9 Αυγούστου 2009

Humility and Glory in the Liturgy

Ξένες γλώσσες / In English


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A photograph of an Orthodox bishop I posted on Monday prompted a faithful and respected reader to leave the following comment:

Is it just me, or do these Bishops present the literal image Greco-Roman Emperors or high-level potentates (despota) more than Christ? I mean that my imagination has acrobatic gymnastic to see the kenotic Christ here.

I was initially at some loss of how to reply. Viewed solely in terms of outward insignia and vestiture, he certainly had a point. My subsequent observation that Christian liturgy has been imbued with imperial court ritual since at least the fourth century, even if there had been a particular appropriation of imperial regalia by bishops since the fall of the Eastern Roman Empire, also did not amount to a properly theological response. (περισσότερα…)