



Therefore, today's church celebration is a very important event in the cause of the revival of spiritual life in Bulgaria. Martyrs show us a feat of confession and standing for the faith. We know from the history of their lives that no threats or suffering could shake their faithfulness to Christ, although, as is known, freedom was offered to these people in exchange for their betrayal and prosperity was offered them in exchange for their rejection of Christ. However, they preferred death to a life according to the laws of this world. They are awarded with God's glory and canonized today as saints for their feat of martyrdom and confession".

Addressing Metropolitan Nikolay, His Eminence Hilarion expressed the wish that the Martyrs of Batak, who have shown forth in the Metropolia of Plovdiv, may always be guiding stars for the faithful of the holy Church of Bulgaria, and said:

"We should remember that the times of martyrdom and confession never end for the Church. The Church has lived in various periods of history, also in situations of open persecution and temporary interruptions of persecution. Our time is not easy either as the blood of Christians including Orthodox is poured in various parts of the world today. Quite a number of Christians become confessors and martyrs for the faith of Christ even today. What happened here in 1876 is repeated again and again in various countries of the world. But we should remember: the power of God will always overcome human infirmity, and the gates of Hades will not overcome the Church of Christ. We should consolidate our inter-Orthodox unity because this unity is our power".

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