Patriarchal Exarch for Western Europe celebrates Divine Liturgy in Bari on Saint Nicholas' Day



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On 19th December, the day of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, with the blessing of His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia the Patriarchal exarch for Western Europe the metropolitan of Chersonesus and Western Europe Nestor celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the church which houses the relics of the famous saintly bishop of Myra in Lycia in the Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari.

Concelebrating with metropolitan Nestor were: the bishop of Bogorodsk Ambrosius, auxiliary to the Patriarchal exarch for Western Europe and archpriest Vyacheslav Bachin, rector of the Patriarchal metochion of Saint Nicholas in Bari, as well as many priests from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Italy.

The hymns for the service were sung by the choir of the Saint Nicholas Patriarchal metochion in Bari and the youth choir of the diocese of Cherepovets. The service was conducted in Church Slavonic, Moldovan and Italian.

Attending the service were the Russian ambassador to Italy and San Marino A Paramonov, the honorary consul of Russia in Apulia Michele Bollettieri and honorary consul of Belarus to Apulia Alessandro Adriani, reports the website of the diocese of Chersonesus.

Praying at the serviced were parishioners and numerous pilgrims, most of whom received holy communion.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy the Patriarchal exarch delivered a sermon to those gathered in the basilica in which he congratulated all on the occasion of Saint Nicholas' Day.

Later, in the crypt of the basilica a prayer service was held by the bishops and clergy before the precious relics of Saint Nicholas.

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