

The Tribulations of our Mission in the Congo and Encroachments Thereon

This past October, the Divine Founder of the Church saw fit that the missionary work of our Holy Synod in Resistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), in Central Africa, should be sorely tested.

The self-styled Bishop Gregory (Abu-Asaly [*né* Robert George George]) of Colorado, driven by purely personal and spiteful motives, literally invaded our mission territory and illicitly endeavored to dissolve and absorb it.

■ **Now**, who is this pernicious Gregory? Formerly a clergyman of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCA), until its union with our Synod (1994), he subsequently passed through sundry Old Calendarist Ecclesiastical Communities, from which he was forcefully ousted as a troublemaker, without, indeed, achieving his much-desired goal of becoming a Bishop. He then sought refuge with the self-styled Metropolitan Valentin of Suzdal and Vladimir, Russia, who was deposed by the ROCA and by whom he was eventually Consecrated a Bishop; he was, however, soon dismissed by his new jurisdiction. Ever since then, although isolated and forlorn in the ecclesiastical wilderness of Colorado, he has not desisted from his curious animus against our Holy Synod in Resistance.

◆ **What**, ultimately, did this false brother and pseudo-bishop Gregory accomplish in the Congo?

From our flourishing mission in this vast country (with twenty-five Priests, ten Deacons, 110 parishes, churches, and communities, and 40,000 faithful) he has succeeded in winning over (through mendacity, calumny, and promises of extravagant emoluments) three Priests (Father Chrysostomos Bakua-Tshibasus, Father John Tuanishe, and Father Martin Lukusa), and two Deacons (Timothy Kambongo and Ambrose Bukasa-Kambuaya).

As well, the so-called Bishop Gregory performed several so-called ordinations; and moreover, had the audacity to re-baptize Orthodox Christians who had already been Baptized! Such, unfortunately, is his derelict state!

● **In the** hope that this great tribulation will pass very quickly, by the Grace of God, we have appointed the Rev. Father Prodromos Kanumpetshi as Episcopal Representative for the region of Western Kasai (replacing the deposed Father Chrysostomos Bakua-Tshibusu), while the other administrative body has stayed the course, hand-in-hand with our beloved and faithful Congolese brothers and sisters in Christ, under the aegis of the Holy Synod in Resistance.

*From the Chancery of the Holy Synod
† Bishop Ambrose of Methone,
Director of Missions
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Entrance of the Theotokos*