

## Arrival of the Bishop in the Church

The pastor or the protos who is carrying the cross, together with all priests present, and with the 2 deacons who are carrying the dicherion and tricherion and the censers go in the pronaos of the Church where they receive the Bishop – two by two – *one to the left and one to the right*. The archdeacon is carrying the staff and the reader is carrying the *mandiyas* – they are going to be in front of all the priests in the pronaos.

Upon the entrance of the Bishop in the Church, the bells start ringing. As the Bishop enters the Church he prays: "I will enter Your House..." and stops on the eagle rug already placed there. Meanwhile the choir sings: "Our Master and Hierarch...(several times)" During the song the Bishop helped by the priest on his left is dressing into the *mandiyas*, after which the priest who carries the cross will come to the Bishop and presents him with the cross to be kissed. The Bishop takes the cross, kisses it and gives it to the other priests and deacons to be kissed. The last to kiss the cross is the priest who carried the cross who, after he kisses the cross and Bishop's hand takes the cross from the Bishop. At this point Bishop receives the staff from the archdeacon. After this the procession starts on the main aisle towards the altar. The order in the procession is the following: candle bearers – if any – the 2 deacons with the dicherion and tricherion and the censers, then the priests – two by two, followed by the Bishop having on his right the archdeacon. When the Bishop arrives in the middle of the Church the choir starts singing: "It is truly fitting..."

Once in the front of the royal doors the Bishop gives the staff to the staff holder and starts the prayers in front of the altar, escorted by the two deacons with the dicherion and tricherion and the censers. After he finishes the prayers, standing in front of the royal doors, he receives the dicherion and tricherion from the deacons and blesses the people present while the priests and the deacons are singing: "For many years, for many years, for many years, O Master" at the end of which he gives the dicherion and tricherion back to the deacons and takes the staff back. After this the Bishop processes towards the middle of the Church where the chair is set up for him to sit, escorted by deacons and priests. Once arrived at the chair, the priest will help the Bishop to take off his *mandiyas*, *the kamilavkion* and *the rason*. He is helped by the priests to vest.