



## **His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria and His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev celebrate Liturgy at the Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Odessa**

On 29 September 2018, the commemoration day of St. Kuksha of Odessa, His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodore II of Alexandria and All Africa and His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Odessa, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church's Department of Information and Education reports, citing the website of the Odessa diocese.

Meeting the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church at the holy gates of the monastery were an assembly of archpastors of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, hierarchs from Russia, Moldova and the Patriarchates of Alexandria and Bulgaria, as well the clergy of the Odessa diocese and tens of thousands of the faithful.

In the monastery His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry greeted the First Hierarch of the Orthodox Church of Alexandria who had arrived in Odessa on 27 September. Upon his arrival His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II celebrated a moleben service, offering prayers for the unity of the Church of Christ, cessation of schisms and restoration of peace in Ukraine. On 28 September the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Alexandria celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Odessa, wherein he had served for 10 years. His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore also visited the National University 'Odesa Law Academy.' The Academic Board of this university conferred upon Patriarch Theodore a degree of doctor *honoris causa*. On the eve of the commemoration day of St. Kuksha of Odessa, His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II celebrated the All-Night Vigil at the Monastery of the Holy Dormition in Odessa.

His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II and His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry gave their blessing to the worshippers and entered the Cathedral of the Life-Giving Spring Icon of the Mother of God, where they celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the shrine with the holy relics of St. Kuksha of Odessa.

After the Liturgy and a moleben of thanksgiving at the relics of St. Kuksha of Odessa, His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufry greeted His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore II and congratulated His Eminence Metropolitan Agafangel of Odessa and Izmail on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In consideration of Metropolitan Agafangel's decades-long ministry for the good of the Church, His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodore II of All Africa awarded him with the Order of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark and presented him with a panagia. Patriarch of Alexandria also awarded the benefactors who render assistance to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova honoured Metropolitan Agafangel with the Order of St. Gabriel (Bănulescu-Bodoni).

Vladyka Agafangel warmly thanked the Primates and the hierarchs and presented them with icons, official website of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church reports.

*DECR Communication Service*

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