

Pastoral and Missionary Visit to Australia and New Zealand

By the Grace of God, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone made another pastoral visit, with synodal approval, to Australia and New Zealand, acting in his capacity as *Locum Tenens* of our Diocese and Exarchate in these countries, following the repose of His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales († September 22, 2010 [Old Style]).



On Sunday, October 25, 2010 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose liturgized at the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, in Beaumaris, Melbourne, together with the Church's Rector, Father Stylianos Papadopoulos, with Greek Orthodox faithful in attendance.

On Monday, October 26 (Old Style), the commemoration of the Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-Gusher, His Grace liturgized at the spacious and beautiful Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Stephen of Dečani, in Carrum Downs, Melbourne, with its Rector, Father Zvonimir Jović. Following a decision by its Board of Directors, this Church joined our Holy Synod a few months ago, together with its Rector, who hails from Serbia.



In the same city, His Grace had a friendly meeting with Hieromonks John (Smelic) and Andrew (Erastov), who belong to our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under Metropolitan Agafangel.

On Tuesday, October 27 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose went to New Zealand to visit our small Orthodox community in that country. On Thursday, October 29 (Old Style), he celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Auckland, with its Rector, Father Paul Vermaak.

His Grace returned to Australia on Friday, October 30 (Old Style).

On Sunday, November 1 (Old Style), he celebrated the Patronal Feast of the Church of the Holy Unmercenar-ies, in Dulwich Hill, Sydney, with many Greek Orthodox faithful in attendance.



On Thursday, November 5 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose went to Canberra, the capital of Australia. The following day, he celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Archpriest Dragan Saracevic (the serving Priest in Canberra), Father Zvonimir Jović (from Melbourne), and Protodeacon Basil Yakimov (ROCA) at the Monastery of St. Sava, Archbishop and Enlightener of Serbia, which is also known as “New Kalenic.” The mon-



astery’s striking, beautiful, and enormous *Katholikon* is the largest Orthodox Church in Australia.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Ambrose presided at the first regular Assembly of the newly-formed legal entity of our Exarchate in Australia, in which representatives of our various communities took part. During this important meeting, the draft of the Constitutional Principles of the Legal Entity—regarding which Charter our Holy Synod had been informed during



the Regular Annual Convocation of its Hierarchy last month—was approved, following certain minor changes and improvements.

On Friday, November 7 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose went to the Serbian Church of the Holy Great Martyr George the Trophy-Bearer, in downtown Canberra, where he worked out various matters with its

Rector, Father Dragan Saracevic, who also serves as Secretary of the Exarchate's legal entity.



On Sunday, November 8 (Old Style), the commemoration of the Holy Archangels and all the Bodiless Powers, Bishop Ambrose liturgized again at the Monastery of St. Sava of Serbia in Slavonic, and served a traditional Serbian “Slava” in honor of the Holy Angels on behalf of several families.

He then returned by road to Sydney, where, the following day, November 9 (Old Style), the commemoration of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker of Ægina, Metropolitan of Pentapolis, he liturgized at the Church of the Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian.

During this pastoral visit, Bishop Ambrose performed Baptisms, confessed many Greek Orthodox faithful, and, in general, strove to settle various pastoral and administrative matters pertaining to our parishes. It is hoped that the legal organization of the Exarchate will constitute a firm foundation for the unhindered expansion of its confessional and missionary work.

On Wednesday, November 11 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose returned to Greece, following the completion of yet another blessed pastoral and missionary visitation.

