

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Honorary Doctorate in the Culture of Unity to Bartholomew I

Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch

Message from Pope Francis

His Eminence Cardinal Giuseppe Betori

Archbishop of Florence

Grand Chancellor of the Sophia University Institute

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On the occasion of the Conferral of the Honorary Doctorate in the Culture of Unity to His Holiness Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, by the Sophia University Institute, I wish to assure you of my spiritual closeness and send my warmest greetings to all those present.

I send special greetings to my beloved brother Bartholomew, with whom I renew sentiments of profound and heartfelt appreciation. I am pleased with this award which, besides being a rightful recognition of his commitment to the promotion of the culture of unity, contributes favourably to the common journey of our churches towards full and visible unity, to which we tend with dedication and perseverance.

I wish that the Sophia University institute, following the charism of the Focolare Movement and remaining open to the action of the Spirit, may continue to be a place of encounter and dialogue between different cultures and religions.

With the assurance of my prayers and, asking you to pray for me, I impart my blessing to all those present.

Pope Francis

From the Vatican 26th October 2015