

**The Final Document**  
**of the Diocesan Jubilee Congress ‘Councils and Conciliarity’,**  
**dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Sourozh**

The Diocesan Jubilee Congress, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Sourozh, took place from 8th to 10th June 2012.

The Congress aimed to reflect on the historical heritage of the Diocese of Sourozh, consider the problems it faces at present, and discuss its future development. The Congress was attended by diocesan clergy and lay people, representatives of the parishes and communities of the Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Conciliarity, as an assembly of believers around Christ, present in the Eucharist, unites the Diocese of Sourozh, originally inspired by preaching and personal example of its first ruling bishop Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom).

The desire to remain faithful to the Mother-Church has always been characteristic of the members of the Diocese, who, at the same time, welcome everyone wishing to become Orthodox.

In spite of difficulties the Diocese of Sourozh experienced in the past, normal Diocesan life has now been restored and the structure of the Diocese organised. It has established several departments responsible for various aspects of church life. The number of parishes and communities is increasing together with the number of clergy and parishioners, and diocesan activity is expanding.

While the Eucharistic life remains at heart of the diocesan communities, the activity of the Diocese also involves other fields, which secure the church life of the faithful. Religious upbringing and education are particularly important, that is why the Diocese has parish church schools, a summer camp for children and youth groups. Care for prisoners, sick people and those in need is organized at diocesan and parish levels.

The members of the Congress are convinced in the great need of further development of all spheres of diocesan life, especially the foundation of Eucharistic communities, where parishioners receive Grace, take Holy Communion, and enter into unity with Christ and each other. Let us turn to Christ and bring to His Church thousands of people living in the territory of the Diocese. Offering thanks to God for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Diocese, let us perceive this jubilee as a calling to cleanse ourselves, open our hearts and receive the Holy Spirit. Let the Diocese of Sourozh always be the place where each of us can meet Christ, and bring others to Him.