



Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece
Holy Synod in Resistance

Protocol No. 680

To
His Eminence,
Metropolitan Agafangel,
First Hierarch,
Odessa, Ukraine

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 Agafangel, First Hierarch of our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, 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 to the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, 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 in Christ and the fraternal prayers of Your Eminence.

We reckon it incumbent upon us, our Most Honorable and Most 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.

By God’s leave, we did not have the joy of seeing You here at the Patronal Feast of our Metropolitan headquarters this past week, but we hope that the Grace of our Lord might enkindle the eagerness of Your nobility, to the end that we may soon have the blessing of proclaiming our unity in close proximity, in unity of heart, in a common Confession of Faith, at a joint celebration of the Divine Eucharist, and for the edification in Christ of one another and of all.

We take this opportunity to inform You that our Holy Synod, in its good desire to put an end to the disquiet occasioned by misunderstandings of its ecclesiological formulations, on which it certainly does not insist dogmatically or intransigently, declares its agreement in principle with the “Ecclesiological Position Paper” of its Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, under His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza—which, as is well known, has been available for almost a year in Russian translation, and a copy of which we append to the present letter—and affirms that this position paper has the potential to constitute a satisfactory basis for the rapprochement and union of Old Calendarist Orthodox anti-ecumenists everywhere.

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, might bestow upon us the wealth of His salvific Truth, in order that we may 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**