

03/06/2019

BISHOP OF GREEK CHURCH RECEIVES NEW GREEK BISHOP OF UKRAINIAN SCHISMATIC CHURCH



Archimandrite Epiphanius (Dimitriou), formerly a cleric of the Demetrias and Almyros Diocese of the Greek Orthodox Church, was consecrated as a “bishop” for the Ukrainian schismatic church on May 26 to serve in Olbia, tasked with working with Greek-speakers in Ukraine.

Fr. Epiphanius was reportedly released by his hierarch His Eminence Metropolitan Ingatius of Demetrias and Almyros of the Greek Orthodox Church, although the Greek Church has not recognized the so-called “Orthodox Church of Ukraine” (OCU) as a legitimate Church. The Metropolis of Demetrias and Almyros has not yet responded to OrthoChristian’s inquiry about this information.

Immediately following his consecration, “Bishop” Epiphanius visited hierarchs of other Local Churches. On May 28, he traveled to Istanbul to meet with Patriarch Bartholomew and receive his blessing for his future ministry, reports Romfea. Pat. Bartholomew created the OCU together with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and is head of the only Local Church that recognizes the schismatics in Ukraine.

A few days later, Epiphanius traveled to Fthiotida, Greece where he was received by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Fthiotida of the Greek Church, which, recall, does not recognize the OCU.

Epiphanius, who comes from the village of Komninas in Fthiotida and was ordained to the diaconate by the former Metropolitan of Fthiotida, was warmly welcomed by Met. Nicholas at his office at the cultural-administrative center of the holy Metropolis, reports the Metropolis’ website.

Met. Nicholas wished Epiphanius a long and healthy episcopacy of ministering to the Greeks living in Ukraine with God’s help.

Note that the vast majority of the Greeks living in Mariupol and the surrounding areas are parishioners of the canonical Ukrainian Church under His Beatitude Metropolitan Onuphry of Kiev and All Ukraine.

Met. Nicholas also gave Epiphanius a Panagia in memory of his visit.

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