

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew awarded as honorary President of the Nisyrian Studies Society

In 2001, the president of “Gnomagoras” and publisher of the Nisyrian News (“Nisyriaka Nea”), a newspaper which represents the Athens-Piraeus Nisyrians’ association “GNOMAGORAS”, proposed, a great celebration to be arranged for the 600 years since the establishment of the Nisyros’ Monastery of (“Panagias Spilianis” (Virgin Mary of the Caves).

His proposal was promptly accepted and with the participation of all the responsible authorities and institutions the organizing activities started taking place.

During the preliminary meetings, which were held for the establishment of an event Program, it was hesitatingly proposed that the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew should be invited, in order to bless the event with his presence.

The idea slowly matured and our suggestion-invitation was forwarded via His eminence Bishop of Rhodes Apostle to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch, who accepted it with great pleasure and fixed the days to visit Nisyros as the 4th, 5th and 6th of August, 2001.

The dream came true. For the first time, an Ecumenical Patriarch would visit the small island of Nisyros.

The board of Directors of the Nisyrian Studies Society, taking part in the all-Nisyrian celebrations, unanimously agreed to the proposal of its President to award our visitor with the title of Honorary President, an honour, without precedent.

The Ecumenical Patriarch was awarded as Honorary President and received a special diploma written in parchment paper. The solemn and simple ceremony took place inside the lobby of the Municipal Hotel, right after the Transfiguration’s Mass held at the church of new-martyr S. Nikitas the Nisyrian.

Presented below are, a copy of the parchment paper, and two photos taken during the ceremony, the address of the Nisyrian Studies Society’s President as well as the reply of the Ecumenical Patriarch.