Funeral service conducted for Archbishop Alexander of Baku and Azerbaijan

On June 13, 2021, the 7th Sunday after Pascha, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women in Baku. It was followed by the funeral service for the late Archbishop Alexander of Baku and Azerbaijan, who passed away to the Lord on June 10, the day of the Ascension of the Lord.

With a blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, the service was conducted by Metropolitan Dionisy of Voskresensk, chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate, together with Metropolitan Arseny of Lipetsk and Zadonsk, Metropolitan Kirill of Kazan and Tatarstan, acting administrator of the diocese of Baku and Azerbaijan, and Archbishop Pheophilakt of Pyatigorsk and Cherkessk.

Their con-celebrants were Archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov), vice-chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate; Archimandrite Alexander (Zerkashev), rector of the St. Philip church in Shardja (UAE); Hegumen Alexy (Nikonorov), rector of the church of St. Nicholas the Wonder-Worker in Merano (Italy); Hieromonk Ioann (Anisimov), rector of the church of Our Lady of Kazan in Kaspijsk, and the clergy of the diocese of Baku and Azerbaijan.

After the burial service, Metropolitan Dionisy read out a message of condolences from His Holiness Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.

Archimandrite Philaret (Bulekov) read out a message of condolences from the chairman of the Department for External Church Relation of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk.

Among those who came to pay the last respect to Archbishop Alexander were Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshuqur Pasha-zade, chairman of the Muslim Board of Caucasus; Mr. Mubariz Gurbanly, chairman of the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Cooperation with Religious Entities; Mr. M. Zabelin, MP; Msgr Vladimir Fakete, head of the Catholic community in Azerbaijan; Mr. Milikh Yevdaev, head of the Mountain Jews community in Baku; Mr. Alexander Sharovsky, head of the community of European Jews; Mr. Robert Mobili, head of the Albany-Udin Christian community;

Mr. Ryavan Gasanov, director of the Baku International Multiculturalism Center, and many others.

As a sign of great respect for the first hierarch of the reborn Diocese of Baku and Azerbaijan, and in acknowledgment of his work for strengthening interreligious dialogue and broadening friendly relationships between Azerbajani and Russian nations, according to the decision of the Azerbaijan's leadership, Archbishop Alexander was buried in the first alley of Honorary Graves.

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