



## Representatives of Local Orthodox Churches take part in divine service honouring the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers in Yekaterinburg



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On the night of July 16 to 17, the Church honors the memory of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers. The main event of the Tsar's Days took place in Yekaterinburg, namely the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the square in front of the lower side-chapel of the Memorial Church on-the-Blood, website of the Yekaterinburg Diocese reports.

The service was celebrated by Metropolitans Vikenty of Tashkent and Uzbekistan, head of the Central Asian Metropolitan District; Niphon of Philippopolis, representative of the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus'; Yevgeniy of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye; Pavel of Khanty-Mansiysk and Surgut; Alexiy of Chelyabinsk and Miass; Bishops Feodosiy of Nizhny Tagil and

Nevyansk, Feognost of Serov and Krasnoturiynsk; Roman of Rubtsovsk and Aleisk; Methodiy of Kamenka and Kamyshlov; Vladimir of Shadrinsk and Dolmatovo, Petr of Zlatoust and Satka; Stefan of Remesiana, representative of the Patriarch of Serbia to the Moscow Patriarchal Throne; and Leonty of Syzran and Shigony. They were assisted by numerous clergymen from Yekaterinburg and other dioceses.

Attending the service were archimandrite Seraphim (Shemyatovsky), representative of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia at the Moscow Patriarchal Throne, and archpriest Daniel Andreyuk, representative of the Orthodox Church in America at the Moscow Patriarchal Throne.

Praying during the service were also abbots, abbesses and monastics from different abodes who had come to honour the memory of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers.

Among the guests praying during the service were Ms. Ludmila V. Babushkina, chair of the Sverdlovsk region Legislative Assembly; Mr. Oleg L. Chemezov, vice-governor of the Sverdlovsk region; and Mr. Valery A. Chaynikov, deputy governor of the Sverdlovsk region.

Before the Liturgy, Metropolitan Vikenty, who used to head the Yekaterinburg diocese for twelve years, until July 2011, addressed the worshippers. Vice-governor Chemezov presented Metropolitan Yevgeniy with a reliquary with a part of the Belt of the Most Holy Mother of God. It was purchased by benefactors and dates back to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Italy.

Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis greeted all participants in the service and congratulated the head of the Yekaterinburg Metropolia on his Name day. He was tonsured a monk on 16 July 2016 with the name Yevgeniy in honor of the passion-bearer Yevgeniy Botkin by the then Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye, now the head of the Tatarstan Metropolia.

After the service, the several thousand strong procession with the cross, led by thee archpastors, went to the monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-Bearers at Ganina Yama. In total, about 45 thousand believers took part in the divine services on the day marking the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the spiritual feat of the holy Royal family and their faithful servants, the diocesan website reports.