

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

# Youth Conference

of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

# 2022

"I make all  
things new..."

(Rev. 21' , 5)

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

1 - 4 SEPTEMBER 2022

Green Park Pendik Hotel

Istanbul





# ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

## Youth Conference

### of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



#### DAY 1

*Wednesday, 31st August 2022*

Arrival and welcome of Conference delegates.

#### DAY 2

*Thursday, 1st September 2022*

#### 08.00

Departure of delegates from the hotel to the Phanar. Attend Matins at the Patriarchal Church of St. George for the Feast of the Indiction. Meal - Rest time.

#### 17.30

Arrival of dignitaries.

#### 18.00

Opening ceremony of the Conference by His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

#### 18.15

Welcome address to delegates and representatives of foreign missions by his Eminence Metropolitan Kyrillos of Imbros and Tenedos.

#### 18.45

Opening Address by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

#### 19.15

Presentation of the book Jesus is Everything (portions of the book entitled Life and Speeches of Saint Porphyrios in Turkish, published by the Holy Monetary of Chrysopigis, Chania) by His Eminence Metropolitan of Nea Krini and Kalamaria Ioustinos.

#### 19.30

Dinner.

#### 21.00

Concert on the hotel grounds.

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**DAY 3**

*Friday, 2nd September 2022*

*Morning Session*  
*Subject: The Orthodox Youth of Türkiye*

*1st Morning Session*

*Moderator: His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain*



**09:00 - 09:20**

His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Selybria: "The Youth in Contemporary Society".



**09:20 - 09:40**

Protopresbyter Stavros Kofinas: "Living Contrarily in a Contrary World".



**09:40 - 10:00**

The esteemed Mr. Nektarios Kalantzis: "The Orthodox Youth in Europe".

**10:00 - 11:00**

Discussion.

**11:00 - 11:30**

Break.

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**DAY 3**

*Friday, 2nd September 2022*

*Morning Session*  
*Subject: The Orthodox Youth of Türkiye*

*2nd Morning Session*

*Moderator: Protopresbyter Stavros Kofinas*



**11:30 - 11:50**

His Eminence Metropolitan Elder Apostolos of Derkoi: "The Pastoral Care of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the Newly-illuminated".



**11:50 - 12:10**

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain: "Jesus, a Role Model for the Young".



**12:10- 12:30**

The esteemed Mr. Merkurios Görkem Ergül: "The Future for the Orthodox Youth in Türkiye".

**12:30 - 13:30**

Discussion.

**14:30 - 17:00**

Meal - Rest.

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**DAY 3**

*Friday, 2nd September 2022*

*Afternoon Session*  
*Subject: A Society of Persons*

*1st Afternoon Session*

*Moderator: His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Selybria*



**17:00 - 17:20**

The Honorable Professor Emeritus Konstantinos Gavroglou: "The Challenges of the Digital Age and the Youth".



**17:20 - 17:40**

Nun Hypandia, Abbess of the Holy Protection Monastery in Solan, France: "The Young in the Christian West".



**17:40 - 18:00**

Archimandrite Polycarp Theophanes: "Summer, Opportunities, and Possibilities for the Spiritual Rejuvenation of Young People".

**18:00 - 19:00**

Discussion.

**19:00 - 19:30**

Break.



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**DAY 3**

*Friday, 2nd September 2022*

*Afternoon Session*  
*Subject: A Society of Persons*

*2nd Afternoon Session*

*Moderator: The Esteemed Mr. Georgios Filias*



**19:30 - 19:50**

The esteemed Prof. Konstantinos Delikostantis: "The Functions of Religion Today: A Philosophical Approach".



**19:50 - 20:10**

The gracious Mrs. Maria Savvaki: "The Concept of the Person in Globalization".



**20:10 - 20:30**

The esteemed Dr. Ioannis Papachristou: "The Origins of Byzantine Philosophy".

**20:30 - 21:00**

Discussion.

**21:00**

Dinner - Rest.

