

## A NECESSARY CLARIFICATION

A number of individuals have contacted the webmasters of this English-language version of the Holy Synod's website, asking questions about a posting on the section Administration > Synod News > Resistance Documents > Responses: "Reply by Bishop Ambrose to the 'Statement from [the] Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand,' published on the official website of the Serbian Orthodox Church." Questions and speculation have arisen about His Grace's appointment as Bishop of the Diocese in question. To answer these questions and put an end to certain unfounded speculation (e.g., the absurd claim that Bishop Ambrose has left our jurisdiction), we offer the following clarification:

During the Annual meeting of the Bishops of the Holy Synod in Resistance this past October, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose was blessed to accept appointment as the Bishop temporarily governing the Free Serbian Orthodox diocese in Australia, which has taken canonical refuge in our Synod and which stands in resistance to the ecumenism and associated ills of the Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC) [the Belgrade Patriarchate]. Recently, legal assaults by the local representatives of the SOC in Australia, aiming at a corporate "hostile takeover" worthy of the worst examples seen on Wall Street, necessitated various preëemptive legal measures for our communities to protect their Churches, properties, Monastery, and administrative integrity. Their legal appointment of a Bishop for the Diocese until, God-willing, a suitable Serbian candidate can be found to replace the much over-extended Bishop Ambrose, was one of the principle measures necessitated for the ongoing legal defense.