



GREETINGS
OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW
AT THE OPENING OF THE 12TH ECUMENICAL PATRISTIC COLLOQUY
(Olomouc, Czech Republic – 14 October 2025)

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers,
Distinguished Professors and Scholars,
Honoured Participants of the 12th Ecumenical Patristic Colloquy,

We convey our sincere Patriarchal greetings upon the opening of this distinguished academic gathering, convened in the historic city of Olomouc, Czechia, under the auspices of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology of Palacký University, in collaboration with Professor Theresia Hainthaler (*Honorary professor emerita*, Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, Frankfurt am Main).

We are delighted to note that this Colloquy continues a tradition of patristic dialogue advanced by the Pro Oriente Foundation, whose enduring commitment to theological understanding and mutual respect between East and West has borne abundant fruit over many decades.

The chosen theme, “Eschatology in the Church Fathers,” invites you to explore the mystery of the Kingdom of God, which is both inaugurated and awaited. The tradition of the Fathers teaches us that Christian eschatology is not mere speculation about the end of history, but the lens through which we interpret all of existence in the light of Christ’s Resurrection and the promise of our own transformation in Him.

The discipline of eschatology, of course, is being enriched by the publication of the highly significant volume by Metropolitan John (Zizioulas) of Pergamon, of blessed memory, *Remembering the Future: Toward an Eschatological Ontology*, which already serves as an inspiring and enriching contribution in this field.

In an age of continued upheaval and fragmentation, the patristic vision summons us to perceive our temporal struggles within the horizon of divine promise. It calls Christians to a steadfast witness of reconciliation, and it

challenges theology to speak with courage and hope to the deep anxieties of our time.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of this Colloquy—especially to the Reverend Dean Dr. Vít Hušek and to Professor Theresia Hainthaler—and to all who have laboured to make this gathering possible. May your deliberations bear rich fruit for theological insight and for the strengthening of bonds of communion among Christians everywhere.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 11 October 2025

Your fervent suppliant before the Lord,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, which is the name of the Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew.

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*