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From: Orthodox Christian Mission Center <donotreply@blackbaud.com>

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Subject: Fr. Sergei | His Beatitude Archbishop Joan Enthroned



MISSION NEWS

Weekly Updates from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center

His Beatitude Archbishop Joan Enthroned A Historic Moment for Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania



On Saturday, March 29, the Orthodox Church of Albania celebrated a historic moment with the enthronement of His Beatitude Archbishop Joan as the new Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania. The ceremony, held at the Resurrection of Christ Cathedral in Tirana, gathered hierarchs, clergy, and faithful from across the country and around the world. The Ecumenical Patriarch was represented by His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon. Representatives from the Patriarchs of Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Russia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Georgia, and many other Churches were also in attendance.



Alongside missionaries currently serving in Albania, Orthodox Christian Mission Center Executive Director, Fr. Martin Ritsi, also attended the enthronement to offer remarks on behalf of the Mission Center. His presence underscored the strong and enduring partnership between the Mission Center and the Church of Albania, forged through decades of shared missionary work and support with the late Archbishop Anastasios, of blessed memory.



In his enthronement address, Archbishop Joan gave thanks to God and paid tribute to the faith of those who preserved the Church through persecution. Looking ahead, he outlined seven main priorities for his ministry: the preservation of Holy Tradition, the strengthening of unity within the Church, the balance between the “Gospel of the Kingdom” and the “Social Gospel,” the protection of the values of marriage and family, the preservation and promotion of interreligious coexistence in Albania, the encouragement of young people to love and remain in their homeland, and the cultivation of relationships with other Churches and religious communities.



Archbishop Joan concluded with gratitude to the Holy Synod and with a message of hope for the future, saying: *“Personally, I will try with all my might to serve the flock entrusted to me by God, always keeping in mind the Lord's words that ‘the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve’”* (MT 20:28).

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center offers heartfelt prayers for His Beatitude Archbishop Joan as he begins this sacred ministry and looks forward to continued collaboration in bringing the light of Christ to Albania and beyond.