05/12/2025

A quiet forest chapel in Elbasan honours Saint Barbara with deep devotion

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In a tiny chapel hidden within a forest near Elbasan, Albania—dedicated to Saint Barbara—the faithful gathered to celebrate her feast day in an atmosphere of profound stillness and reverence.

A priest, a deacon, and a small group of worshippers participated in the Divine Liturgy, surrounded by a winter landscape. The yellow leaves scattered across the ground and the bare trees created a serene and almost mystical setting for the celebration.

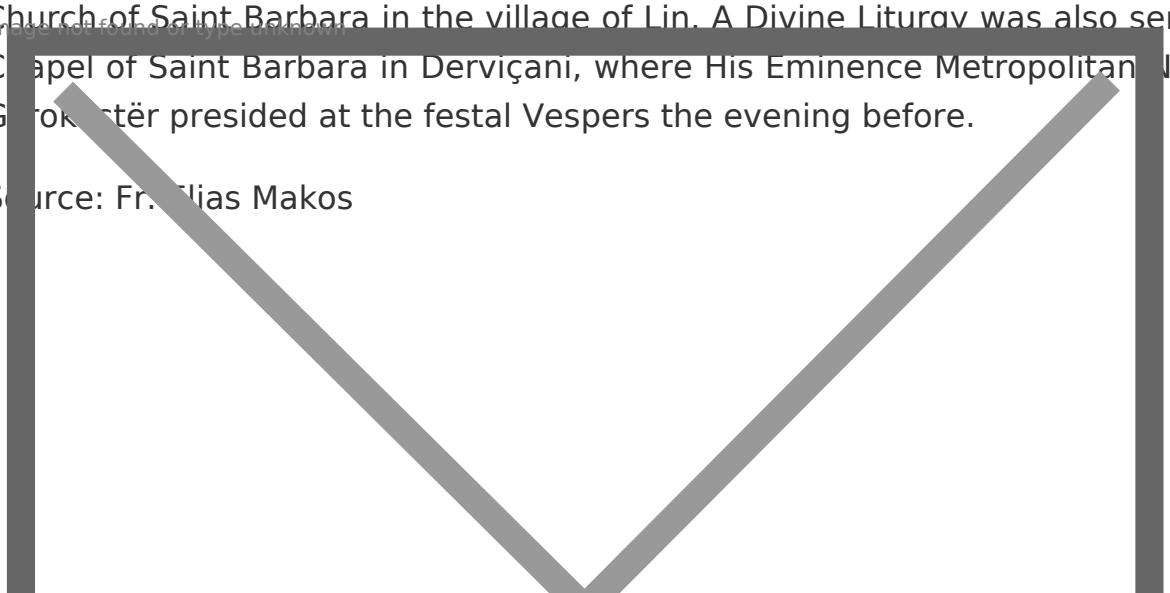
Amid the silence of the forest, the hymns and prayers seemed to rise directly toward heaven. Everyone present felt a deep sense of peace, as if nature itself were joining in the prayer.

For brief moments, their thoughts turned to the life of Saint Barbara—her spiritual freedom from passions, her humility as a means of communion with God, her love that overcame enmity. These virtues were not abstract ideals for her but lived realities, culminating in the glory of martyrdom.

