



## Diocesan assembly and pastoral conference of the Diocese of Berlin and Germany are held in Neuss



**DECR Communication Service, 07.10.2024.**

On October 3-4, the annual diocesan assembly and pastoral conference of the Diocese of Berlin and Germany took place in Neuss, North Rhine-Westphalia.

Attending the event, chaired by Archbishop Tikhon of Ruza, head of the Diocese of Berlin and Germany, were clergymen of the diocese and delegates from parishes.

On October 3, all the saints who shone forth in the land of Germany were commemorated. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Tikhon in the Church of the Holy Archangels in Neuss. He was

assisted by an assembly of diocesan clergy. Praying at the service were participants in the meeting who have come from different German cities.

The first session of the diocesan assembly took place in the church after the Liturgy. Archbishop Tikhon addressed those gathered with a report on the life and activities of the diocese in 2023-2024. Hegumen Maxim (Schmidt), secretary of the diocesan council, and archpriest Mikhail Dronov, chairman of the diocesan court, presented reports on the activities of these structures. At the end of the session, Archbishop Tikhon answered questions from participants.

At the second session, Rev. Yevgeny Murzin of the diocesan information department presented a report entitled "The First Ecumenical Council: History, Significance, and Relevance." Rev. Maxim Yudakov, a cleric of the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Berlin, presented a program of diocesan events which will take place next year to mark the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. A discussion followed the diocesan website reports.

On October 4, Archbishop Tikhon and the diocesan clergy celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the church of the Holy Archangels.

The service being over, a pastoral conference took place. Presenting reports were archpriest Boris Ustimenko from Magdeburg, dean of the Northern District, on "Practical psychology in the Orthodox diaspora"; archpriest Viktor Savik from Berlin on "A priest on pilgrimage. Main directions and shrines in Western Europe"; archpriest Vladislav Dikhanov from Lahr on "Confession and Repentance"; and Rev. Andrei Mololkin from Essen on "Catechesis before Baptism as a pastor's important responsibility." A discussion followed. At the end of the meeting, Archbishop Tikhon thanked Rev. Alexander Svinin, rector of the church of the Holy Archangels, and his assistants for organizing the event.

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/92323/>