



## ENCYCLICAL

At the Outset of the New Ecclesiastical Year

# The Mystery of Our Brother In the Light of the Holy Trinity

*Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:*

**O**nce again we convey to you the fervent paternal wishes of our ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, our much-revered Elder, for the new Ecclesiastical Year, that it might be replete with the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The root and cause of these fruits, the first “fruit of the Spirit,” which encompasses all of the others, is love. All of the gifts of the Spirit will in the end of time “vanish away,” but the greatest of these, namely love, will “never fail.”

“God is love” and “love never faileth.” God is not designated perfectly by any virtue, yet by love He is perfectly designated.



The Mystery of Christ, as experienced in Hesychastic and Eucharistic terms in the Orthodox Church, initiates us into the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, the very archetype and fount of true Life.

It is then that we discover the meaning of personhood, departing from self-love—that is, the individualism whereby we are closed in on ourselves—and becoming open to another. It is then that we feel a yearning for another and, at the same time, an inner yearning for the living God. It is then that we discover that the authentic life in Christ is identical with a communion of persons, extraordinarily dynamic and polymorphous, which truly “never faileth.”

Therefore, in the Light of the Holy Trinity there is revealed to us the

mystery of our brother, his ontological pulchritude, his eschatological glory, and his eternal beauty as a Divine reflection of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Light and the Fire that the Beloved One brought to us through His Incarnation out of love for mankind. By experiencing in his own life the Mystery of Christ, every believer becomes a burning bush, radiating light, warmth, and openness towards another.

Only through this preternatural experience is it possible for us to draw another away from the “works of the flesh” to the fruits of the Holy Spirit, to the communion of the Holy Trinity.

We have an immense obligation towards our brother, and our culpability will be of eternal gravity, should our indolence and conformity to the world not lead us to impart to him an inner yearning for the living God.

It has been very rightly said that “one cannot distance himself from the world and turn towards eternity, if he fails to see the radiance of eternal life in the eyes or the face of even one single person.”

Let this radiance of eternal life, this sweet fruit of a Christ-centered life, be our constant concern and our engrossing vision, in order that our brother might be saved, that the world might be saved, and that we might all be saved in the most tender embrace of our loving Father.

In peace and blameless love, let us beseech the Blameless Theotokos that each of us may become a burning bush, radiating eternal life!

† Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi  
Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance

September 1, 2009 (Old Style)  
Beginning of the Indiction

