



APOSTOLIKI DIAKONIA
OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

Reception of the True Cross
and Sacred Relics
of Aghia Eleni (St. Helena),
Equal to the Apostles



Constantinople – Venice - Athens
1700 years after
an eminent event for Europe and the soul of Greece

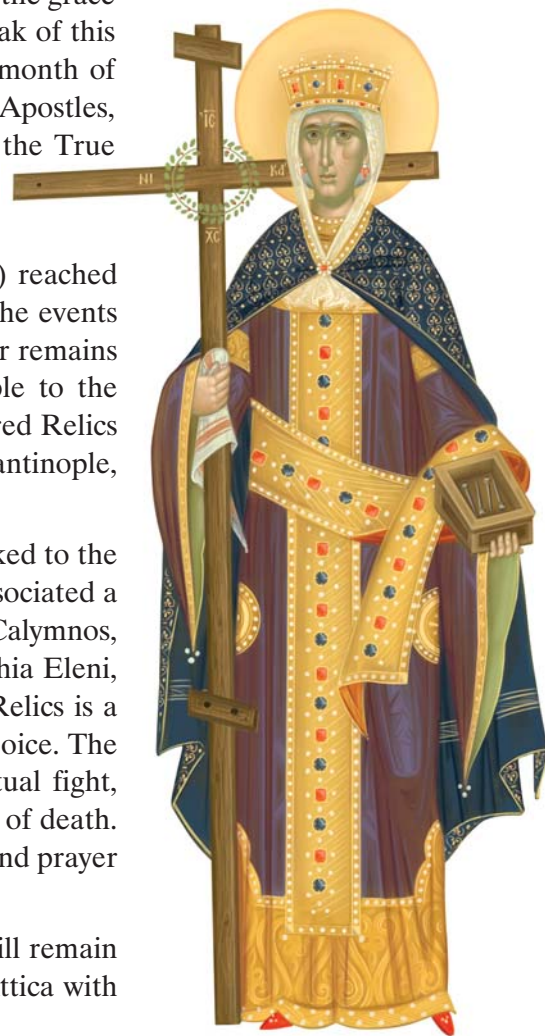
Reception of the True Cross and Sacred Relics of Aghia Eleni (St. Helena), equal to the Apostles

The Church of Greece Apostoliki Diakonia has completed, with the grace of God, 80 years of mission and offering to the world. The peak of this anniversary will be the reception with honours and splendor in the month of May of the Sacred Relics of Aghia Eleni (St. Helena), equal to the Apostles, mother of Constantine the Great, the first Christian Emperor, and the True Cross with the Holy Passion from the treasury of St. Mark's Basilica in Venice.

The Holy Shrine of Aghia Eleni (St. Helena) of Augusta (Empress) reached Venice in 1211, during the power of the Doge Pietro Ziani, as after the events following the 4th Crusades, an official, called Aicardo, transferred her remains from the Church of Agioi Apostoli (St. Apostles) of Constantinople to the Venetian monastery having her name. It is the first time that the Sacred Relics is transferred to another country after 1700 years, apart from Constantinople, where it was first buried, to Venice, where it is hosted.

Aghia Eleni (St. Helena), distinguished for her charitable work, is linked to the finding of the True Cross in Jerusalem and the Greek people have associated a multitude of traditions with her in Asia Minor, Cyprus, Rhodes, Calymnos, Tilos, Kasteloriso, Naxos, Paros. The protector of the Christians, Aghia Eleni, passed away in peace in 328 A.D. at the age of 80, and her Sacred Relics is a source of consecration, lighting and remedies and makes our souls rejoice. The Saint's face reveals us the heart of the Orthodoxy, the Saints' spiritual fight, their humiliation, their love for humanity, their transcending the fear of death. For this reason, we pray to the Saint to be the supplicant for our call and prayer and we become humble pilgrims to her graceful Sacred Relics.

The Sacred Relics of Aghia Eleni (St. Helena) and the True Cross will remain in the Pilgrimage Temple of Saint Barbara, in the Municipality of Attica with the same name (near Egaleo) from May 14 to June 15 (incl.) 2017.



The official reception will be held on Sunday, May 14, 2017, at 6.30 p.m., at the Holy Shrine of St. Barbara Attica (near Egaleo) by His Beatitude, the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, Ieronymos II.



