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Archbishop Ieronymos calls for cooperation to deal with attempts to separate Church and state in Greece



The Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, His Beatitude Ieronymos, on Thursday expressed his grave concern over the future prospect of a separation of Church and state in the predominately Eastern Orthodox nation of 11 million residents.

His Beatitude spoke after an archieratical Divine Liturgy at the Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, which is located the northern Athens district of Penteli, below Mt. Penteli, on the occasion of the feast day of St. Photios the Great, a 9th Century Patriarch of Constantinople.

Archbishop Ieronymos referred to a need for cooperation, saying the latter is imperative for resolving issues dealing with education and the spectre of a separation of Church and state, “which we see coming, even if we are loath to accept it.”

In commenting after an address by theology professor Christos Karakolis, His Beatitude also forecast that the issue of religion classes in public schools will again resurface.

The comments and addresses came during the annual joint session of the Holy Synod and theology professors of the Athens and Thessaloniki universities convened at the Church of Greece's Inter-Orthodox Center, which is located within the monastery.

St. Fotios is the patron saint of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece's Holy Synod.

Read also: Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece venerates memory of St. Photios the Great – (PHOTOS)