

Church of Crete: No basis for discussion or dialogue concerning Holy Communion



Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Church of Crete this week issued an encyclical categorically stating that the sacrament of the Holy Communion is non-negotiable.

In the unanimously issued statement, the Church of Crete hierarchs reiterated that the all-holy sacrament is based on centuries-long ecclesiastical tradition, and that the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ can never be considered as a source of transmission of any disease. As such, for the Church there is no basis for discussion or dialogue.

The same issue, namely, efforts by some quarters to defame or even prohibit the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, using the coronavirus pandemic as a pretext, is generating concern among the faithful throughout Europe.

Authorities in Germany and Luxembourg continue to forbid the use of the Holy liturgical chalice in the sacrament.

In a statement, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Belgium and Exarchate of the Netherlands and Luxembourg underlined that after the Luxembourg government's decision, it has no alternative but to instruct parishes not to offer the Holy Communion during Divine Liturgies to worshipers, with only officiating priests partaking in the sacrament.

On his part, the Metropolitan of Germany, His Eminence Augoustinos, emphasized that "... it is with deep pain that I must inform you that, until the expiration of the relevant legal restrictions, and while we can all attend services, we will not be able, however, to partake in the Holy Communion, except for officiating clerics."