

Message from Karechin II, catholikos of all Armenians

KAREKIN II, supreme patriarch and catholikos of all Armenians

Monastery of Bose, 4-7 September 2013

XXI International Ecumenical Conference

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XXI International Ecumenical Conference on Orthodox Spirituality

in collaboration with the Orthodox Churches

THE AGES OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Monastery of Bose, 4-7 September 2013

Dear participants of the 21st International Ecumenical Conference,

From the spiritual center of all Armenians, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, with great joy and delight We bring Our Pontifical blessings and wishes to the organizers of the Bose 21st International Ecumenical Conference, delegates of Sister Churches and all participants.

We are in prayer with all of you from the biblical land of Armenia, as you are gathered at the beautiful Bose monastery for "The Ages of Spiritual Life" conference, to discuss and reflect on the aspects of spiritual life and its importance in the life of human being together, especially during the current challenges, when Christians around the world are struggling to keep their Christian identity and preserve and strengthen their faith.

It is impossible to imagine man's life without communication with the Creator, which realizes its meaning with true actions and a life of faith. Although spiritual life began with the Holy Baptism, it is full of temptations, but with the Lord's help; when there is unshakable faith, love, and hope towards our Lord, who was born unto this world for the salvation of mankind, showing us the way to the heaven; all obstacles can be overcome. Holy Fathers of the Church followed Him, were encouraged by Him and became strengthened in their faith and spiritual experiences, educating people's souls and minds with their writings that were beneficial to the soul. Our Apostolic Holy Church and Armenian nation have lived with unshakable faith to God and remained faithful to the Orthodox belief, martyrdom history of which is the greatest evidence of complete fidelity and love to the Lord.

Dear Ones, taking advantage of this opportunity, accept Our greetings from the See of St Thaddeus once more praying that Almighty God keep the Holy Church of Christ and all members of His flock in unity under His protective Holy Right Hand.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen" (2 Cor. 13:14).

With Blessings,

Karekin II

supreme patriarch

catholikos of all Armenians