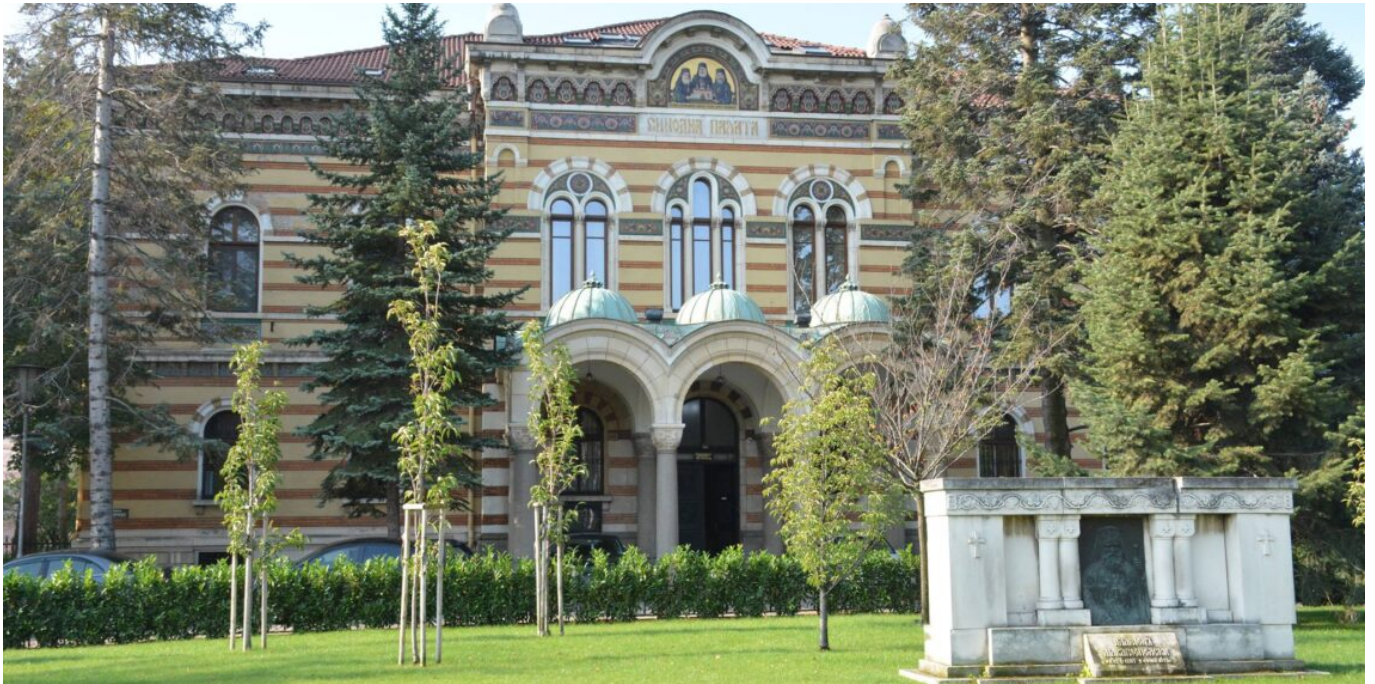


Holy Synod of Bulgarian Patriarchate elects Metropolitan of Vratsa as Vice-President



The Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church has unanimously elected His Eminence Metropolitan Grigory of Vratsa as its temporary vice-president. In addition to this role, Metropolitan Grigory will also oversee the Metropolis of Sofia until the election of a new Patriarch, who is also the Metropolitan of Sofia.

This decision comes after His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolai of Plovdiv announced his decision not to participate in the succession procedure for the Throne of the Patriarchate of Bulgaria. In a special address to the clergy and laity, Metropolitan Nikolai expressed concerns about media intrigues surrounding the succession process following the burial of the late Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria. As a result, he declared that he does not wish to be considered as a candidate for the patriarchal throne by the Holy Synod.

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