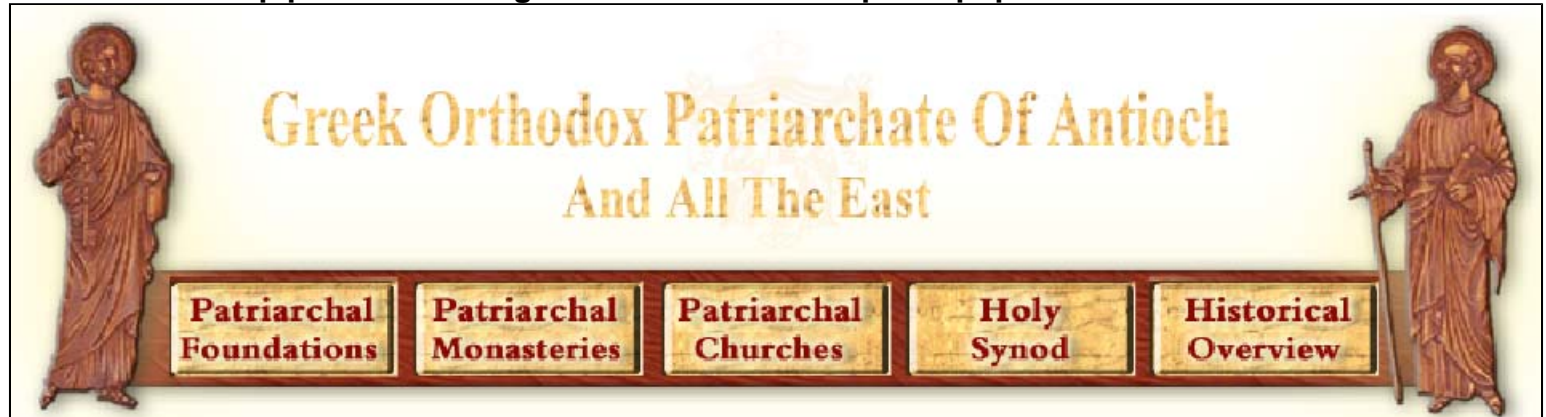


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 [News details](#)

[back](#)

Holy Antiochian Synod convened at the Patriarchate

 dtd. 15. October 2004 , 01:00 | until 1238x read



During the period (12\10 – 15\10\2004), **the Holy Antiochian Synod convened at the Patriarchate** - Damascus - , headed by Patriarch Ignatius IV, attended by Their Eminence Metropolitans: Elias Kurban (of Tripoli and Koura), Philip Saliba (of North America and Canada), Spyridon Khoury (of Zahleh and Baalbeck),

George Khodr (of Byblos, Batroun and Mount of Lebanon), Yohanna Mansour (of Latakia), Elias Audi (of Beirut), Boulos Bandali (of Akkar), Illya Saliba (of Hama), Elias Kfoury (of Tyr and Sidon), Antonio Shedrawi (of Mexico and Venezuela), Kirillos Dumat (of Argentina), Damaskinos Mansour (of San Paolo and Brazil), Saba Esber (of Bosra Horan and Arab Mount), Boulos Saliba (of Australia and New Zeland), Georges Abu Zakhem (of Homs), Boulos Yazigi (of Aleppo and Iskandarun), and

Their Grace Bishops: Elias Najm, (of Aphantia , Head of the Patriarchal Monastery of St. Elias Shuwaya), Niphon Saikaly, (of Shahba, the Patriarchal Representative to the Patriarchate of Moscow and All the Russia), Mousa Al Khoury (of Daraya), Yohanna Yazigi (of Al-Husn, Dean of St. John Damascene Institute of Theology), Basilios

Nasour, (of Tartous and Safita), Louka Khoury, (of Saydnaya), Ghattas Hazim, (of Qara), and Rev. Fr. George Dimas, Secretary of the Holy Synod.

Were absent Their Eminence : Constantine Papastephanou, (of Baghdad, Kuwait and Arabic Gulf), Sergios Abed (of Chile), Gabriel Saliby (of France and Europe).

After the opening prayer and meditation invoking the Holy Spirit's inspiration and guidance, deliberations focused on the main topic being submitted to careful study, namely the New Constitution of the Archdiocese of North America, proposed by the Special Convention General Assembly, held in July, 2004, At Pittsburgh - Pennsylvania - based on the October 2003 resolution of the Holy Antiochian Synod, granting "self-rule" to the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America...

...The Holy Synod considered with compassion and great pain the wounds of Palestine and Iraq, appealing to the Arab and foreign nations for ending the blood shedding in those countries and for the restoration of freedom, peace and security, enabling their people to contribute again in the human civilization... Feelings of the Synod fathers embraced Syria and Lebanon. Prayers were raised for the wellbeing, in dignity and prosperity, of both countries...

The Holy Synod concluded its meeting by approving continuous consultations to be held between neighbouring archdioceses, in Syria and Lebanon to facilitate common study of regional pastoral issues...Patriarch Ignatius called upon Metropolitans overseas to hold pastoral gatherings including clergy and lay people...



(The full text of this Holy Synod Statement could be read in Arabic at our website).

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