Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk presides over the great consecration of a church in Tarquinia



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On October 23, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, temporary administrator of the Moscow Patriarchate parishes in Italy, presided over the great consecration of the Church of the Holy Transfiguration and St. Anthony the Great in the city of Tarquinia, the province of Viterbo, Italy.

The historical building of the former 13th century Catholic church has been transferred to the Administration of the Moscow Patriarchate Parishes in Italy. After the transfer, His Eminence, back then an archimandrite serving as the Administration secretary took a personal care in founding in Tarqunia a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Through the efforts of benefactors, restoration work was carried out with time and liturgical vessels were purchased.

Metropolitan Anthony’s concelebrants in the rite of consecration and the Divine Liturgy were Archpriest Vyacheslav Bachin, rector of the St. Nicholas Metochion in Bari; Hieromonk Ambrose (Matsegora), secretary of the Administration of the Moscow Patriarchate Parishes in Italy; Hieromonk Avel (Usachev), rector of the Church of the Transfiguration, and pilgrims in holy orders.

During the service, the archpastor also consecrated new corporals for Italian parishes.

According to the Decree of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Hieromonk Avel was rewarded at the Lesser Entrance with the right to wear a decorated pectoral cross.

After the Dismissal, Metropolitan Anthony addressed himself to the worshippers with an archpastoral admonition.

On behalf of the concelebrants and numerous parishioners, the hierarch was greeted by Hieromonk Avel who pointed to the hierarch’s personal participation in the life of the newly consecrated church. For the prayerful memory, Metropolitan Anthony was presented with an old engraving depicting St. Anthony the Great.

The archpastor’s fellowship with the clergy and the flock continued at a festive tea party.

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