



Abroad were elected. The decree will be distributed to all the bishops, and the forthcoming Council will confirm it on the first day of its meeting on September 13. The Synod of Bishops also approved the agenda for the Council, which will likewise be distributed to the members of the Council in advance.

The Synod of Bishops also deliberated on several internal issues and considered intercessions by member Bishops for ecclesiastical awards to their clergy and flock.

In conclusion, the archpastors prayed for the repose of Metropolitan Laurus (Skurla) and Archbishop Alypy (Gamonovich) on their patron saints' days (the feast day of St Alypy is observed on 30 August, and the next day is the feast day of Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus).

The Council of Bishops will convene on Tuesday, 13 September, and on that day will elect its new Primate. The enthronement ceremonies will begin on Saturday, 17 September, at the Synodal Cathedral of Our Lady "of the Sign" in New York with all-night vigil, at the end of which the senior archbishops will present the electee. The next morning, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, when the rite of enthronement will take place, during which the new First Hierarch will be entrusted with the ruling staff of the Russian Church Abroad.

A festive trapeza luncheon will follow for the bishops, clergy and laity, hosted by the cathedral sisterhood. The Council of Bishops will conclude on 21 September, the feast day of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Mother of God, which coincides with the anniversary of the appearance of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God in 1295.