

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

STATEMENT

On Birthday Greetings

to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I

WINNIPEG, MB – On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, His Grace Bishop Andriy, the clergy, the monastics and the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the Office of Communications of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada offers our sincerest congratulations and warmest greetings of fraternal love on the occasion of the 73rd birthday of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

We offer our humble prayers that Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ grant His All-Holiness the richness of His blessings, good health and strength to continue to serve as spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians under the *omphorion* of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople as well as throughout the world. His All-Holiness' voice serves as an inspiration to all as he draws attention by his goods works to the most pressing problems of humanity in our world today. The need to care for the socially and economically destitute, the preservation of our environment and the call for peace in an increasingly violent world are just as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago. His Patriarchal messages of peace and unity remind us of the timeless solutions given to us by Christ Himself: "in Me, you may have peace" (Jn 16:33) and "that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me..." (Jn 17: 21).

It is with such wishes for unity, peace, and love in Christ that we greet His All-Holiness on the anniversary of his birth. May God bless His All-Holiness to continue to bring hope in the Lord and the Light of the Word to all thirsting for Christ today. We pray for the intercession of the Most Holy Theotokos and all the Saints, particularly your Patron Saint Bartholomew, to support you in many more years of fruitful work as the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

Χρόνια Πολλά, Παναγιώτατε!
εις πολλά έτη, Δέσποτα!
Многая літа, Владико!