



Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece
Holy Synod in Resistance

Protocol No. 605

Phyle, Attica
April 22, 2011 (Old Style)
St. Theodore the Sykeote

**Concerning the Petition Submitted by
His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania
for Retirement**

Preface

1. The Standing Holy Synod of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece received one year ago a letter dated May 6, 2010 (New Style), from His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania, who is under our jurisdiction and who has, as Bishop, been shepherding our Rational Flock in South Ossetia since the Year of Salvation 2005. In this letter, he adamantly requested—as he has now, for the third time—to be released from his pastoral supervision of the Diocese of Alania, videlicet for serious reasons of health.

2. The Standing Holy Synod, at the tenth meeting of its Third Synodal Period, April 28, 2010 (Old Style), discussed in detail the request of His Eminence, Bishop George and decided unanimously and in a spirit of fraternal love, in lieu of accepting his petition, to grant him a one-year leave for convalescence; that is, to release him temporarily from his onerous pastoral duties.

3. The Standing Holy Synod also reserved the right, after this one-year period of leave elapsed, to issue a final and definitive decision on

the future status of Bishop George in the Diocese and Eparchy of Alania.

Decision

4. The Standing Holy Synod, at the ninth meeting of its Fourth Synodal Period, April 22, 2011 (Old Style), with the concurrence of all of the reverend Members of the Holy Synod in Resistance, at the conclusion of the one-year leave for convalescence granted to His Eminence, Bishop George, taking into serious consideration His Eminence's still precarious health, as well as the exceptional ecclesiastical situation of the Holy Diocese of Alania, South Ossetia, in general,

has decided unanimously and without reservations

a. to accept the petition dated May 6, 2010 (New Style) from His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania, thereby releasing him decisively and definitively from pastoral duties in the Holy Diocese and Eparchy of our Holy Synod in South Ossetia;

b. to express to him, on the one hand, our gratitude for all of the good and God-pleasing contributions that he has hitherto made, in a spirit of self-sacrifice, to the Holy Diocese of Alania, and, on the other hand, our wholehearted wishes for an auspicious outcome to his critical health problems;

c. that he should serve henceforth in the capacity of a retired Hierarch and be addressed as "Bishop George, formerly of Alania," no longer having any pastoral, administrative, or synodal obligations;

d. that the Holy Diocese of Alania should assume the obligation of providing him with a pension equivalent to that of the active clergy of this Eparchy;

e. that His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone be appointed *Locum Tenens* of the Holy Diocese of Alania, and that he be commemorated at the Divine services and Liturgies after the commemoration of the Most Reverend First Hierarch of our Holy Synod;

f. to entreat the holy clergy and the faithful people, in a paternal spirit, to show at all times gratitude towards His Eminence, Bishop George, formerly of Alania, for his self-sacrificing ministry in South Ossetia over so many years, and to refrain from any and all adverse

judgment of any errors or oversights on his part during his previous Pastorate;

g. that His Eminence, Bishop George, formerly of Alania, likewise be entreated, in a spirit of fraternal love, to withdraw peacefully from the Diocese of Alania, cordially forgiving, in accordance with the Gospel saying, all who may have offended him and refraining henceforth from any involvement in the ecclesiastical life of his former Diocese;

h. to communicate the present final and definitive decisions to the holy clergy and the Christian flock of the Holy Diocese of Alania and also to the esteemed Government of South Ossetia.

For the Holy Synod

† Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi
Acting President

† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion
Secretary

