

Novel 56.

That the so-called entrance-money of clergymen shall be given indeed in the holy Great church, but shall not be given in the other churches.

(Ut emphanistica quae vocantur clericorum in magna quidem ecclesia dentur, in ceteris autem ecclesiis no praestentur.)

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The same Augustus (Justinian) to Mena, holy archbishop of this imperial city and Universal Patriarch.

Preface. Since we are besought by many who have come before us, we have though it proper to sent this law to you. For the persons who are appointed clergymen by Your Beatitude in the holy churches excepting, nevertheless, the holy Great church, -- are suffering from the gravest burden, because the clergymen there do not accept them until the former have received the amount fixed by them. We know this from the many complaints that have come to us in reference thereto.

c. 1. We therefore ordain, that Your Beatitude must take great care, that if, according to custom, anything is given by those who are appointed in the holy Great church, they shall give that, for we change nothing as to the privileges given it, but aside from it, in all other churches, none of the clergymen who are there, shall have permission to receive anything by way of the so-called entrance money. If anyone does so, he shall be deprived of his priesthood, and the person sent (to join the clergy) shall take his place, and the former shall have that as a reward for his insatiable cupidity. The God-beloved defenders of the holy Great Church, shall observe these provisions and shall be punished by a fine of ten pounds of gold, if they neglect any of them. Everything shall be done gratuitously. We do not want ministers and servants of God to become such through sale or business; but holily and without gift. For they will be worthy therein, if no sale or business (in connection therewith) takes place.

Epilogue. Your Beatitude, and those who will occupy the archiepiscopal see after you, must zealously carry these our provisions, declared by this imperial law, into force and effect.

Given at Constantinople, November 3, 537.

Note.

Many positions in the Roman empire were purchased, and much money given to secure positions. See Novel 8.