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Elder Archimandrite Ephraim: Pandemic not a chance event, but a sign of the times



“The pandemic is not a chance event, it is a sign of the times; it’s the product of divine indignation ,” Elder Archimandrite Ephraim, the Abbot of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi, warned early Saturday morning, after the conclusion of an all-night vigil at the Holy Monastery.

All of Mount Athos’ monasteries held all-night vigils and litanies of Holy Relics overnight in prayer and supplication for a delivery from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic across the globe.

In addressing the monastery’s Elders, the Abbot of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi said this current ordeal is a product of divine indignation, given that man today favors an unnatural way of life.

“Our Panaghia, the Cincture of the Theotokos, which we inserted into the hymnology of the all-night vigil as the first canon, we have always known of Her presence during outbreaks of cholera and plagues, and we know this from the archives we found, as well as from our personal revelation – that She is present,” Elder Archimandrite Ephraim said, adding:

“Our faith; our strength; our light is Christ”.

In referring to recent debate concerning measures to reduce exposure to the coronavirus, the Elder Ephraim said statements about partaking in the Divine Liturgy are being circulated by impious people, as the Divine Liturgy does not transmit diseases, as claimed by the impious.

“…However, the fact that the state closed our cathedrals temporarily should not be inferred as an effort by the state to oppose our faith, but as a temporary measure for the protection of the faithful…” he said.