

A BELOVED HIERARCH OF THE CHURCH

THE CRY OF “AXIOS –WORTHY!” is proclaimed at the consecration of a Bishop to the service of God and Church. It is so today and has been for centuries. Worthy indeed was the monastic named Daniel who became a Hierarchy of the Church in the sixteenth century, and who assumed the name DIONYSIUS at the time.

He was born in 1546 on the island of Zakynthos in Greece and raised in the bosom of the Church from infancy. His parents saw to his fine education and he responded by developing a keen intellect and a proficiency in several languages. He had also learned of the emptiness of the world with its materialism and so entered a monastery after the death of his dear parents.

He had his heart set on visiting the Holy Land and praying at the sacred sites associated with the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is said that he went to Athens to book passage, but instead the Christian leaders spoke to him of the vacant episcopal see at the island of Aegina. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, He agreed and was consecrated Bishop and assumed the ranking post in the Church of Aegina. He became archbishop of the Church and was instrumental in developing great spirituality among the faithful. Indeed, pilgrims from surrounding areas came to seek his blessing and to listen to his instruction. He later returned for a time to the monastery and fell asleep in Christ in the 75th year of his life. His body is at the Church of Dionysius on Zakynthos and has been preserved intact over the centuries.