

# origins

CNS documentary service

## Turkey Visit: Celebration of Divine Liturgy

### Pope Francis

*Pope Francis began his third and final day in Turkey by taking part in an Orthodox liturgy Nov. 30 in the Church of St. George in Istanbul. The Divine Liturgy on the feast of St. Andrew was celebrated by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, considered the first among equals of Orthodox bishops. In a speech during the liturgy, Pope Francis said that the "cry of the victims of conflict urges us to move with haste along the path of reconciliation and communion between Catholics and Orthodox. Indeed, how can we credibly proclaim the message of peace that comes from Christ if there continues to be rivalry and*

*"We ask God for the great gift of full unity and the ability to accept it in our lives."*

*disagreement between us?" The pope assured his listeners that "to reach the desired goal of full unity the Catholic Church does not intend to impose any conditions except that of the shared profession of faith," and that Orthodox Christians would not lose their distinctive forms of worship, spirituality and governance if full communion were to take place. Full communion between the churches, which have been divided since 1054, does not mean "submission of one to the other or assimilation," but rather "welcoming all the gifts that God has given to each" to show the whole world the "great mystery of salvation accomplished by Christ the Lord through the Holy Spirit," the pope said. He spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his speech follows, copyright © 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.*

**W**hen I was the archbishop of Buenos Aires, I often took part in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox communities there. Today the Lord has given me the singular grace to be present in this patriarchal Church of St. George for the celebration of the feast of the holy apostle Andrew, the first-called, the brother of St. Peter and the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Meeting each other, seeing each other face to face, exchanging the embrace of peace and praying for each other are all essential aspects of our journey toward the

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