A hierarch of Church of Cyprus makes pilgrimage to St. Petersburg



From 16th to 23rd August 2019, Bishop Nikolaos of Amathous, leading a group of clergymen and laypeople of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus, made a pilgrimage to the holy sites of the St. Petersburg metropolia and the Valaam Island.

On 18th August, Bishop Nikolaos and the clerics accompanying him concelebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Novodevichy Convent of the Holy Resurrection in St. Petersburg. Officiating at the divine service was Metropolitan Varsonofy of St. Petersburg and Ladoga.

After the Liturgy Metropolitan Varsonofy warmly greeted Bishop Nikolaos and the group of pilgrims accompanying him, saying, "You are undertaking a pilgrimage to our holy sites. We often visit Cyprus and pray at your shrines. Glory be to God, we have close friendly relations. We are one Orthodox Church. Let us strengthen our relations, striving to follow and not deviate from the canons of the Church. Then no storms will be able to sink the church ship."

Bishop Nikolaos expressed his joy over the shared prayer, saying in particular, "At this time of hardship that we are undergoing now it is necessary to emphasize the fact that we are members of the One Holy Catholic Apostolic Orthodox Church."

• Source: <u>DECR Communication Service</u>