

The Holy Synod in Resistance

Its Thirty-Fourth Regular Annual Meeting (October 4, 2007 [Old Style])

I. On Wednesday, October 4, 2007 (Old Style), following an official invitation to its Members (Protocol No. 1573/August 13, 2007 [Old Style]), the Orthodox Church of Greece, Holy Synod in Resistance, convened for its regular annual meeting (the thirty-fourth).

1. His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, the ranking Hierarch, presided, as Vice-President, over the two sessions of this meeting, which lasted for many hours, since the First Hierarch of the Holy Synod, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, was unable to attend, owing to ill health.



The Holy Synod in Resistance, prior to its second session, during a brief visit by its First Hierarch, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili.

2. All of the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs of the Holy Synod took part in these sessions: from Greece (His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone); from America (His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos [Vice-President] and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki), from Australia (His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales), from Italy (His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora and His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni), from South Ossetia (His Emi-

nence, Bishop George of Alania), and from Sweden (His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis).

3. The Secretaries (First and Second) of the Synod, Archimandrite Cyprian and Hieromonk Klemes, of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, were present. Archimandrite Glykerios and Hieromonk John, also of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, acted as interpreters.

4. The lengthy proceedings of this protracted and arduous thirty-fourth meeting were marked by the highest level of spirituality, and from the outset there prevailed an atmosphere of prayer, peace, mutual respect, love, concord, admirable coöperation, wisdom according to Christ, and pastoral prudence.

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II. FOLLOWING ITS AGENDA, the Holy Synod dealt with the following thirteen topics, in all:

1. Election of an Acting President

• In accordance with the fifth clause of the **“Principles and Terms of Coöperation Among the Bishops in Resistance”** and the Epistle (Protocol No. 1564/June 15, 2007 [Old Style]) of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, President of the Holy Synod, to the members of the Hierarchy, the Holy Synod decided unanimously on the election of an Acting President, judging the Very Reverend Archimandrite Cyprian, of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, who has hitherto (since 1985) fulfilled the duties of First Secretary, to be the most suitable person for this task.

2. Election of New Hierarchs

■ In accordance with earlier resolutions, and in keeping with the foregoing first resolution, the Holy Synod unanimously chose Archimandrite Cyprian and Hieromonk Klemes, both brothers of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, to be elevated to the high office of the Episcopacy.

→ Father Cyprian was Consecrated on Friday, October 6 (Old Style), as Vicar Bishop of Oreoi and assumed the responsibility of Acting President of the Holy Synod, while Father Klemes was Consecrated on Saturday, October 7 (Old Style), as Vicar Bishop of Gardikion.

3. *Creation of New Dioceses*

■ The proposal by His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni that new dioceses be created in Greece was unanimously rejected, since on the one hand it contravenes the ecclesiological principles and the modest di-



The entire Holy Synod in Resistance, including its new members.

ocesan organization of our Holy Synod, while on the other hand there do not exist pastoral conditions that would render such a move necessary.

4. *Ratification of the Standing Holy Synod*

■ The Holy Synod ratified the Standing Holy Synod, which has hitherto functioned informally, following a decision on this matter arrived at through correspondence, in accordance with the proposal of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, President of the Synod (Protocol No. 1564/June 15, 2007 [Old Style]).

→ This new administrative body, the Standing Holy Synod, will have as its members, until the next regular meeting of the Synod of Bishops, the following Hierarchs: 1) His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi (*ex officio*, as Acting President), 2) His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, 3) His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and 4) His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion.

• The Chancery was assigned the task of elaborating a charter for the functioning of the Standing Holy Synod, which will be submitted to the Hierarchy for approval.

5. *New Secretary*

■ In keeping with the foregoing resolutions, the Holy Synod unanimously approved the appointment of His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion as Secretary of the two administrative bodies (the Holy Synod in Resistance and the Standing Holy Synod), to replace His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, who has now been promoted to the office of Acting President.

6. *Episcopal Jurisdiction in South Africa*

■ The Holy Synod unanimously rejected, for the same reasons as above (see the third resolution) the petition and proposal (October 11, 2007 [New Style]) of Hieromonk Elias (Palmos), of South Africa, concerning the establishment of an independent “African Orthodox Church,” which would function as a Sister Church in communion with the Holy Synod in Resistance in Greece.

7. *Relations with the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad*

■ It was unanimously decided—following the union of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under Metropolitan Laurus, with the Moscow Patriarchate—that our Holy Synod should maintain communion with His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel of Odessa and Tauris, who disagrees with this union and has broken off relations with the Holy Synod under Metropolitan Laurus.

→ Our communion with His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel remains in force, since it has never been ruptured; it will be maintained and further consolidated; we will coöperate with him in Consecrating Bishops, when requested to do so, in order to strengthen his jurisdiction; we will invite Bishop Agafangel to Greece as soon as possible, in order to formalize our communion with him through a synodal consultation and to sign a “*Memorandum Regarding Principles of Coöperation.*” Simultaneous communion on our part with the Synod of Archbishop Tikhon of Omsk and Siberia (in Russia) is at present not possible, since the latter is not in communion with Bishop Agafangel.