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**DAY 4**

*Saturday, 3rd September 2022*

*Morning Session*  
*Subject: The Pastoral Ministry of the Orthodox*  
*Youth of Türkiye*

*1st Morning Session*

*Moderator: The Esteemed Mr. Athanasios Antonopoulos*



**09:00 - 09:20**

Archimandrite İğnatyos Yapıcıoğlu: "The Pastoral Approach of Young People in Southern Türkiye (Antioch, Mersin)".



**09:20 - 09:40**

The esteemed Mr. Ioannis Demirtzoglou: "A Teacher of Turkey's Orthodox Youth/Students"



**09:40 - 10:00**

The honorable Mr. Ieremias Haralambidis: "An Orthodox Student in the Schools of Imbros".

**10:00 - 11:00**

Discussion.

**11:00 - 11:30**

Break.



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**DAY 4**

*Saturday, 3rd September 2022*

*Morning Session*  
*Subject: The Pastoral Ministry of the Orthodox*  
*Youth of Türkiye*

*2nd Morning Session*

*Moderator: The Esteemed Mr. Haralambos Ventis*



**11:30 - 11:50**

Nun Philothei, Abbess of the Holy Monastery of Panagia Vryoulon: "Young People and Spiritual Life".



**11:50 - 12:10**

The Esteemed Mr. Ioannis Gigourtsis: "Is There a Place for Theology in Minority Education?".



**12:10 - 12:30**

The Honorable Mr. Philemon Haralambidis: "The Life of an Orthodox Youth in the Countryside".

**12:30 - 13:30**

Discussion.

**14:30 - 17:00**

Meal - Rest

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**DAY 4**

*Saturday, 3rd September 2022*

*Afternoon Session*  
*Subject: Youth, Religious Pluralism,*  
*and the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

*1st Afternoon Session*

*Moderator: The Esteemed Mr. Konstantinos Delikostantis*



**17:00 - 17:20**

The esteemed Prof. Georgios Philiass: "Liturgical Matters and How to Handle them in a Religiously Pluralist Country".



**17:20 - 17:40**

The esteemed Prof. Athanasios Antonopoulos: "Studying a Biblical Text, as an Orthodox in a Religiously Pluralist Country".



**17:40 - 18:00**

The esteemed Prof. Haralambos Ventis: "The Church in a Religiously Pluralist Society".

**18:00 - 19:00**

Discussion.

**19:00 - 19:30**

Break.

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**DAY 4**

*Saturday, 3rd September 2022*

*Afternoon Session*  
*Subject: Youth, Religious Pluralism,*  
*and the Ecumenical Patriarchate*

*2nd Afternoon Session*

*Moderator: The Esteemed Mr. Nektarios Kalantzis*



**19:30 - 19:50**

Archimandrite Victor Kopusçu "Orthodox Students in Türkiye".



**19:50 - 20:10**

The esteemed Prof. Panagiotis Yfantis: "Dialogue and Ministry: Orthodox Youth and Modern World".



**20:10 - 20:30**

The gracious Ms. Daria Lafazanidou: "The Pastoral Ministry of the Orthodox Youth of Türkiye".

**20:30 - 21:00**

Discussion.

**21:00**

Dinner at sea - Rest.

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**DAY 4**

*Sunday, 4th September 2022*

**08:00**

Departure for the Theological School of Halki, Divine Liturgy.



**12:00 - 13:30**

Presentation and discussion by His Eminence Metropolitan Kyrillos of Imbros and Tenedos.

**13:30 - 14:15**

Luncheon at the School Refectory.

**14:30**

Closing Ceremony, concluding remarks, publication of a scientific bulletin, conclusion, and departure.