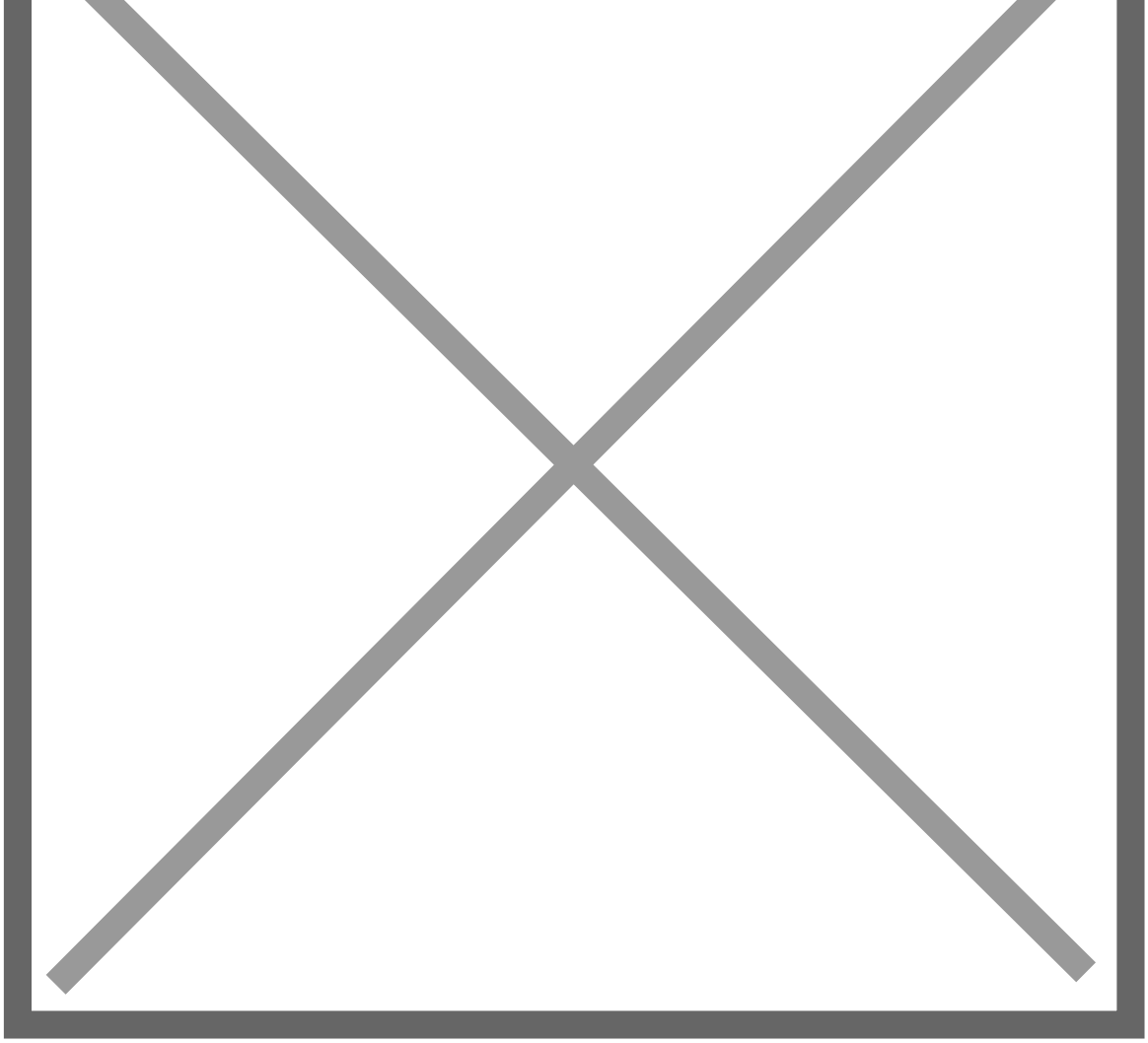
When the Divine Liturgy ended, something remained within them. What they experienced in that small forest chapel—imploring the wonderworking Saint Barbara for her light, looking up through the tall trees toward the grey sky—stayed in their hearts like a lamp quietly burning.

