

MESSAGE
BY HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
For the 13th Ecumenical Social Week
Lviv, October 7–10, 2020

It is with sincere joy that we address this message to the organizers and participants of the 13th Ecumenical Social Week organized by the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University in collaboration with the Lviv City Council between October 7th and 10th, 2020, with the involvement also of other academic institutions, civil authorities, and community organizations.

This year's diverse events and comprehensive programs are dedicated to the importance of ecology – of caring for the diverse and wonderful gift of creation – for the life of the Church and the welfare of the planet. And it brings together distinguished speakers from the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Churches in order to proclaim and promote the preservation and protection of God's creation.

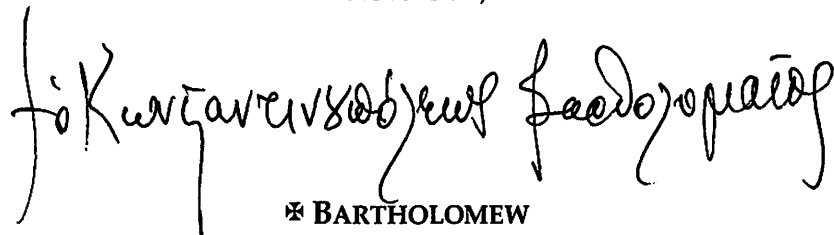
We are always delighted to learn of the shared concern and mutual efforts of the various ecumenical bodies in Ukraine, and of course especially the close cooperation of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Catholic Church, in their vision for the transformation of the world and the benefit of all people. Moreover, we are in particular deeply impressed with the unique contribution of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of the Ukrainian Catholic University, which provides graduate degrees in the field of ecumenical relations and dialogue, while at the same time coordinating numerous conferences and publications for the sake of advancing peace and reconciliation nationally, regionally, and globally.

This year, due to the pandemic, the events of the Ecumenical Social Week will be held remotely. However, you should consider this, too, as another reflection and reminder of the vital spiritual significance of pursuing closer communications and securing fraternal connections among our church confessions and communities.

Therefore, from the spiritual center of the Orthodox Church and Mother Church of Constantinople here at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we convey our sincerest paternal greetings and heartfelt patriarchal blessings on all of you for a successful week, agenda, and deliberations. May God abundantly reward your interest in protecting the resources of our planet for the benefit of all people, especially “the least of his brothers [and sisters],” the most vulnerable and marginalized in our world.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate,
the 10th of September 2020

Your fervent supplicant
before God,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, which is the name of the Archbishop of Constantinople, Bartholomew.

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

*Archbishop of Constantinople,
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch*