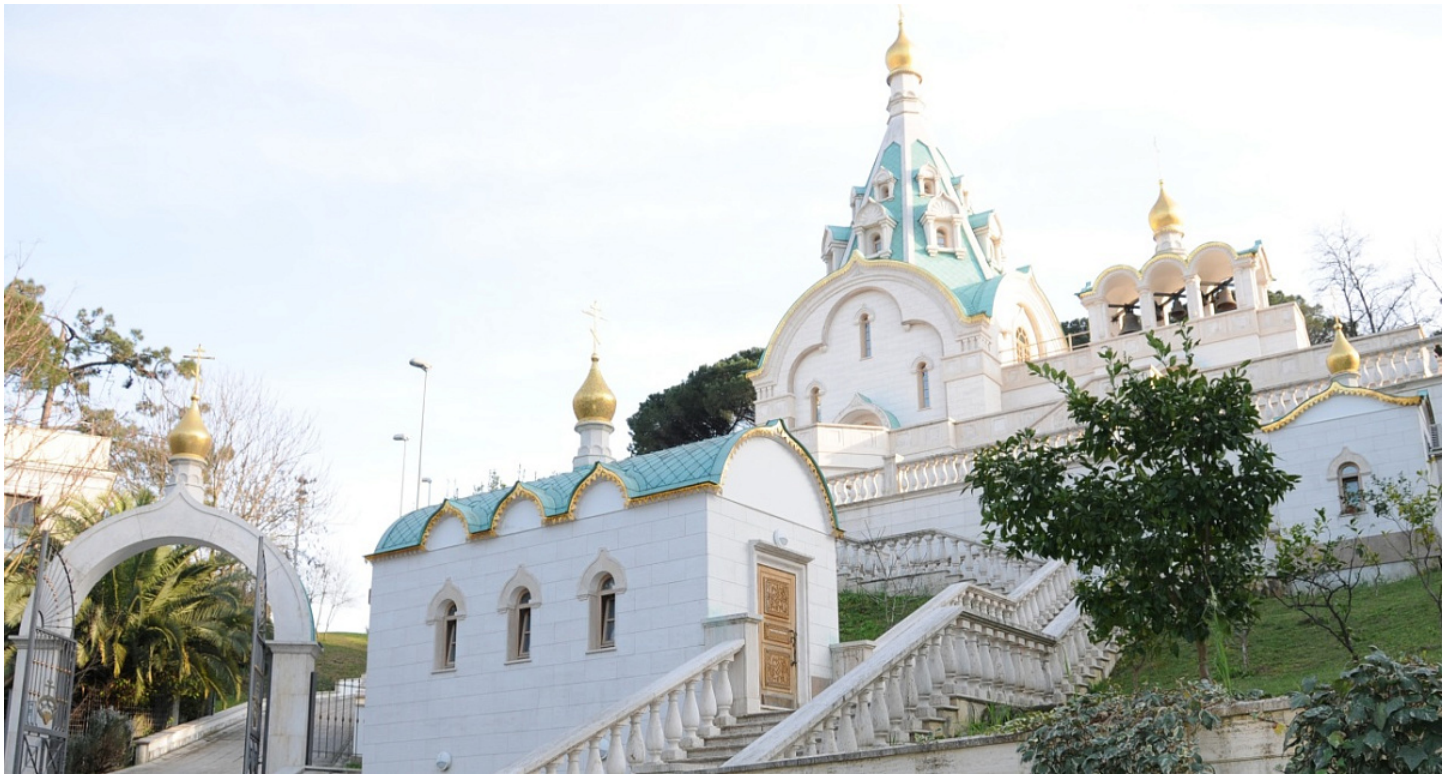
Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk presides over patronal feastivities of the Church of St. Catherine in Rome



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On December 4, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate and administrator of the Moscow Patriarchate parishes in Italy, celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Great Martyr Catherine in Rome.

The day before, His Eminence Anthony arrived in the Apennines for a brief visit.

According to the established tradition, the celebrations of the patronal feast were transferred to the Sunday nearest to the commemoration day of the holy patroness of the parish.

The hierarch was assisted by the parish clergy - Hieromonk Kirill (Porubayev) and Rev. Alexy Maksimov, as well as Deacon Rustic Chopenok who came from Milan.

The liturgical hymns were sung by the choir conducted by precentor Ms. M. Korlyakova.

Among the worshippers were A. A. Avdeyev, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Russia to the Vatican, and Rev. Jaromir Zadrapa, a staff member of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity.

The Liturgy was followed by a thanksgiving to St. Catherine and a festive procession with a cross, after which the archpastor blessed an Icon of St. George the Conqueror executed for the patronal feast through the care of benefactors of the church.

Addressing the worshippers after the service, Metropolitan Anthony warmly greeted them on the feast and delivered a sermon.

With a blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, the hierarch presented the Medal of Glory and Honour to Prof D. K. Adzarro in acknowledgement of his contribution to the development of inter-Christian dialogue.

After that, a festive reception took place at the parish refectory, during which Metropolitan Anthony continued his fellowship with clergy and laity, reports the website of the Church of St. John the Baptist-in-Presnya.

Source: https://mospat.ru/en/news/89854/