We promote the cultural identity of Europe



For this
purpose,
we

- *get to know the Lord not cultivating a concept but a relationship;*
- *call upon the only revolution: the revolution of consciousness*
 - *go forward co-crucified and co-resurrected with Christ*
 - *are joyful with man's joy of breathing freely*
 - *resist any type of violence and fundamentalism*
 - *impart our civilization*
 - *grow as plants in the soul of Greece*
 - *share the same vision for a world of light, love and solidarity*

Four great events in which Constantine the Great and Aghia Eleni (St. Helena) played a leading role sealed Europe's history, changed and shaped, in general, the world's history:

1. The Edict of Milan in 313, granting freedom of religion and ceasing persecutions against the Christians.
2. The decision for the transfer of the Empire's capital from the Old to the New Rome, Constantinople, dedicated on 11 May 330.
3. The convocation of the first council of Nicaea in 325 which condemned Arianism.
4. The finding of the Holy Cross in the Holy Land.

The above determined the content of the world history in a unique way. Without them Europe would not have a concrete cultural heritage and the world such a powerful radiance of the Christian message of God for man. This is why the Church justifiably named them "equal to the Apostles".



We collect medicines and sanitary materials



From Sunday, May 14 to Thursday, June 15 2017,
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
at the Holy Shrine of St. Barbara, Municipality of Attica with the same name (near Egaleo),
on El. Venizelou Avenue.

The medicines and sanitary materials will be offered to the Social Pharmacies and Institutes
of Holy Metropoles and Municipalities.



The True Cross and the Sacred Relics of Aghia Eleni (St. Helena)
will be transferred by an aircraft provided by Ellinair – Mouzenidis Group
whom we warmly thank.

The work of Apostoliki Diakonia:

1936-2017: Witness of belief, love and civilization in the ecumene

● Missionary, catechetical and educational work in our country, the Hellenism of Diaspora, the missionary Churches in Africa and Asia.

More specifically:

- Dissemination of the word of God and the Holy Book
- Phrontistery for Prospective Catechists – Training Seminar for Catechists
- Missionary Seminar
- School of Learning the Greek Sign Language
- Publication of liturgical, pastoral, theological, missionary, catechetical, historical, Biblical, patristic, cultural books
- Children's books
- Monthly allowance for the native clergy in Africa and Asia
- Monthly allowance for the widows of the passed-away native clergy
- Monthly subsidy of clergy and laymen from Greece working as missionaries in Africa and Asia
- Construction and furnishing of churches, missionary facilities, schools, small hospital units
- Translation of holy sacraments and catechetical books into the local languages of the African continent
- Publication of books describing health issues and prevention and treating methods of endemic diseases in the Mission's countries
- University students' scholarships

- Internet, Digital Library "Porphyrogenitus"
- Creation of digital data repository of ecclesiastical monuments and ecclesiastical cultural heritage
- Enrichment of Libraries in Greece and Abroad
- Free books for children and young people
- "The Lord's Voice": Weekly journal of the Orthodox Church
- Diakonia Newsletter: Electronic newsletter
- Four Bookshops: Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras
- Printing House – Bookbindery's shop

● Cultural – European Programs

More specifically:

- Modern Greek Language Program at the University of Rome and Athens
- Printed material in various languages on the ecclesiastical monuments in Greece
- Scholarships for postgraduate theological schools
- Digitalization and documentation of the Historical Archive of the Church of Greece Holy Synod
- Various European programs on culture and monument restoration

● Social work

- Scholarships
- Operation of Boarding House for Greek and Foreign students

Priests who wish to visit the Holy Shrine in an organized fashion with their parish on said dates (14 May to 15 June [incl.] 2017) can participate in the Holy Sacraments by contacting us either on the phone or by e-mail (Tel.: +30 210 7272305, e-mail: internet@apostoliki-diakonia.gr). The Church will be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and the following Sacraments will be performed: Matins, Divine Liturgy, Vespers and Supplications to the Saint.

Access:

Access: Metro Line 3 (Airport – Agia Marina), Agia Marina Stop – Bus No 837 (opposite Agia Marina Metro stop) – Agia Barbara stop