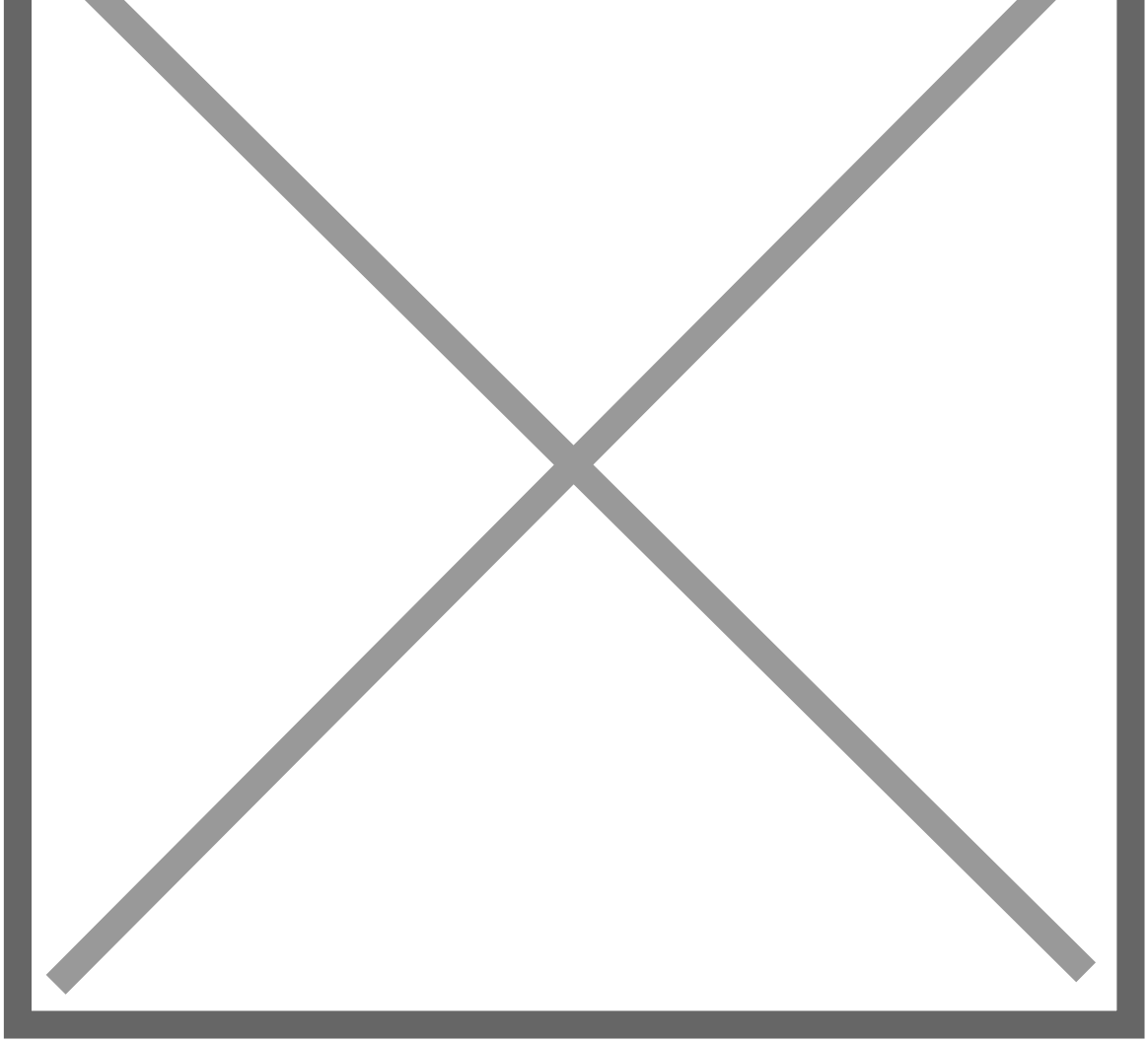
Elsewhere, His Eminence Metropolitan John of Korça celebrated the feast in the Church of Saint Barbara in the village of Lin. A Divine Liturgy was also served at the Chapel of Saint Barbara in Derviçani, where His Eminence Metropolitan Nathaniel of Gjirokastër presided at the festal Vespers the evening before.