**SPEAKER  
BIOGRAPHIES**





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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **His Eminence Metropolitan Elder Apostolos of Derkoi**

His Eminence Metropolitan Elder Apostolos (Daniilidis) of Derkoi, Most Honourable Exarch of the Bosphorus, the Thracian Sea, and the Islets therein, and of was born in Galata, Istanbul in 1952. An alumnus of Halki Theological School, he was a recipient of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's scholarship, thereby furthering his education in Aristotle's University's Theological School where he completed his post-graduate studies. In 1973, he was ordained to the Diaconate and elevated to Synodal Clerk and Deputy Secretary in 1984 and 1987 respectively. On 13 November 1995, he was elected Titular Metropolitan of Agathonicea, and in 2000 he was enumerated with the active Hierarchs of the Throne under the title of Metropolitan of Moschonesia, serving also as Abbot of the Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Halki (1995-2011). On 29 August 2011, he was unanimously elected Metropolitan of the Elder Metropolis of Derkoi. He serves as Chair of various Synodal Commissions and oftentimes fulfills the duties of Patriarchal Vicar, by venerable Patriarchal commendation.

#### **His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain**

His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas (Lulias) of Thyateira and Great Britain, Most Honourable Exarch of Western Europe and Ireland, Delegate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Archdiocese of Canterbury, was born in Florida, U.S.A., in 1955. He studied at the University of Florida where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1976. He then enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating in 1980 with a Master of Divinity, and later pursued additional graduate studies at the University of Thessaloniki. He was ordained to the Diaconate and the Presbyterate in 1985, and received the offikion of Archimandrite in 1988, being elevated to the rank of Chancellor of the then-Diocese of Chicago. On 2 December 1996, he was unanimously elected Metropolitan of Hong Kong. In 2007, he was transferred to the Holy Metropolis of the Dardanelles and appointed Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Patriarchal Institute at California's Berkeley University. On 12 June 2019, he was unanimously elected Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain.

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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Selybria**

His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Selybria, Most Honourable Exarch of Europe, was born in Patras in 1968. He is a graduate of Patras's Ecclesiastical Lyceum, the Higher Ecclesiastical School of Athens, and the Theological School of Belgrade. In 1993, he was ordained to the Diaconate and served in the Patriarchal Court as Synodal Clerk, Secondary Patriarchal Deacon, and Grand Archdeacon. He studied at the University of London where he submitted a doctoral dissertation, titled, "Primacy in the Church from Vatican I to Vatican II: An Orthodox Perspective." On 15 July 2014, he was unanimously elected Metropolitan of Selymbria and in 2016 he was appointed Hierarchical Administrator of Constantinople's Ypsomatheia District. He is the Orthodox Secretary of the International Commission of Dialogue Between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church.

#### **Archimandrite İğnatyos Yapıcıoğlu**

Archimandrite İğnatyos Yapıcıoğlu was born in Antioch in 1975. He is a clergyman of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and resident brother of the Monastery of the Dormitions of the Theotokos in Penteli. He is a graduate of the Theological School of Athens's Department of Social Theology and holds a master's degree from the same School in the field of Patristic Studies, History of Dogmas, and Symbolism, and is a doctoral candidate of the Classical Department in the Philosophical School of the National Kapodistrian University of Athens in the field of Byzantine Philology and Folklore. He served as Hierarchical Vicar of Northern Turkey under the ever-memorable Metropolitan Paul of Aleppo and Alexandretta. Currently, he is the pastor of Saint Anthony's Church in Halandi-Vrilissia. He is fluent in Turkish, Arabic, and English.

#### **Archimandrite Polycarp Theophanes**

Archimandrite Polycarp Theophanes was born and raised in Naupactus. He graduated from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens's Social Theology Department. He served as pastor in the Holy Metropolis of Naupactus and St. Blaise and engaged primarily in youth programs. He served as a high-school educator, organized many Scholarly conferences, and is responsible for various Cultural Programs centered on the coexistence of peoples and religions. From 1 September 2021, he has been detached to the Holy Metropolis of Smyrna.

