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Archbishop of Ohrid Stefan: Correspondence pending with Ecumenical Patriarchate over preparation for granting of Tomos of Autocephaly



The Metropolitan of Skopje and Archbishop of Ohrid, His Beatitude Stefan, over the weekend referred to the latest developments dealing with the Archbishopric, or Archdiocese of Ohrid, in the wake of a landmark restoration of its canonical status last spring by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, followed by the swift resumption of eucharist communion with the world's Orthodox Churches.

In an interview with local media in the Republic of North Macedonia, His Beatitude said the upcoming period will witness the exchange of correspondence with the Mother Church of Constantinople, towards preparation for the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the latter to the former.

As widely known and underlined, only the Ecumenical Patriarchate can grant the Tomos, based on the sacred canonical order Orthodoxy, the direct ecclesiastical successor of the Apostles.

Archbishop Stefan added, in reference to the “name issue, that the Archdiocese of Ohrid has no jurisdictional claims against any other fraternal Church, while noting that “...the name of the Church never expresses a nationality.”

The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate last May proceeded with the recognition of the previously breakaway and non-canonical Orthodox Church in the Republic of North Macedonia, under the name of Archdiocese of Ohrid, while making clear that the term “Macedonian” and any other derivative of the word are excluded from its official title.

The Republic of North Macedonia lies due north of the Greek province of Macedonia, the latter being the land that approximates to the ancient Macedonian Kingdom and comprising more than half of geographical Macedonia.