



APOSTOLIKI DIAKONIA OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GREECE



*Hagia Sofia
Constantinople*



*Basilica of Saint Mark
Venice*



*Holy Shrine of Saint Varvara
Athens*

before **1000** *after*

1000
years

Constantinople - Venice

Venice - Athens

a historical celebration for the entire Orthodoxy

Reception of the Holy Relics of Saint Varvara the Great Martyr

The main scope of care of the ecclesiastical organization of the Apostoliki Diakonia of the Orthodox Church of Greece is the planning, organization and implementation of the missionary, catechetical, educational, publishing and cultural life of the Church. The effort, which has been pursued in these fields for 78 years, is enormous in Greece, the Greek Diaspora, Africa and Asia.



In 2016, the Apostoliki Diakonia will celebrate, “at God’s will”, 80 years of life, ministry and offering. The prelude to this anniversary will begin with the honor and reverence to the Holy Patroness of the Organization, Saint Varvara the Great Martyr († 4 December), who is also the Patroness of people suffering from infectious and mental diseases, the Artillery, the Navy, the Fire Brigade, mine workers and raisin producers.

Thus, in May 2015, we will welcome with honor and ecclesiastical effulgence the holy relics of Saint Varvara the Great Martyr, which is kept at the historic city of Venice, and which will remain in the Holy Shrine of Saint Varvara, at the municipality of Saint Varvara, Attica, from May 10 to 24, 2015.

The holy relics of Saint Varvara reached Venice in 1003, when the power was held by the Doge Pietro II Orseolo, during the reign of Emperor Basil II. They were translated to Venice from Constantinople by Maria Argyropoula, believed to be, as surmised from the surname, one of the sisters of Emperor Romanus III Argyrus, married to the Doge’s son, John.

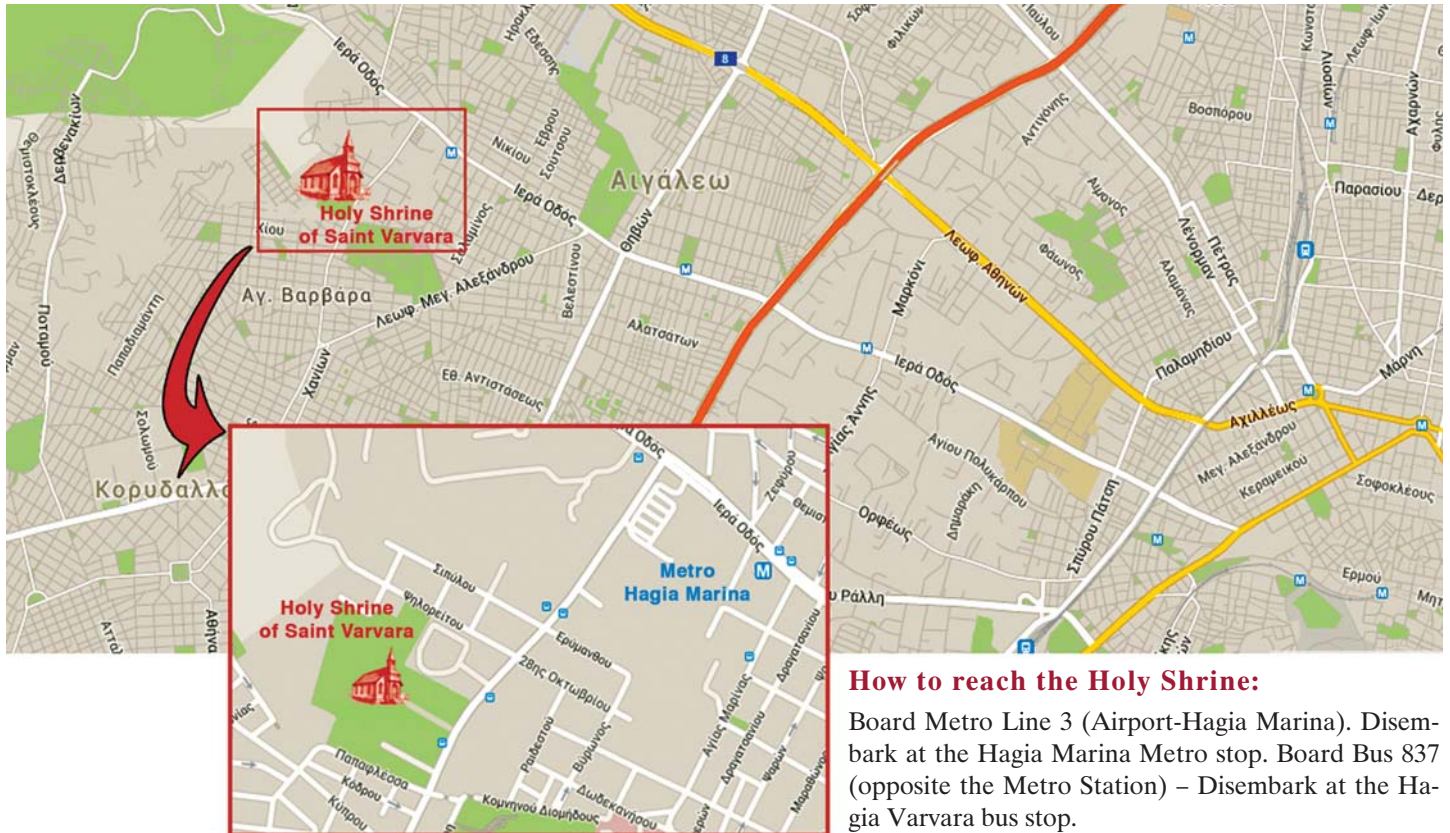
**The formal reception will be conducted by his Beatitude
the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Ieronimos
on Sunday, May 10 2015, at 18:00 hours,
at the Holy Shrine of Saint Varvara of Attica.**

