

Bulgarian Patriarchate
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the
U.S.A., Canada, and Australia

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Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph

March 21, 2015

DECISION OF THE DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL COURT
REGARDING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST
ARCHPRIEST PAISIUS DELUCIA

The Diocesan Spiritual Court met in East Syracuse, New York on March 19-21 to consider the allegations against Archpriest Paisius DeLucia, who served St. Innocent Academy in Kodiak, Alaska. Because of the allegations, Archpriest Paisius DeLucia took a leave of absence from St. Innocent Academy on February 21, 2015. The Diocese caused an investigation, which considered all allegations and letters of support that had been received by the Diocesan Chancery or produced by the investigation before the opening of the Diocesan Spiritual Court.

The Diocesan Spiritual Court considered the allegations through testimony on March 19 and 20. Archpriest Paisius attended the Diocesan Spiritual Court and was provided an opportunity to respond to all pastoral-related allegations. The proceedings were not open to the public.

Based on the report and testimony before it, the Diocesan Spiritual Court recommended actions to Metropolitan Joseph, Prelate of the Diocese. Metropolitan Joseph hereby announces the following actions:

Effective immediately, Archpriest Paisius DeLucia is deposed from his office and defrocked as a priest of the Diocese but without excommunication from the Church in accordance with Holy Scripture, Holy Canons, the Diocesan Bylaws, and the particular Bylaws of the Mother Bulgarian Orthodox Church-Bulgarian Patriarchate as detailed in Article 191.10. These actions can be appealed within the next two weeks, and is subject to approval of His Holiness Patriarch Neofit and the Holy Synod. Violations of Articles 190.11, 190.14, 190.15, 190.17, and 190.20 were demonstrated by acts including publicly shaming people, using vulgar language, unbecoming behavior while serving the Sacraments, stopping Divine Liturgy to discipline another, violating the Mystery of confession, using improper pastoral approaches towards the faithful, and more ecclesiastical violations.

Metropolitan Joseph and the Diocesan Chancery would like to thank each person who provided information concerning the allegations. For all of those who suffer and who are in need of spiritual healing, Metropolitan Joseph and the Diocesan Chancery extend their pastoral concerns and encouragement that those in need seek guidance and help. Our prayers are with you.



Metropolitan JOSEPH+
Primate of the Bulgarian Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada and Australia
Chairman of the Diocesan Spiritual Court