



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

June 27, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy
of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Dear Fathers,

I pray this letter finds you all well, both physically and spiritually, experiencing all of our Lord's heavenly blessings.

I am sending you, in the attachment below, a clarification in both Greek and English to the official Communiqué of June 25, 2020 issued by His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod. Both the first Communiqué as well as the attached clarification are to be read tomorrow, Sunday, June 28, 2020 from the pulpit.

Additionally, please note that to those parishes which are live streaming the Divine Liturgy, you are to live stream the entire service and at no point, especially during the distribution of Holy Communion, is the camera to be moved, tilted away, or turned off in order to obscure any part of the Divine Service.

Praying that our loving Lord continues to bless each of you and your ministries, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

† EVANGELOS
Metropolitan of New Jersey

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟ
Γραφείο Τύπου και Επικοινωνίας

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ

Το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο με αφορμή ερωτήσεις σχετικά με το αν «ευλόγησε» ή όχι τη χρήση πολλαπλών ή μιας χρήσεως λαβίδων κατά τη μετάδοση της Θείας Μεταλήψεως στους πιστούς, επαναλαμβάνει ό,τι αναφέρεται και στο ανακοινωθέν της Αρχιεραμματος της Αγίας και Ιερας Συνόδου της 25ης τρ.μ. Ιουνίου:

«Ὡς πρὸς τὸν τρόπον μεταδόσεως τῶν ἀχράντων Μυστηρίων εἰς τοὺς πιστοὺς, ἡ Ἐκκλησία, σεβομένη τὴν Ἱεράν Παράδοσιν, τὴν συνυφασμένην ἀρρήκτως μετὴν καθ' ἡμέραν ἐκκλησιαστικὴν πρακτικὴν καὶ κενωτικὴν ἐμπειρίαν, διακρατεῖ τὰ ἀπὸ αἰώνων καὶ μέχρι σήμερον ἰσχύοντα, ὡς φύλαξ καὶ φρουρὸς ἀνύστακτος τῶν παραδοθέντων ὑπὸ τῶν Ἀγίων Πατέρων, καὶ οὐδεμίαν ἀνάγκην εὐρίσκει δι' ἀλλαγὴν τοῦ τρόπου τούτου καὶ μάλιστα ὑπὸ τὴν πίεσιν ἐξωγενῶν παραγόντων.»

Ἡ οποιαδήποτε, λοιπόν, ἐκκλησιαστικὴ οικονομία, ἀσκεῖται μόνον ὅταν συντρέχουν οἱ δυο ἰκανές καὶ ἀναγκαῖες συνθήκες:

α) νὰ ὑπάρχει ἀπὸ τὸν νόμο τοῦ κράτους κάποια ἀπαγόρευση σχετικά μετὰ τὴ θεία λατρεία λόγω τῆς πανδημίας, καὶ β) ὕστερα ἀπὸ τὴ σύμφωνη γνώμη καὶ τὴν πρὸς τούτο ἄδεια τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας Κωνσταντινουπόλεως. Πάντως δὲν ἀφορᾷ στὴν ἀλλαγὴ τοῦ τρόπου μεταδόσεως, πολλῶ δε μάλλον στὴ χρήση πολλαπλῶν ἢ μίας χρήσεως ἁγίων λαβίδων.

26 Ἰουνίου 2020

Ἀπὸ τὸ Γραφεῖο Τύπου καὶ Επικοινωνίας
τοῦ Οικουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
Press Office and Communications

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ecumenical Patriarchate, prompted by questions regarding whether or not it has “blessed” the use of multiple or disposable communion spoons during the distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful, reiterates that which is already stated in the Communiqué of the Chief Secretariat of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the 25th of this June:

“As to the mode of distributing the undefiled Mysteries to the faithful, the Church, respecting Holy Tradition, which is inextricably interwoven with Her daily ecclesiastical practice and kenotic experience, retains those things that are valid from time immemorial and unto the present day, as a guard and vigilant watchman of those traditions handed down by the Holy Fathers, and finds no need for a change of this mode, especially under pressure from external factors.”

Ecclesiastical *oikonomia* of whatever kind, then, is exercised only when the two sufficient and necessary circumstances coincide:

a) that there is some prohibition by the law of the state regarding the Divine Worship because of the pandemic, and b) only after the Mother Church of Constantinople has given Her concurring opinion and permission to this effect. In any case, this does not apply to the change of the mode of distribution, much less the use of multiple or disposable holy communion spoons.

26 June 2020

From the Press Office and Communications
of the Ecumenical Patriarchate