

MESSAGE OF BISHOP ALDO BERARDI, O.S.S.T., ON THE GIFT OF ST. ARETHAS' RELICS

With great joy, we announce the reception of the sacred relics of St Arethas!

The holy relic was kept at Mount Athos in Greece and was gifted to our Vicariate by the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I.

On the occasion of the Jubilee, it is a blessing for our Vicariate to receive this relic that connects us to the Saint and to the history of our Church in this region.

This relic has been preserved thanks to the devotion of believers and the veneration of martyrs. The turbulent history of the region has not spared Christians and their religious buildings. The relics were rescued and transported to safety. They are a source of devotion and reflection.

It is not a question of adoring the relics but of venerating them as an invisible and spiritual link with the Saints. Let us remember that our altars have relics as the Book of Revelation (6:9) indicates:

“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.”

I invite you all to spend some time of reflection before the sacred relics of St. Arethas because the Saints and Martyrs are our ancestors in the faith who have lived their baptism seriously and it is our turn to be faithful and consistent.

May the relic of St. Arethas be a source of inspiration and devotion.

May graces be granted to our Vicariate and to the Church in the Arabian Peninsula by the intercession of St. Arethas and his Companions.

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