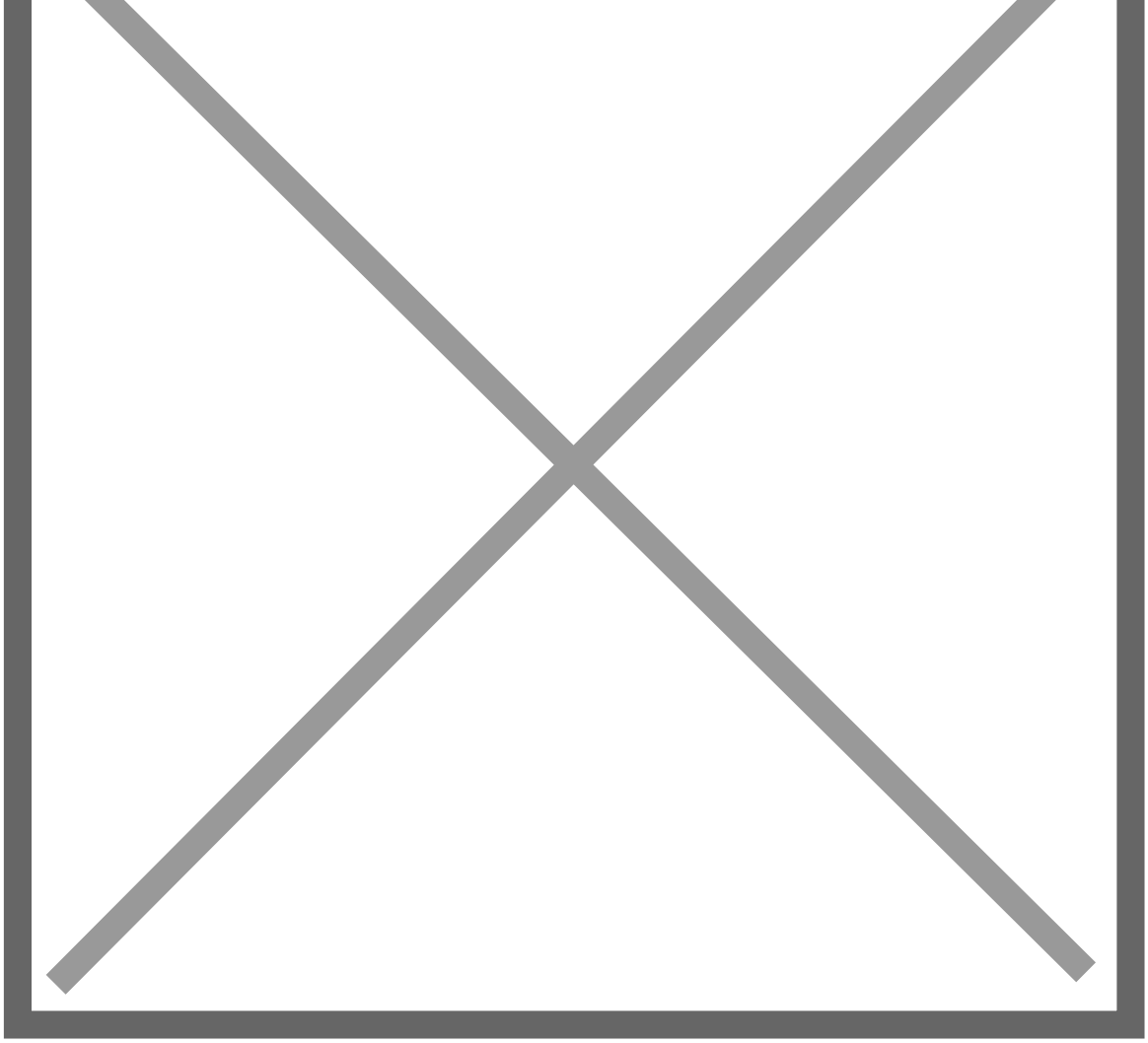
Source: Fr. Elias Makos











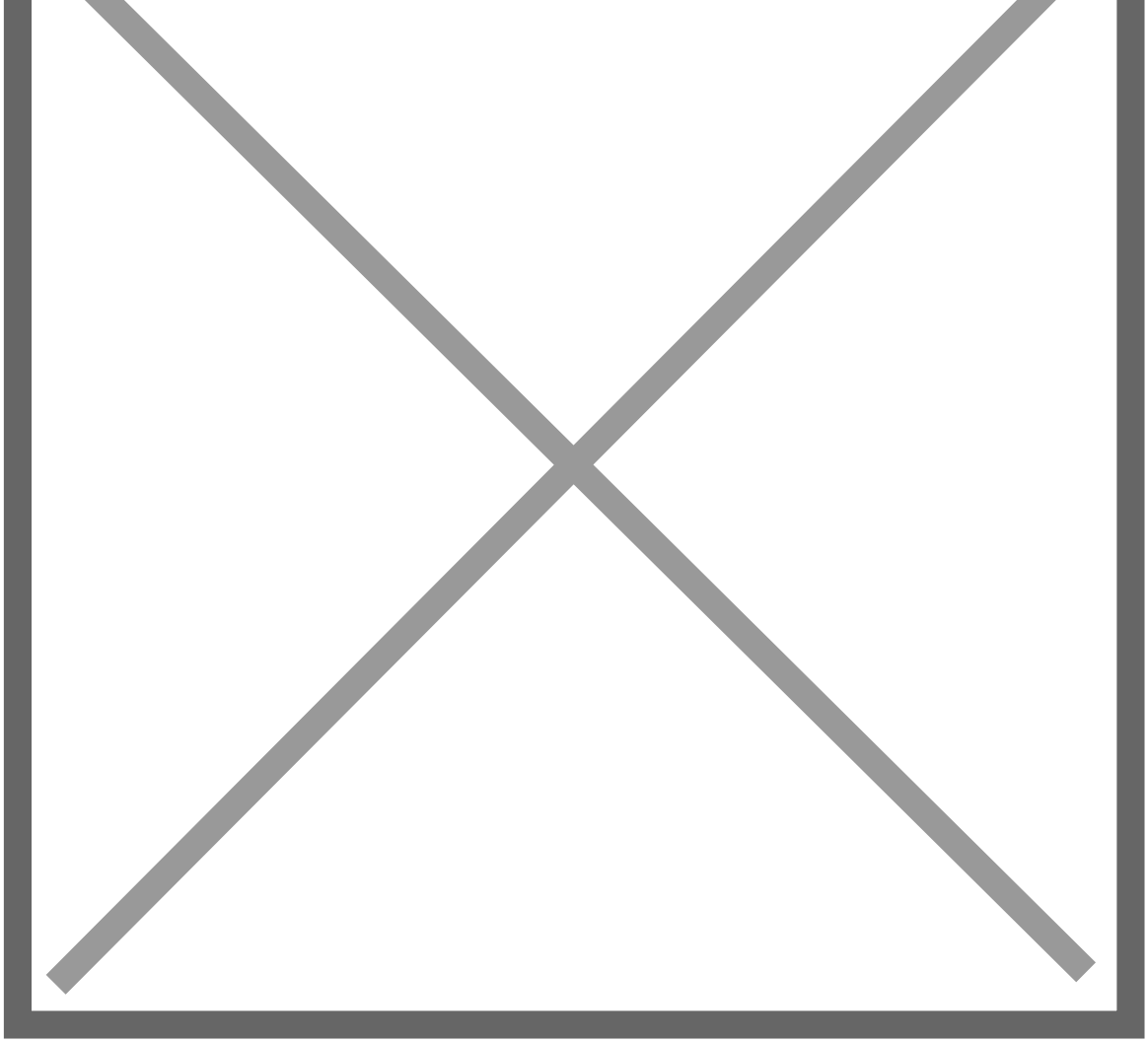
