



## The Holy Synod in Resistance

### Its Thirty-Sixth Regular Annual Meeting (October 6, 2009 [Old Style])

**I. ON** Monday, October 6, 2009 (Old Style), following an official invitation to its Members (Protocol No. 1672/August 8, 2009 [Old Style]), the Orthodox Church of Greece, Holy Synod in Resistance, convened for its regular annual meeting (the thirty-sixth).

1. In the morning of October 6, on the occasion of the commemoration of the Holy Apostle Thomas, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, celebrated the Divine Liturgy (it being the anniversary of his Consecration, which took place on October 6, 2007 [Old Style]). Afterwards, around 9:30 a.m., in the meeting hall of the Holy Synod, he performed the “Service of the Small Blessing of the Waters for the Commencement of the new period of Synod Meetings” (using a booklet specially prepared for this purpose), in the presence of the Members of the Synod.

2. After the Blessing of the Waters, the Members of the Hierarchy began their deliberations, in which the following Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs took part: His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna; Their Eminences, Bishop Michael of Nora and Bishop Silvano of Luni; and Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, Secretary of the Holy Synod.

3. Absent for warranted causes [illness and travel difficulties] were Their Eminences, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales and Bishop George of Alania, as well His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis.

4. Also present, serving as interpreters, were Archimandrite Glykerios and Hieromonk John, of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.

**II. The Holy Synod** was convened to discuss and decide upon the following eight principal topics on its agenda, as well as others of a secondary nature:

(1) A review of the transactions of the preceeding period; (2) the charter of the Holy Synod; (3) regulations for the functioning of the Standing Holy Synod; (4) the renewal of the activities of the Standing Holy Synod; (5) the issue of the Acting Pres-

ident; (6) the Diocese of Sydney and New South Wales; (7) anxieties concerning ascatalogical matters; (8) the color of liturgical vestments at sundry festal celebrations.

**III. The Members of the Hierarchy**, to an exceptional degree, devoted the majority of their time in this Thirty-Sixth Meeting to certain thorny issues directly connected with the ministry of the Acting President of the Holy Synod over the two years since he was assigned his new duties (2007-2009).

1. The Acting President delivered a brief report on his activities in seven major areas, in which, by the Grace of God and in conjunction with the Members of the Standing Holy Synod, significant progress has been observed.

2. However, in other equally important areas, pertaining to our very ecclesiological identity, progress has not been as satisfactory as might have been expected.

3. The Acting President, extremely self-critical and in an attitude of self-reproach, assumed full responsibility and called upon the prayers of his fellow-ministers in the Episcopate in his continuing endeavor to cover the aforementioned lacunæ and to surmount what at times have been impasses in the exercise of his particularly complicated and arduous ministry.

**IV. With regard to** the remaining items on the agenda, apart from the secondary issues, we note the following:

1. Items 2, 3, 7, and 8 are works in progress. Documents and presentations on these subjects are being prepared, under the supervision of the Acting President, in coöperation with the Secretariat of the Standing Holy Synod, which will be submitted to the Hierarchs for review in the coming months.

2. The mandate of the Hierarchy to the Members of the Standing Holy Synod was renewed. Thus, during its new, Third Period (October 2009-September 2010), Their Graces, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi (Chairman), Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion (Secretary), will continue to serve together, always answerable to the full Holy Synod.

3. His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone was appointed temporary Assistant Bishop to His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, who, owing to serious illness, is incapable of fulfilling his pastoral duties and who is now resident in Greece. □

From the Chancery of the Holy Synod  
† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion  
October 26, 2009 (Old Style)  
Holy Great Martyr Demetrios