

Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain

Patriarchal Address

Most Reverend Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, most honoured exarch of Western Europe and Ireland, beloved brother and concelebrant in the Holy Spirit of our Mediocrity, Lord Gregorios, grace be to your Reverence and peace from God.

We were happy to learn from your letter of 22nd March of the organisation of the beneficial Clergy Conference of the Archdiocese of Thyateira & Great Britain, between 24th and 26th April, with the theme: "The image and ministry of the Clergy and their enduring contribution to the Church in the world".

These meetings of the Clergy are a special blessing to all, because they are a means of inspiring one another and of strengthening the bonds that bind you together. At the same time, they are an opportunity for the Clergy to receive guidance from their Chief Shepherd on matters of ecclesiastical life and ministry, to have their questions answered, to be informed of new matters arising and to re-invigorate their priestly charisma.

The chosen subject of this year's Conference actively testifies to your praise-worthy attentiveness to the essence of priestly ministry, and I am convinced that significant and decisive conclusions will be reached, through the discussions and your own personal experience and that of your fellow bishops, and indeed of all the clergy, particularly the senior priests. These conclusions will greatly assist everyone in advancing the pastoral work that is carried out under your leadership in that great region of our most Holy Apostolic and Patriarchal Ecumenical Throne.

I therefore congratulate you ardently for this annual Conference, I pray with all my heart that the illumination of the Spirit may enlighten your hearts and souls with a meeting rich with spiritual fruit, and wishing you a safe return to your sacred work, I bestow upon you the holy blessing of the Great Holy Mother Church of Christ and our heart-felt Patriarchal blessing.

19th April 2012

Archbishop of Constantinople,

Bartholomew I,

Beloved Brother in Christ