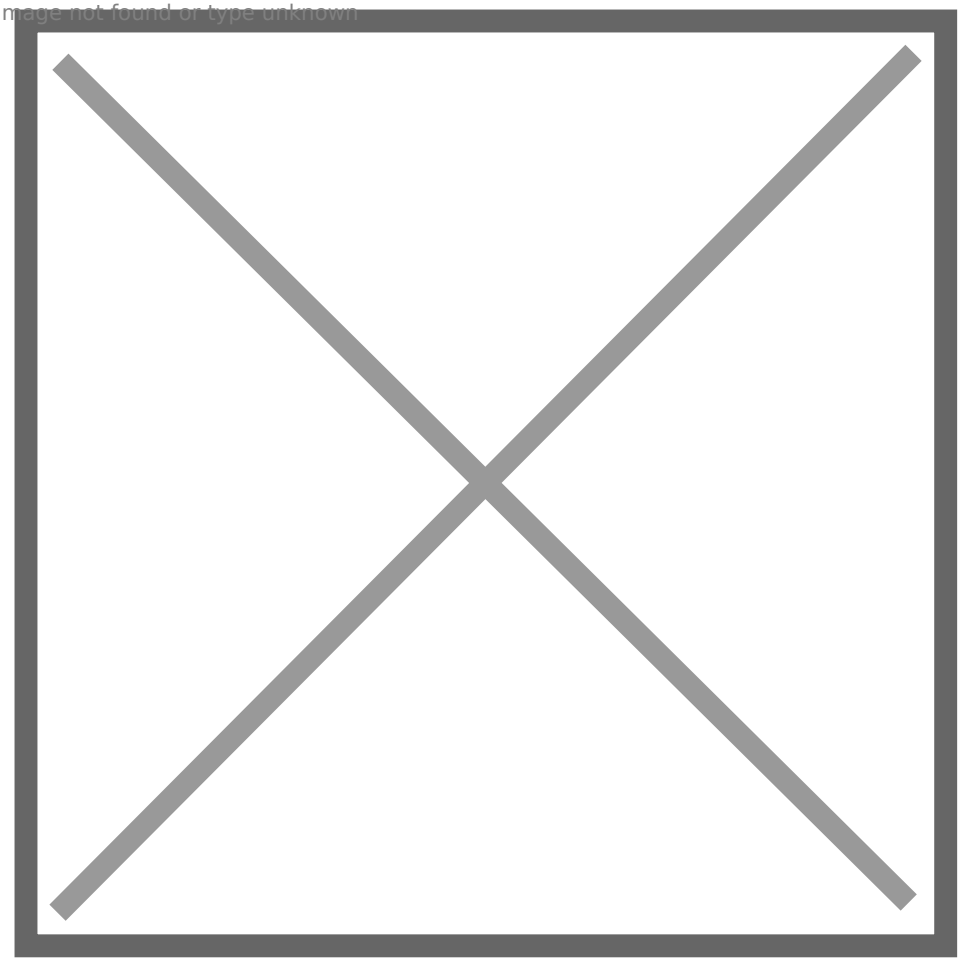


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