

TOMOS OF AUTOCEPHALY OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CLASSIS-RAVENNA

***Civitastis Classis et Ravenna, privilegiis eam munientes quibus ab omni
maioris sedis ditione exui et sui esse iuris, sancivimus***

*Archiepiscopi abent praerogativam et omnes lucentiam suam auctoritatem eis
(metropolitae sibi subiectis) impertiri et eos ordinare...(Novella XI)*



The bishop "autocephalous" automatically became Archbishop and Metropolitan.

The supreme title of archbishop, was bestowed for the first time at the Metropolitan Bishop Maximian of Ravenna around 550 AD Justinian dictated for the archbishops a power of jurisdiction superior to metropolitans and then applied to the Patriarchs (Archiepiscopus et Patriarchs).

The Bishop of Civitas Classis obtained the title of Metropolitan in 433, then archbishop in 550 and the Tomos of Autonomy directly from the Emperor of Constantinople, Constans II with the consent of the Ecumenical Patriarch and all the Patriarchs Orientali. nel 667 AD Milan and Aquileia obtained the title of Archbishop by the Pope of Rome, respectively, in the seventh and eighth centuries after Christ, that is, after Ravenna.

TOMOS OF AUTOCEPHALY OF THE CHURCH OF CLASSIS

MINDFUL OF THE ZEAL AND OF THE REAL LOVE UNTIL NOW DEMONSTRATED TO US, WE ARE PLEASED AND GRATEFUL FOR THE PROGRESSIVE EXTERNALIZATION OF THE GOOD WILL AND COMMITMENT TO OUR CAUSE OF THE ARCHBISHOP MAURUS. WE ARE PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE ATTENTION AND THE BENEFIT OF WHICH THE ARCHBISHOP AND METROPOLITAN MAURUS HAS BEEN DONE BY US. WE FEEL A DUTY TO STEP UP OUR CARE TOWARDS ITALY AND THE

HOLY APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF RAVENNA. PREVIOUSLY WE HAVE NOT NEGLECTED ANYTHING TO SATISFY THE LEGITIMATE DESIRES OF THE METROPOLITAN MAURUS AND HIS APOSTOLIC CHURCH. WE GRANT TO THE CHURCH OF RAVENNA AND THE PROVINCE ITALY THE TOMOS OF IMMUNITY FROM UPPER JURISDICTIONS AND DECLARE THAT THE CHURCH OF RAVENNA IS CONSIDERED **AUTOCEPHALOUS**. WE WANT TO FIRST CONFIRM THE PRIVILEGES GRANTED IN THE PAST. FOR OUR PRESENT PIOUS GENEROSITY, DECREE THAT HIS HOLINESS ARCHBISHOP MAURUS **WILL BE FOREVER** FREE FROM ANY HIERARCHICAL INTERFERENCE (**AB OMNI EPISCOPALI CONDITIOE**) AND WILL BE NEVER SUBJECTED IN ANY WAY TO THE ROMAN PATRIARCH (OR TO ANY PATRIARCHS), BUT THAT THE SEE OF RAVENNA AND CLASSIS WILL REMAIN FOREVER **AUTOCEPHALOUS**. THE TOMOS HAS A PERPETUAL VALUE AND COVERS THE ENTIRE CHURCH (ITALIAN), WITH EACH BISHOP DEPENDENT ON RAVENNA (HOLY SYNOD), WITH ALL ITS PARISHES. FROM NOW IN PERPETUITY, THE METROPOLITAN OF RAVENNA WILL BE CONSECRATED BY ITS BISHOPS, AND WILL BENEFIT THE IMPERIAL PALIO BY VIRTUE OF OUR INSPIRED CONCESSION. AND~IN FACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH JUSTICE THAT WE HONOR AND EXALT THOSE WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES CONSISTENTLY AND UNRESERVEDLY TO OUR SERVICE. OUR PATERNAL BEATITUDE ASK INCESSANT PRAYERS TO ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE ROMAN STATE THAT HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

++AUGUSTUS CONSTANTINUS MAIOR (CONSTANT II) year 676 FROM THE CREATION OF THE WORLD - Byzantine era (67 a.C)