



Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece  
Holy Synod in Resistance

Protocol No. 680

To  
His Eminence,  
Metropolitan Vlasie,  
First Hierarch,  
Romania

Phyle, Athens  
October 11, 2013 (Old Style)  
† Holy Apostle Philip the Deacon

**A PEACEABLE EPISTLE**

Most Reverend and beloved Brother in Christ and concelebrant, Metropolitan Vlasie, First Hierarch of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania, we embrace You with gladness, in the certitude that Christ is in our midst, and was and shall be unto the ages. Amen!

Having been elevated, through the Grace of God and by the vote, and at the insistence, of the Members of the Hierarchy of our Holy Synod at its recent Fortieth Convocation (October 4/17, 2013), to the position of Metropolitan of Oropos and Phyle, and also to that of President of the Synod, I hasten, by way of the present peaceable epistle, to provide official notification hereof to Your Eminence, beloved of us, and also the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania, our Sister Church under You, conveying herein a sincere salutation and embrace of love, peace, and unity, and asking at the same time for Your holy prayers.

The holy personage and the impressive legacy of His Eminence, our Metropolitan and Father Cyprian, who reposed in the Lord five months ago, renders our ministry all the more extraordinarily exigent and difficult, and, considering my weakness, I entrust myself to Divine succor and strengthening, through the intercessions of our Lady, the *Theotokos*, and of all the Saints, and especially to the love and the gentle paternal goodness of Your Eminence.

We reckon it incumbent upon us, Most Honorable and Reverend Brother in Christ, to assure You that, by the Grace of God, we stand firm and immovable in the Orthodox Faith, believing as our Spirit-bearing Fathers taught in the Seven Œcumenical Synods, neither adding nor subtracting anything, and in earnest to maintain unshaken the injunctions of the Sacred Canons and the Sacred Traditions, by the guidance whereof we proclaim ecumenism to be an ecclesiological heresy and the calendar change to be a reprehensible innovation.

Despite the fact that, at present, we are at a difficult juncture, on account of problems which

the Devil, the father of division and the enemy of unity, is sowing, exploiting and distorting what are probably deficiencies arising from our weakness, our hope flourishes, and “hope maketh not ashamed”!

The emergence of internal problems within your Most Holy Church, which problems are connected with and reflected in relations between our Sister Churches, to the detriment thereof, deprived us of the joy of the presence of Your much-desired delegation at the sacred Patronal Feast of our Metropolitane headquarters here several days ago, a longstanding Tradition dating back thirty-five years.

Taking into account our unwitting responsibility for this trial, we express our sincere interest, our intense anguish, and also our unsleeping readiness to contribute at all costs to the preservation of Your internal and Mysteriological unity, as well as to the strengthening of relations of love and communion with one another. This is demanded of us by our common Forefathers and Progenitors in the Faith, and also by the critical character of our times and the very unifying nature of Christ’s Church.

Let us reflect that the Holy Confessor-Hierarch St. Glicherie and our saintly Metropolitans Silvestru and Cyprian, who are united in Heaven, are watching over us on this much-sorrowing earth, awaiting and praying for us to surmount whatever difficulties we have and to continue our blessed common journey to Heaven, bearing witness and confessing “with one mouth and one heart” the common treasure of our Orthodox Faith, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, one that is tainted by the pan-heresy of ecumenism and the unlawful innovations deriving therefrom, of which the calendar innovation is of especial significance.

Hence, with a sincere Christian attitude, as a humble contribution to the endeavor to preserve and reinforce the unity between us and You, and also to restore the shaken peace in the bosom of Your Martyric Church, we are sending as an attachment to the present letter the “Ecclesiological Position Paper” of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, under His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, in Romanian translation.

Permit us to inform You that this position paper, which has been studied attentively by our Holy Synod, has in principle been accepted by us. In our humble opinion, it assuredly has the potential to constitute a satisfactory basis, in many ways, for the rapprochement and union of Old Calendarist Orthodox anti-ecumenists everywhere, and thus to put an end to the disquiet occasioned by misunderstandings of our ecclesiological formulations, on which we certainly do not insist dogmatically or intransigently.

In addition, we assure You that our official Dialogue with the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, under Archbishop Kallinikos, is being conducted, by the Grace of God, in a responsible and sober manner, in a spirit of mutual respect, with justifiable hopes for positive results.

Hoping and fervently praying that the Divine Founder of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, may bestow upon us the wealth of His salvific Truth, in order that we might proclaim this before the whole world in peace and concord, we embrace You once again, and in Your venerable person all of the faithful with You, both clergy and laity, in the Holy Spirit, unto the glory of God the Father, and with sincere esteem and love, we remain,

The beloved Brother in Christ and concelebrant  
of Your Eminence,

**† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle,  
President of the Holy Synod in Resistance**