

Pastoral Visit to Sweden

By the Grace of God, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone visited Sweden in fulfillment of an ecclesiastical mission.

On Saturday, January 19, 2014 (Old Style), before Great Vespers, Bishop Ambrose tonsured His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis to the Great Schema at the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Vårberg, a suburb of Stockholm. Bishop Johannes, at eighty-four years of age, has been suffering from serious health problems for several years and is thus no longer able to fulfill his Episcopal duties. Present at the moving and compunction-evoking service were the Priests Father Anders Åkerström and Father Stefan Jaerpenberg, Hierodeacon Theochares Beniamin (Hagiokyprianites), the two nuns from the Convent of St. Philothei of Athens in Grillby (outside of Enköping), and quite a few of the faithful from among Bishop Johannes' spiritual children.



On Sunday, January 20 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the same Church with the aforementioned clergy, with many Orthodox faithful in attendance, and had the opportunity to meet old acquaintances, not having visited Sweden in over twelve years.

His Grace then went to the Convent of St. Philothei, and the next day, following an early morning Liturgy, he went to the neighboring city of Uppsala to serve as a witness for the defence in litigations regarding the convent's estate. On Tuesday, January 22 (Old Style), he returned to Greece to take part, that afternoon, in the twelfth Joint Deliberation of the Committees for Dialogue between our Holy Synod and the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece.