The work of Apostoliki Diakonia:

A testimony to faith and culture

- **The missionary, catechetical, and educational work of Apostoliki Diakonia embraces all of Greece, the Greeks of the Diaspora, and its Outreach Mission churches in Africa and Asia.** Specifically:
 - Monthly salaries given to indigenous clergy.
 - Monthly stipend given to the widows of departed indigenous clergy members.
 - Monthly stipend given to clergy and laity members hailing from Greece and carrying out outreach missionary work in Africa and Asia.
 - Construction and outfitting of Outreach Mission churches, facilities, schools, and small hospital care units.
 - Translation of holy liturgical services and catechism reading materials in languages local to the African continent.
 - Publication of books dealing with issues of health as well as issues of preventing and combating endemic diseases in countries where the Outreach Mission performs its work.
 - Dissemination of information to and training of collaborators of Outreach Mission members.
 - Planning and organizing the events of the Outreach Mission Week.
 - Student scholarships.
 - Phrontistery of candidate Catechists – Training Phrontistery for Catechists.
 - Outreach Mission Seminary.
 - Greek Sign Language Course.
 - “Porphyrogenitus” Online Digital Library.
 - Creation of a digital database comprising ecclesiastical monuments and ecclesiastical cultural heritage.
 - Spreading the word of God and of the Holy Scriptures.
 - Enrichment of Libraries in Greece and abroad.
 - Books for children and young people free of charge.
 - “The Lord’s Voice” [Foni Kyriou]: Weekly pamphlet on the structure of Orthodoxy.
 - “All Nations” [Panta ta Ethni]: Quarterly Outreach Mission Magazine.
 - Diakonia Newsletter: Online informational periodical.
- **Publications in Greek and other foreign languages**
 - Publication of books whose contents entail pastoral, theological, missionary, catechetical, historical, Biblical, patristic, and cultural issues.
 - Liturgical Publications.
 - Children’s Books
- **Cultural – European Programs.** Specifically:
 - Modern Greek Language course taught in Athens and at a University in Rome.
 - Publication of leaflets in a range of languages on the ecclesiastical monuments of Greece.
 - Enrichment of Europeana, Europe’s online cultural library.
 - Granting of scholarships for postgraduate studies in Theology.
 - Digitalization and documentation of the Holy Archive of the Church of Greece’s Holy Synod.
 - Miscellaneous cultural-European programs.
 - Participation in “Solidarity Network” [Diktyo Alleleggyis] offering social programs to the unemployed.
- **Community work.**
 - Granting of scholarships.
 - Operation of a Student Boarding House for Greek and foreign students.

The Parishes, from Greece and abroad who wish to visit in groups the Holy Shrine in those days (from 10th to May 24th, 2015), may communicate with us by phone or by e-mail informing us, so as to arrange a small "tour", and offer them a traditional treat. (Tel. +30-210-7272.305, e-mail: internet@apostoliki-diakonia.gr). The Holy Shrine of Saint Varvara will be open to the faithful daily, from 07:00 to 20:00 hours. Services of Orthros (Matins), Divine Liturgy, Vespers and the Saint's Supplicatory Canon will be conducted daily.



How to reach the Holy Shrine:

Board Metro Line 3 (Airport-Hagia Marina). Disembark at the Hagia Marina Metro stop. Board Bus 837 (opposite the Metro Station) – Disembark at the Hagia Varvara bus stop.