

MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS

No. 161  
6 July 2002  
Skopje

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, at its extraordinary session held on 5 July 2002, at the monastery “Holy Virgin Mary” Matka, near Skopje, considering the newly created situation in the Macedonian Orthodox Church, caused by the Metropolitan John, after a detailed discussion unanimously reached the following

**DECISION**

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, starting from 6 July 2002, suspends the Metropolitan of Povoardarje, kyr John, from his duty as an eparchial metropolitan of the Povardarje diocese. The Synod reached this Decision as he, with his unilateral joining to the “eucharistic communion and canonical unity with the Serbian Orthodox Church”, violated, broke and trod on the *Episcopal profession (oath)* with which he was obliged to keep the unity and the Constitution of the Macedonian Orthodox Church.

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, according to article 75 from the Constitution of the MOC, appoints the metropolitan John the monastery “St. Great-martyr George”, near Negotino, as a place for his permanent residence and officiation.

The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, having in mind the evangelic and fraternal love and the order of the Church, gives an opportunity to Metropolitan John to repent within 30 days and to return to the unity of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, or the Synod will act in accordance with the Church canons and rules.

Starting from 6 July 2002, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Macedonian Orthodox Church will administrate the Povardarje Diocese.

The decision is to be delivered to

- the Board of the Povardarje Diocese,
- the former Metropolitan of Povardarje, John and
- the Archives of the Holy Synod of Bishops.

President of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the  
Macedonian Orthodox Church  
Archbishop of Ohrid and Macedonia  
Stephen