greece (October 27, 1994)

World Summit on Religions and Conservation, first session: “Religions and Nature: Our Relationship with Nature,” Atami, Japan (5 April 1995)

World Summit: Religions and Conservation, 2nd session, Windsor Castle, UK (1995)

Black Sea Youth Environment Conference, Istanbul (2000)

Scenic Hudson Association, keynote address, New York (2000)

World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) and Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC): “Sacred Gifts for a living Planet,” Nepal (2000)

Havana, Cuba: Religion and the Environment (2004)

International Academic Conference of the European Union: “Environment and Peace,” Thebes, Greece (2005)

1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on “Tourism and Development,” Halkidiki, Greece (2005)

World Environment Day (2008)

*World Council of Churches:* Over the last couple of years, His All Holiness has made critical statements on ecological degradation and global warming. Among these, statements prepared in August 2005 for the World Council of Churches have drawn much attention. (See WCC website)

*United Nations:* His All Holiness has offered extensive statements, subsequently incorporated at major gatherings in Montreal, Canada, for a UN conference on global warming. This meeting, held in November 2005, was the first UN gathering on the global warming since the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. It charted future action on climate change for the end of the first phase of the protocol in 2012.

### **Theological Dialogues**

#### *International Bilateral Dialogues*

Eastern Orthodoxy and Ancient Oriental Churches (Chambésy, Switzerland, 1985)

Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism (Patmos and Rhodes, Greece, 1980)

Orthodoxy and Old Catholics (Chambésy, Switzerland, 1975)

Orthodoxy and Anglican Communion (Oxford, England, 1973)

Orthodoxy and Lutheran World Federation (Svo, Finland, 1981)

Orthodoxy and World Alliance of the Reformed Churches (Leunburg, Switzerland, 1988)

#### *Currently being established*

Orthodoxy and Methodist World Council

Orthodoxy and Baptist World Alliance

#### *Direct Dialogue*

Evangelical Church in Germany

### **Interfaith Initiatives and Activities** (selection)

#### *International Conferences: Orthodoxy and Judaism*

“Law in the Christian-Orthodox and Jewish Understanding,” Lucerne, Switzerland (1977)

“Tradition and Community in Judaism and the Orthodox Church,” Bucharest Romania (1979)

- “Continuity and Renewal,” Athens, Greece (1993)  
“The Encounter of Orthodoxy and Judaism with Modernity,” Kibbutz Maaleh HaChamisha, Israel (1998)  
“Faithfulness to Our Sources: Commitment to Peace and Justice,” Thessaloniki Greece (2003)

*International Conferences: Orthodoxy and Islam*

- “Authority and Religion,” Chambésy, Switzerland (1986)  
a) “Model of Historical Co-existence between Muslims and Christians and its Future Prospects”  
b) “Common Humanitarian Ideals for Muslims and Christians,” Amman, Jordan (1987)  
“Peace and Justice, Chambésy,” Switzerland (1988)  
“Religious Pluralism,” Istanbul, Turkey (1989)  
“Youth and Values of Moderation,” Amman, Jordan (1993)  
“Education for Understanding and Co-operation,” Athens, Greece (1994)  
“The Educational System in Islam and Christianity,” Amman, Jordan (1996)  
“Perspectives of Co-operation and Participation between Muslims and Christians on the Eve of the New Century,” Istanbul, Turkey (1997)  
“Muslims and Christians in Modern Society: Images of the Other and the Meaning of Co-citizenship,” Amman, Jordan (1998)  
“Principles of Peaceful Co-existence,” Bahrain (2002)  
World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli, Libya (2003)

*International Conferences: Christianity, Judaism and Islam*

Peace and Tolerance I: “The Bosphorus Declaration,” Istanbul, Turkey (1994)

- “The Peace of God in the World,” Brussels, Belgium (2001)  
“Religion, Peace and the Olympic Ideal,” Athens, Greece (2004)

Peace and Tolerance II: “Dialogue and Understanding in Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia,” Istanbul, Turkey (2006)

*Formal Receptions by Institutions and Organizations*

- The International Olympic Headquarters, Lausanne, Switzerland  
UNESCO, Paris, France  
The Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, Switzerland  
The Jean Monnet Institute  
Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C.