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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **Archimandrite Victor Kopusçu**

Archimandrite Victor Kopusçu was born in 1991 in Gagauzia, Moldova. He studied in a Monastic Community in Russia and at Moscow State University. He completed his graduate studies in 2016 at Istanbul University and his doctoral dissertation in 2021 at Hacettepe University. He is the pastor of St. Andrew's Russian community in Istanbul, and the Orthodox communities in Ankara and Samsun.

#### **Protopresbyter Stavros Kofinas**

Protopresbyter Stavros Kofinas is an Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne. He is the coordinator of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Network for Pastoral Ministry in the Health Field. He is a Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Pastoral Psychological Care and a Psychotherapist. He represents the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the European Forum for Pastoral Ministry in the Health Field (coordinator, 2000-2010). Author.

#### **Ioannis Demirtzoglou**

He was born in Kuskuncuk, Istanbul, in 1960. He completed his secondary education in the Zografeion Lyceum and studied in Istanbul University's Sciences Department. In 1989, he began teaching Maths at the Zografeion Lyceum, where he became headmaster in 1994. In 2004, he was installed as Archon Referendarios of the Holy and Great Church by His All-Holiness. In 2015 he received honors from the Academy of Athens and in 2021 by the Archdiocese of Cyprus with the gold medal of St. Paul. He has received various accolades for his contributions to Hellenism and Minority Education.

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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **Nun Hypandia, Abbess of the Holy Protection Monastery in Solan, France**

Abbess Hypandia is the Abbess of the Sisterhood of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos Monastery in Solan, France – a dependency of the Holy Monastery of Simonopetra in Mount Athos, directly under the auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

#### **Nun Philothei, Abbess of the Holy Monastery of Panagia Vryoulon, Attika**

Abbess Philothei (born Anastasia) Ioannidou was born in Athens in 1969 to immigrant parents and grandparents from Asia Minor, Cyprus, and Egypt. She studied theology at the University of Athens. She is the abbess of the Holy Cloister of Panagia Vrioulon, which was founded in Athens in 1996 by the ever-memorable Fr. Gabriel Tsafos, a native of Asia Minor.

#### **Konstantinos Gavroglou**

Professor Emeritus of Sciences at the University of Athens. He taught at the Universities of Harvard, Boston, MIT, Cambridge, and Istanbul Technical University. In 2020, he was a recipient of the European Historical Society of Science's award "Gustav Neuenschwander". Between 2016-2019, he served as Minister of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs.

#### **Konstantinos Delikostantis**

A Native of Imvros, Dr. Delikostantis is a professor at the Theological School of the University of Athens. He has taught philosophy, systematic theology, sociology, and religious education. He is Archon Didaskalos tou Genous and currently serves as the Director of the 1st Patriarchal Office.

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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **Georgios Philiass**

Professor at the University of Athens where he teaches Liturgics, Homiletics, Christian Archaeology, Theology of Worship, Hagiography, Hymnology, and the Study of Feasts. An alumnus of the same school, he furthered his education at Sorbonne University at the Higher Liturgical Institute of Paris in History of Christian Worship, Ecclesiastical History and Literature, and Christian Archaeology. He also received his master's degree, subject-themed, "Worship in the Byzantine Era," two degrees in comprehensive studies (D.E.A.) in the History of Proto-Christian Worship, and a Doctorate in the University of Sorbonne. He has worked as a researcher of euchologion manuscripts in the Vatican Library and received a second Doctorate in the theological School of Athens, wherein he was elevated to Assistant, Substitute, and Tenured Professor.

#### **Panagiotis Yfantis**

Born in Athens, in 1966. Professor of "Patristic Thought and Hagiography" of Aristotle University's Theological Department. Visiting Professor of Orthodox Theology in Ecumenical Institutes in Italy.

#### **Athanasios Antonopoulos**

Born in Athens, he studied Theology at the Theological School of the University of Athens and received his Master of Sacred Theology and Master of Theology from Boston University/School of Theology and Boston's Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, respectively. He also completed his doctoral studies at Boston and Harvard Universities, in the fields of History, Sociology, and Theology of the New Testament, History of Ancient Christianity, and Archaeology of the New Testament. Further, he acquired mastery of Byzantine Palaeography, the research of digital methods, especially the electronic-digital rendering and critical publication of Byzantine Manuscripts, as well as the creation of Biblical Sources Databases. He is a Professor of Theology in the Theological School of the University of Athens and an Assistant Professor in that School's Department of Social Theology and Religious Studies.