8. *Relations with the New Calendar Church*

■ Citing the precedent of an historic endeavor to inaugurate dialogue with the so-called “official” New Calendar Church of Greece (September 14, 1998-January 11, 2000 [Old Style]; see, also, the correspondence on this subject, published in *Ἐκκλησιαστικὸς Τύπος*, No. 1557 [July 2, 2004], p. 5, and *Ἄγιος Κυπριανός*, No. 323 [November-December 2004], pp.

118-119), it was decided, on the basis of our ecclesiological principles, and also on the ground that the nature of Orthodox resistance is dynamic and not exclusivist, that efforts towards dialogue should be reactivated, in accordance with the content of the Epistle (Protocol No. B108/January 12, 2000 [Old Style]) of the then Archimandrite (now Bishop) Cyprian (of Oreoi) to the then Metropolitan Anthimos of Alexandroupolis.

9. Relations with the so-called True Orthodox Christians

■ On the basis of a detailed report written by the then Hieromonk Klemes, entitled “***True Orthodox Christians’ in Greece and Abroad: Synods, Independents, Factions, Marginal Groups***” (September 27, 2007 [Old Style]), our Holy Synod has undertaken a preliminary evaluation of the extent to which their structures ***fulfill the criteria of valid ecclesiastical bodies***, so that a rapprochement might be attempted and a dialogue be inaugurated for union, or coöperation, and for the strengthening of Orthodox anti-ecumenism in the context of the Old Calendar movement.

→ Given, as stated above (eighth resolution), the dynamic and non-exclusivist nature of Orthodox resistance, and in accordance with the fundamental statement of our ecclesiology, “**The Orthodox Resistance Against the Ecclesiastical Heresy of Syncretistic Ecumenism**” (October 2, 2006 [Old Style], §5, “Divisions Among the Anti-Ecumenists”), the Holy Synod unanimously decided that the Standing Holy Synod should take steps towards rapprochement, beginning with a document to be entitled “**An Appeal for Union or Coöperation Against Ecumenism.**”

10. The Holy Icon of the Resurrection

■ The Chancery of the Holy Synod presented, as commissioned (thirty-third meeting/October 4, 2006, §8), a detailed report, entitled “**The Holy Icon of the Resurrection: Basic Principles for Overcoming an Unfruitful Dispute**” (September 26, 2007) and composed by the then Archimandrite Cyprian, which demonstrates, with supporting documentation, that “the Orthodox or Byzantine prototype of the Resurrection, in a most profoundly theological way, succeeds in initiating us into the ‘other-worldly’ and twofold mystery of the abolition of death and Hades and of the resurrection of humanity, whereas the so-called Western prototype is incapable of initiating us into this mystery, bereft as it is of historical exactitude or theology.”

→ This report received unanimous approval and, after certain additions and emendations have been made, will be posted on the website of our Holy Synod.

11. *Mixed Marriages Abroad*

■ On the occasion of a question and petition from abroad, the Holy Synod affirmed in principle its fidelity to the canonical tradition of the Orthodox Church, according to which the solemnization of mixed marriages is strictly forbidden (see the study on this subject by the then Archimandrite Cyprian on our website, entitled: “**Mixed Marriages from an Orthodox Standpoint and the Question of Communion of the Immaculate Mysteries,**” August 1999).

→ Nevertheless, it was admitted that sometimes, by extreme *oikonomia*, it is possible, in exceptionally special cases, to celebrate mixed marriages abroad, the matter being left to the pastoral discretion of the local Hierarchy.



The Holy Synod in Resistance, prior to its second session, during a brief visit by its First Hierarch, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili.

12. *Compilation of an Official Listing of Clergy and Monastics*

■ Owing to the emergence of certain clergymen who claim that they are in communion with our Holy Synod, but are not, it was unanimously decided that an **official list of clergy** be compiled, as well as an **official list of monastics**; that is, lists of all Priests, Deacons, and monastics belonging to our ecclesiastical jurisdiction. These lists will be posted on our website and will be updated by our Chancery whenever changes occur, in order to avoid unpleasant complications and to safeguard the reputation of our Synod.

13. Missionary Expenditures

■ His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone presented a “**Memorandum Regarding Expenditures on Foreign Missions**” for the period October 2006 through October 2007, during which the following missionary allocations, in euros, were made, country by country:

Albania, €250; Uganda, €200; South Africa, €1,360; Republic of the Congo, €3,290; Romania, €5,640; Kenya, €6,550; Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), €28,120; Georgia, €800; **totaling €46,210 [or approximately \$68,390].**

*From the Chancery of the Holy Synod
† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion
October 10, 2007 (Old Style)
Holy Martyrs Evlampios and Evlampia*