



# HOLY DIOCESE OF GLDANI GEORGIA



## ■ Auspicious developments

## Pastoral Visit to the Blessed Country of Georgia April 6-12, 2018 (Old Style)



**B**y the **Grace** of our Lord and the Protection of the Theotokos Portaitissa and of St. Nina, Equal-to-the-Apostles, with the blessing of our Holy Synod, we were once again vouchsafed to visit the blessed country of Georgia, in our capacity as *Locum Tenens* of the Holy Diocese of Gldani.

From April 6 to 12, 2018 (Old Style), we had the opportunity to communicate with our Small Flock, in a warm spiritual atmosphere of love in Christ and resurrectional joy. We tasted the traditional hospitality of our Georgian brethren together with our fellow-laborers from Greece, Father Jiří Ján and Subdeacon Christos Katsoudas.

Our program was similar to our previous visits: Divine Liturgies, homilies, catechetical discussions at our various parishes, monasteries, and communities (Church of the Panagia Portaitissa, Church of the Ascension of our Lord, the Brotherhood of the Precious Cross at Zedazeni, and the Hesychasterion of the Prophet Anna). We also made a number

of pilgrimages to the holy places of Georgia.

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**Two aspects** of our visit were of especial significance, evincing the progress of our Holy Synod's witness in blessed Georgia:

**1.** The monastic Sisterhood of the Hesychasterion of the Holy Prophet Anna, under the Reverend Mother Nina, has definitively, fully, and unconditionally joined our Holy Synod.



This heroic Sisterhood, in an irenic, meek, and prayerful spirit, has completely rejected the deviation of ecumenism, and that with astonishing self-sacrifice. Reckoning nothing of greater value than Orthodox Confession, they left the Patriarchate of Georgia and established a new Hesychasterion dedicated to St. Anna.

In Teleti, Tbilisi, on April 11, we celebrated the *Thyranoxia*, or "Opening of the Doors," and the first Divine Liturgy at the Hesychasterion's chapel dedicated to the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women. In all that followed, the resurrectional and renewing Grace of the Holy Spirit was clearly manifest.

**2.** That evening, we had a three-hour discussion with representatives of a large group of faithful that have broken communion with their schismatic authorities and are turning to our Holy Synod.

The discussion, held in a spirit of love, peace, and understanding, was very edifying and hopeful, and will be continued, God willing, during our visit to Tbilisi in August.



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**May** our Lord, the Only Lover of mankind, overlook our sins, and inspire and strength-

en us in our ministry of love, reconciliation, and unity, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, to the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

April 13/26, 2018  
† St. Martin, Pope of Rome,  
† *Metropolitan Cyprian of  
Oropos and Phyle*



