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Metropolitan of Corfu Nektarios welcomes group of Serbian pilgrims; reminds of fraternal, historical bonds between Ionian island and Serbian nation



The Metropolitan of Corfu, Paxos and the Diapontian Isles, His Eminence Nektarios, on Tuesday referred to the fraternal and historical bonds connecting the Serbian people with the large Ionian Island of Corfu, while receiving a group of Serbian pilgrims who arrived to venerate the Holy Relics of St. Spyridonas, the patron saint of the island, and to pay their respect at the graves of their ancestors. Tens of thousands of Serbian officers and servicemen avoided encirclement by the Central Powers and marched through Albania in the winter of 1915 towards the Adriatic coast, where they were evacuated by Entente ships to Corfu to regroup.

His Eminence underlined to the pilgrims the joy of the local Metropolis for their visit, reminding of Corfu's hosting of the Serbian government-in-exile, a large portion of the heroic Serbian army and thousands of civilians during WWI, as well as a common Orthodox faith and tradition, along with historical ties during the grim years of Ottoman occupation.

His Eminence also conveyed, through the members of the group, his respect and love for the Patriarch of Serbia, His Holiness Porfirije, a Primate, whom he said, on of the



