Metropolitan Mitrofan of Lugansk and Alchevsk passed away in the Lord



On June 18, 2021, Metropolitan Mitrofan of Lugansk and Alchevsk, permanent member of the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, passed away in the Lord at the age of 59.

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Metropolitan Mitrofan (secular name – Mikhail Ivanovich Yurchuk) was born on November 19, 1962, in the town of Belogorye, Khmelnitsk region, Ukraine, to the family of workers. From 1981 to 83, he served in the Soviet Army. In 1984-1987, he attended the Odessa Theological Seminary and after graduation in 1987 entered the Moscow Theological Academy.

In 1988, within the students exchange between the Russian and Polish Orthodox Churches, he was sent to the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw and graduated from it in 1993 with the Master of Theology degree. During his studies in Warsaw, he acted as mentor and lecturer of the Warsaw Theological Seminary.

On August 21, 1990, he took monastic vows at the St. Sergius Monastery of the Holy Trinity, on September 21 he was ordained as hierodeacon and on September 16, as hieromonk.

In 1994, he joined the faculty of the Kiev theological schools and the brethren of the Kiev Laura of the Caves. In the Kiev theological schools he held the position of inspector and later pro-rector.

In 1994, he was elevated to the rank of hegumen and in 1995 to the rank of archimandrite.

On July 30, 2000, he was consecrated as Bishop of Pereyaslav-Khmelnitsky, vicar of the Metropolis of Kiev, and was appointed chancellor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

On July 9, 2003, he was elevated to the rank of archbishop.

By the decision of the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of November 22, 2006, he was appointed chairman of the Synodal Commission for Dialogue with the UAOC.

On May 31, 2007, he was released from the position of vicar of the Metropolis of Kiev and appointed administrator of the Diocese of Belaya Tserkkov.

By the decision of the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of September 9, 2009 (Minutes No. 45), he became head of the renewed Syndal Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on Dialogue with the UAOC and the working group for preparing dialogue with representative of the UOC PK.

By the decision of the Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of May 8, 2012 (Minutes No. 25), he was appointed chairman of the UOC Department for External Church Relation and relieved of his duties as chancellor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church while remaining a permanent member of the UOC Synod.

On August 2014, during the liturgy at the Kiev Laura of the Caves, His Beatitude Onufry, Metropolitan of Kiev an All Ukraine, elevated him to the rank of metropolitan.

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