

Roman Catholic Pope received by Bulgarian Church's Holy Synod; Patriarch Neophyte: No compromise in matters of faith



Roman Catholic Pope Francis on Sunday visited the Bulgarian Orthodox Patriarchate in Sofia, where he was received by the Patriarch of Bulgaria, His Holiness Neophyte, and hierarchs of the Bulgarian Church's Holy Synod.

Members of the Bulgarian Church's Holy Synod had previously decided not to participate in official events in honor of the visiting Primate of the Roman Catholic Church, reminding that the invitation towards Francis to visit the country was extended by the Bulgarian government.

In his statement, His Holiness Neophyte referred to Francis' desire to meet with the Holy Synod as an "expression of respect" towards the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Neophyte also touched on the nearly 1,000-year schism between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches, emphasizing that "the life of the Church is guided by Jesus Christ. If God allows something to occur, He knows why, and awaits for us to

understand. We, the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, are convinced that there can be no compromise in matters faith.”