

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros

Opening Remarks

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Board of Trustees

February 6, 2021

New York, New York

Beloved Archons,

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are gathered together today for the sake of the vital mission of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation. I want to offer my deep and abiding gratitude to the Order of Saint Andrew, and particularly to the Archon Commander, Dr. Limberakis, for making this next-generation platform to enhance the work of our Mother Church of Constantinople possible. I know that it has been the dream of His All-Holiness for many years, and the fact that has come together to honor his Thirtieth Anniversary on the Throne of Saint Chrysostom makes it very special indeed.

This all-important undertaking is truly historic in nature, as the Foundation will ultimately supply the needs of the Ecumenical Throne to a degree not known since the end of the Empire. Add to this fact, that you are leading a global effort, and you can begin to imagine the vast impact the Foundation will have for generations to come.

Our community in America has known material success on a scale that is seldom reached by any grouping. This is why the legacy aspect of the Foundation is so important. As legacies are passed on to succeeding generations, the inclusion of a portion for the Ecumenical Patriarchate will slowly become part of the planned giving that families embrace as a way of life. This will be a marked change in the way the Mother Church has been supported, and will make a substantial impact on Her material resources.

And we can never forget for whom we have named this Foundation, the longest serving Patriarch in history. His All-Holiness Bartholomew is a pivotal figure in the history of Orthodox Christianity. His preaching and teaching of human dignity, environmental responsibility, and inter-religious understanding and respect, have given Christian Orthodoxy both relevance and meaning in the modern era.

Our work, as Orthodox Christians in the Third Millennium of the Faith of Jesus Christ, has a most worthy leader, who has bridged more than East and West. He has secured this bridge on a foundation hewn from love, reconciliation, and active engagement.

Therefore, since His All-Holiness secured such a foundation for us, it is “meet and right” that we secure the work of His Patriarchy with a Foundation named for his sacred person.

I thank all of you for your passion and commitment to this cause, and I look forward to our deliberations today.

Thank you for your love and vision for the Ecumenical Throne.