



HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS
OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

No. 1859/2
June 22, 2002
in Belgrade

Your High Reverences,

With joy and brotherly love and, above all, with gratitude to God, we inform You that our address to the hierarchy, clergy, monastics and believers of the Orthodox Church in Macedonia (in schism since 1967), sent on 20 June this year (Synno. 1859), calling those who would like, on a canonical basis, to return to the communion with the Serbian Orthodox Church and, with it, with the ecumenical, Holy Orthodox Church was responded today, June 21, by His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Veles and Povardarje, kyr John. With his act no. 106 he informs Us and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church that he, together with all the clergy and people of his eparchy, accepts the liturgical and canonical unity with the Serbian Orthodox Church and with the whole orthodox ecumene and he asks to be accepted in communion.

On the basis of Our responsibility as a Primate of the Serbian Orthodox Church and on the basis of the decision of the Holy Assembly of Bishops and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church (Asno. 38/16 from May 23, 2002 and Synno. 1686/ rec.713 from June 1, 2002), we immediately informed His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Veles and Povardarje, kyr John, that we brotherly accept him in communion and in the unity of the Catholic Orthodox Church, through a liturgical communion with him in the canonical frames of our local Church. Therefore, with brotherly love we ask your High Reverences, having in mind the stated facts, to mention at the proscomidie our brother and co-officiator in Christ, His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Veles and the Povardarje, kyr John, and, when there is the opportunity and the need, you can co-officiate with him and cooperate in all the areas of the arch-pastoral responsibility and competence, in a blessed unity and for the benefit of the holy Church.

Enclosure:

1. A copy of the letter from His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Veles and Povardarje, kyr John, no. 106 from June 21, 2002.
2. Our reply to this letter Synno. 1859/1

Your High Reverences' brother in Christ,

Archbishop of Pec,
Metropolitan of Belgrade and Karlovci
and Patriarch of Serbia
+PAUL
president of the Holy Synod of Bishops