



■ The *Small Flock* of Sweden is “orphaned”

The Repose and Funeral Service of Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis

† July 5, 2020 (Old Style)

On Tuesday, July 8, 2020 (Old Style), the funeral service of Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis of blessed memory was chanted at the Cathedral of Sts. Constantine and Helen (Holy Diocese of Stockholm), in Vårberg, a suburb of Stockholm, Sweden.



Upon learning of the repose of Bishop Johannes, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, the *Local Tenens* of the Holy Diocese of Stockholm, invited His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone to accompany him for the funeral. Bishop Ambrose had worked for many years for the consolidation of our small flock in Sweden, beginning in 1985, when Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory († 2013) inaugurated our Church's missionary endeavors in this country.

A small group from Greece accompanied the Hierarchs, departing on Monday, July 7/20, 2020, on the first flight from Greece to Stockholm following the lifting of the travel restrictions owing to the pandemic.



Following the reception of the Hierarchs at the Episcopal residence, Father Anders Åkerström showed them the recent renovations on the building.

Our two Priests, Father Anders and Fa-

ther Stefanos (Jaerpenberg), both of whom have full-time secular employment, devoted their entire annual leave to painting the exterior of the building and other renovation work on the episcopal complex, with the help of several of the faithful. On Friday, July 4/17, Bishop Johannes was informed that the work had been completed and the scaffolding removed. His Grace blessed the workers in gratitude.



One week earlier, he had also blessed the parish's most recent convert directly after her re-birth in Baptism at the Episcopal residence, and, together with her, the clergy and nuns, following a long period of isolation in his cell, owing once again to the pandemic.

On Saturday morning, July 5/18, his soul peacefully departed to the Lord, so quietly that his faithful attendant, Rafael, did not immediately perceive it.

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On Tuesday, July 8/21, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose celebrated the Divine Liturgy, which was followed by the Funeral Service for a Great-Schema Monk, chanted in Greek and Swedish.

Metropolitan Cyprian presided at the funeral, assisted by Bishop Ambrose, Fathers Anders and Stefanos, Hierodeacon Theocharis, and Subdeacon Christos Katsoudas.

Also in attendance were Mother Magdalene and Sister Lydia, of the Convent of St. Philothei (Villberga) and many faithful.

Bishop Johannes of blessed memory was deeply revered and loved by all. He had rendered the Episcopal residence a haven of consolation, catechesis, and material and spiritual support for innumerable souls, who came with gratitude to give him a final kiss and to pray together for his eternal repose.

The Hierarchs read the prayers of forgiveness and spoke about the charisms and legacy of Bishop





Johannes, emphasizing the signs of God's good pleasure in His faithful servant, the Resurrectional nature of the Service, and the certainty that the ever-memorable Bishop did not undergo death, but rather passed over to eternal union with Christ.

The Bishop's remains were then carried to the grave, located behind the exterior of the Church's Altar, the permit for which was miraculously granted years ago.

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In the following days of their sojourn in Sweden, the visitors from Greece chanted the daily services at the Episcopal residence, visited the Convent of St. Philothei and the neighboring cemetery, where an Orthodox section is being created, and also the Skogskyrkogården (Woodland Cemetery) in Stockholm, where they served Memorial Services at the graves of departed parishioners.

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During the Divine Liturgy preceding the funeral of Bishop Johannes, news arrived of the sudden death of one of his spiritual daughters, Marjo Marthin, who, together with her husband Laurence (Lärkan), had built a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph the Betrothed on their property.



Marjo's funeral service was served by Father Anders on Thursday, July 17/30, in the small Church of St. Nicholas at the Convent of St. Philothei, in Villberga. Marjo was then laid to rest near our brother and sister in Christ, Zacharias and Elizabeth, in the neighboring cemetery.



It is noteworthy that several heterodox friends and relatives in attendance appreciatively commented on the atmosphere of joyful sorrow and hope of the Orthodox funeral.

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May the Divine Founder of the Church,



through the intercessions of the Holy God-crowned Monarchs Constantine and Helen, Equals to the Apostles, and the prayers of Bishop Johannes of blessed memory, console and strengthen the clergy, monastics, and laypeople of Sweden, that they may preserve the spiritual legacy of humility, love, simplicity, and purity left by the luminous example of their spiritual Father.

*Eternal be the memory of His Grace,
Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis!*

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Biography

His Grace, Bishop Johannes (Deurloo) was born near Rotterdam, Holland, on January 31, 1930. After leaving the Dutch Reformed Church in which he had been raised, he converted to Roman Catholicism and spent a short time in a Franciscan monastery. He went on to complete a three-year program in art at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Through his study of art and exposure to Iconography, he developed a keen interest in the Orthodox Church.



After a crisis of conscience about matters of faith, he decided to forsake Roman Catholicism, and in 1965 moved to Sweden, where he met and, one year later, married his wife, Monica Johannesson. The couple subsequently had two children, and in 1973 the entire family converted to Orthodoxy. His daughter later became a nun at the Convent of St. Elizabeth, in Etna, California.

In 1976, His Grace was ordained to the Diaconate by Metropolitan Irinej of what was then the Free Serbian Orthodox Church (now reconciled to the Serbian Patriarchate). In 1977, he was made a Presbyter and later raised to the dignity of Protoperbyter. In 1985 he petitioned to be received by Metropolitan Cyprian into what was then Synod in Resistance. In 1990 he was awarded the Licentiate in Orthodox Theological Studies by the

Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies in Etna.

After the repose of his Presbytera, who in 1999, shortly before her death was tonsured to the Great Schema with the name “Parthenia,” Bishop Johannes himself embraced the monastic life and was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite. Following his election by the Holy Synod, he was consecrated Bishop on the Sunday of Cheesefare, February 27, 2000 (Old Style), with the titular See of Makarioupolis.

Bishop Johannes continued to labor indefatigably in building up the Church in Sweden. The beautiful Cathedral of Sts. Constantine and Helen, which he founded, is located in Vårberg, a suburb of Stockholm, and was completed in 1998. Its flourishing community is comprised of Swedish converts to the Orthodox Faith and Greek, Russian, Serbian, Romanian, Eritrean, and Syrian Orthodox immigrants. An accomplished iconographer, His Grace painted many of the Icons that adorn the Cathedral and for many years taught iconography.

In 2010, after falling and suffering multiple fractures to his spine, His Grace remained for the most part bed-ridden in a room adjoining the Church. Ever serene, and enduring the pains of his ailments and near immobility with admirable patience, he gave thanks to God, strengthening and consoling the faithful, who continued to visit him on a daily basis for confession, counsel, and to receive his paternal blessing.

On the morning Saturday, July 8/18, 2020, his soul departed peacefully to the Lord.