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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **Haralambos Ventis**

Born in Athens, he studied Philosophy and Theology. A Professor at Boston University and Louvain University, specializing in the impact of the linguistic turn of 20th-century philosophy in theological discourse and Political and Social Philosophy and Ethics, respectively. His scholarly interests include Kantian thought, Philosophy of Language, Postmodernism, Contemporary Political Theory and Ethics (especially the Political Liberalism of John Rawls), and Philosophy of Religion. He has published two books, "Eschatology and Otherness" under "Grigori" Publications (2005) and "The Reductive Veil: Post-Kantian Non-Representationalism Versus Apophatic Realism" under "Epektasis" Publications.

#### **Maria Savvaki**

Physician, Medical School of the University of Athens (1973). Master's Degree in Public Psychiatric Health and Behavioural Sciences, School of Public Health, (Department of Behavioural Sciences) Harvard University (1975). Researcher at Harvard University Medical School (1975-1981). MA in Psycholinguistics and Education, Harvard University (1982). Ph.D. in Reading, Harvard University/University of Crete (1986). Director of the Dyslexia and Speech Disorders Unit at the University Hospital of Heraklion (1983 - 2014). She taught at the University of Athens, at the University of Ioannina, at the Medical Education Centre of Aristotle University as well as in all the medical specialties (in the context of interdisciplinary Teaching) of the University General Hospital of Heraklion, for issues of development and brain maturation.

#### **Nektarios Kalantzis**

President of the Council of European Local Leaders (ELL Group) and the Association of Young Local Leaders of Greece (ENA). Economist - Sociologist, Graduated in Sociology from the University of Crete, and holder of a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Hertfordshire, Great Britain, and in Nautical Science from the University of Piraeus. In 2022, he was chosen as the representative of Greece among the "40 European Young Leaders under 40".



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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **Ioannis Gigourtsis**

He was born in Heraklion, Crete. He studied classical literature, history, and theology in Thessaloniki and Munich. He is a Secondary Education teacher. He taught for many years in the minority schools of Constantinople, and for two years he was the Education Coordinator (educational assistant) at the Consulate General of Greece in Constantinople, responsible for the minority schools and Greek-speaking education in Turkey.

#### **Ioannis Papachristou**

Ioannis Papachristou is a Doctor of Philosophy at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, specializing in the Philosophy of Late Antiquity and Byzantine Philosophy. He has worked at the Universities of Sorbonne, Geneva, Athens, and Crete. He works in the research program "Pandektis of Byzantine Philosophy" of the Hellenic Research & Innovation Foundation.

#### **Daria Lafazanidou**

Born in 1991 in Constantinople, she is a Turkish Philology graduate. She has been teaching Secondary Education in Constantinople since 2017. Author, columnist, compiler, and editor of texts in various publishing houses.

#### **Merkurios Ergul Gorkem**

Born in 1999, he comes from Caesarea in Cappadocia. Student of the English Language and Literature Department of Erciyes University in Caesarea. He worked as a tour guide in tourist offices. He deals with the translation of texts.

#### **Ieremias Haralambidis**

He was born in 2000 in Panorama, Thessaloniki. A graduate of the Hellenic High School of Imvros and the School of Fine Arts of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He works as a ceramic teacher in the adult departments of the YMCA. He taught art classes at the Greek High School - Lyceum of Imvros.

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#### *Speaker biographies*

#### **Philemon Haralambidis**

He was born in 2002 in Panorama, Thessaloniki. In 2017, he settled in Imvros. He is a graduate of the Hellenic Lyceum of Imvros and a student of the Law Department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He speaks English and Turkish.





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