

## Sobornal services

The All Night Vigil is usually done by one priest. However, in some places it is given to the second priest (in general the youngest) reading the Prayers of Light (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1887, 44).

In the Ustav [Typikon] there are strict instructions on the sobornal fulfillment of the All Night Vigil: "When there is a Polyeleon (in Vigil)"<sup>1</sup> "and the rector is vested in the sanctuary and all the dedicated-servers are in a phelonion by custom"; after singing the Magnification, "the Little Litany is said, and the Sessional Hymns are sung, and all the dedicated-servers enter the holy sanctuary, and remove their sacred vestments<sup>2</sup>, except holding his turn in succession the priest remains vested to proclaim the Gospel" (Ustav [Typikon] ch. 2; Priest's Service Book).

Sobornal services liturgies may be, without contradiction to the church canons, are done not only three times and more, but also with two priests (Mt. 18:19-20 Ap., 1); instructions for this is also found in the Priest's Service Book: "whether or not there are two or more priests, then they also kiss the holy things" (See Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1888, 43).

The Liturgy (and equally another way: the church service) may be made sobornal even without a deacon (Uk. St. Sin. [Ukase of the Holy Synod] 1874, IX, 23, addressed to His Eminence Plato, Archbishop of the Don)<sup>3</sup>.

**Standing order during a sobornal service.** At a sobornal service the priest certainly should give way to an archpriest (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1888, 6)<sup>4</sup>. Those not having an epigonation [nabedrennik], usually, concedes superiority to the priest awarded an epigonation [nabedrennik] etc. then the skoufos, kamilavka, Synodal pectoral cross and so forth. However, this external difference (skoufos, kamilavka, cross) cannot form the basis for superiority during a divine service over the senior according to date of ordination<sup>5</sup>, if it is not available on this subject by the special order of the local diocesan authority (Tserkovnie Vedomosti [Church News] 1895, 11). Besides the hierarchical conditions, in relation to the standing order at a sobornal divine service the

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<sup>1</sup> There is a custom to also do the Litia sobornally.

<sup>2</sup> After the Sessional Hymns a "reading" is prescribed: but, usually, **it** is dropped, and dedicated-servers enter the sanctuary and are already unvested after the reading of the Gospel and after anointing themselves with oil, and he reads the Gospel having the priority, he also anoints with oil, if not everyone, then a part of the people standing before him.

<sup>3</sup> Then the order by the Holy Synod about an exception of "note" sheets has been made: "but by which the church with two or three priests and no deacon is available, the individual priest alternately participates in those liturgies". (See Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1895, 36).

<sup>4</sup> This order should be observed and in that case, for example, when the inspector of the theological schools - the priest and the rector of the teaching churches, but if an archpriest is in the number of teachers: he takes priority at the sobornal services. (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1891, 12).

<sup>5</sup> Among those arrivals where two or more priests at the sobornal services, usually the senior is the one from the date of ordination (Refer p. 681), if there are no special orders from the diocesan authority, it goes from the first standing position to the youngest. The preliminary passage by the youngest priest to the position of dean cannot form the basis of seniority harassment (Tserkovnie Vedomosti [Church News] 1895, 32).

liturgical conditions of the divine services are taken into consideration. Owing to these conditions the dean of the priests give way only to archpriests, but in other cases take priority, even though there were priests more deserving<sup>6</sup>, as "priests... the dean is be treated with all respect" (Instruktsiia Blagochinnim [Instruction for the Deans] 61). Also neighboring confessors, as spiritual fathers, elite priests precisely also take priority. Besides this, in our Church from time immemorial there are differences in learning on which basis the priest who has finished the academy, takes priority before priests from seminaries, precisely as well the archpriest - the academician before the archpriest from seminarists, although these priests and archpriests - seminarists have been awarded the epigonation [nabedrennik], the skoufos etc., but those are not present. The rector of the local church with a seminary education, being in the clergy rank already many years and even awarded the pectoral cross, has all the right to seniority at the sobornal service over the young priest with a candidate cross (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1888, 6)<sup>7</sup>. If the rector of a known church from an uncompleted course, but priests serving with him though younger than he, after completing the full seminary course, then the rector of the local church should take priority over them in the divine service. In the given case, the right of the eldest is caused not by the degree of his school education, but by the official position of the dedicated church server (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1880, 21). If persons of equal hierarchical or official rank and learned position serve, then the one earlier ordained or who earlier received the protopriesthood, kamilavka, etc. takes priority. However, pastors in every possible way should avoid disputes about their position at the throne of the Lord, remembering the commandment of the Savior that "he who is greatest" among them was to be, "as the younger", and the old, "as he serves" (Lk. 22:26); as superiority adds nothing to advantages of the pastor and, on the contrary, the absence of it does not humiliate him (Rukovodstvo dlia Selskikh Pastyrei [Manual for Village Pastors] 1885, 36.). About the order of the sobornal liturgy services see more below.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0688-0689.  
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<sup>6</sup> Owing to the infringement of this order, in the Chersonese diocese a special order was made that at the sobornal service the dean presides- priests are dependent before all priests, but the dean is the archpriest before all archpriests (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1880, 3).

<sup>7</sup> And in other cases, at sobornal services, it will not be diminution of the academic degree if the young priest with an academic education concedes the first place at the Divine service to the venerable seminary graduate having the awards. (Tserkovnyi Vestnik [Church Messenger] 1892, 33).