

**Church
of the True Orthodox Christians
of Greece**

**Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle
See: Phyle, Attica (Athens)**



Official Notification

Thursday of the Third Week of the Great Fast, March 7/20, 2014

**The Ecclesiastical Union
of the [Church of the] True Orthodox Christians
and the Orthodox Community in Resistance**

Most Reverend and Right Reverend Holy Hierarchs;
Reverend Fathers; Venerable Monastics;
Beloved Brethren, Friends, and Children in Christ:

Glory to God for all things!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
the Bestower of love, peace, and unity,
and of every salvific good!

We send up thanksgiving

to our Savior Jesus Christ, to His Immaculate Mother,
to the Holy Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs,
Confessors, and Hierarchs,

on the occasion of the Ecclesiastical **Union** of the Orthodox Community
in Resistance, under Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle,

with the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece,
under Archbishop Kallinikos

I. One and Only One Synod

a. We are happy to inform you that this God-pleasing **Union** was brought to fruition on the Tuesday of the Third Week of the Great Fast, March 5/18, 2014.

b. This Divinely protected **Union** was decided upon and proclaimed in joint deliberation by both sides, with the result that there exists henceforth **one and only one Holy Synod, under His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos**, encompassing within its fold ten Metropolitans and eleven Bishops, in Greece and abroad.

c. There no longer exists a Holy Synod in Resistance or a President thereof, inasmuch as the **Union** has brought forth **a single and unified Synod** of the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece.

d. The fruitful fourteen-month Official Dialogue between the two sides, in a spirit of mutual respect and mutual understanding, with the help of your prayers in the love of Christ, led us to a profound awareness of our unity in the Holy Spirit, in one Faith and one Hope, and to the conviction that **the reasons that have kept us out of communion since 1984 no longer exist.**

e. The common Orthodox Faith of our Fathers, and also the syncretistic heresy of ecumenism, which caused division among the Orthodox through the calendar reform of 1924, impel us to inaugurate a new period of unity in Christ, with a **common vision** of continuing our sacred struggle to ensure that Truth prevails and to put misbelief to shame.

f. Our laborious unionist endeavor, lasting for many months, gave rise to a detailed **ecclesiological statement** entitled *“The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues,”* which constitutes the sure theological basis of our blessed **Union**, and also an unerring guide to its broadening and consolidation.

g. We regard it as an exceptional gift of the loving Providence of God that the re-union and strengthening of the divided anti-ecumenists is being realized ninety years after the rupture of the unity of the Orthodox (1924-2014).

h. Our hearts are turned with love, but also with sorrow, towards all those who in divers ways have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the truly “worldwide scandal” of **the scission of the Orthodox in the name of union with the heterodox**, and we call them to **return in repentance** to the **immovable boundaries** of Genuine Orthodoxy, within which alone there exists the fullness of Grace and Truth.

i. We paternally and lovingly beseech the Flock of our Holy Metropolis to work

with great love, with patience and understanding, with forbearance and compassion, and with discretion and wisdom, for fruitful coexistence, fellowship, and coöperation at all levels with our brothers and sisters, in our now extended and **great family**, to the end that we might at every time and in every place offer an **Orthodox witness** of faith and life, dogma and ethos, zeal and holiness, and hope and consolation.

II. Specific Issues

Holding off from informing you in greater detail about the various corollaries of this Divinely sealed **Union**, for the time being we cite the most fundamental points:

a. The Official Dialogue (December 2012-February 2014) led us to the realization that our **Act of walling ourselves off** in 1984 from our True Orthodox brethren **should be abrogated, since the reasons of faith and righteousness** that then provoked it **no longer exist**.

b. The abrogation of this walling off yielded, as an immediate result, the **abrogation of the penalties imposed at that time** upon our Elder of blessed memory, Metropolitan Cyprian, and also upon the other Hierarchs, clergy, and laity thenceforth in communion with him.

c. The abrogation of the walling off and of the penalties has brought the two sides back into Eucharistic communion, has already united them, by the Grace of God, in an **irrefragable communion of faith and love**, and has also led them to certain necessary structural changes in administration, so that the Union might be embodied and ensured in practice.

d. Our Hierarchs, inasmuch as they are fully incorporated into the Holy Synod under Archbishop Kallinikos, commemorate the Primate-Archbishop and the Holy Synod.

e. The Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle is reestablished with new boundaries, which coincide with the boundaries of the Municipality of Phyle (the Municipal Communities of Phyle, Ano Liosia [except for a small portion thereof], and Zephyrion), with the addition of a portion of the Municipality of Oropos and a portion of the Municipality of Acharnai.

f. The Diocese of Etna, California, U.S.A., is elevated to a **Metropolis**, and the Archbishop of Etna is now addressed as **Metropolitan**, with the Bishop of Photike as his Assistant.

g. The Dioceses in Italy and Sardinia are canonically incorporated into the Holy Synod, and the Bishops of Nora and Luni, as stated previously, commemorate our Archbishop and the Holy Synod.

h. The Bishops of Christianoupolis and Makarioupolis and the erstwhile Bishop

of Alania remain, as before, retired Hierarchs and do not participate in the activities of the Holy Synod.

i. The Bishops of Methone and Gardikion are elevated to, and are henceforth, Diocesan Titular Bishops, with the same titles, and are full members of the Holy Synod.

j. The Metropolitan of Oropos and Phyle, along with the Bishops of Methone and Gardikion, is incorporated into a four-member Synodal Committee for Missions. They will continue to look after both the missionary communities abroad and the vacant dioceses, which in both cases heretofore belonged to the now dissolved Synod in Resistance, and will also coöperate with the two dioceses in Italy and the Metropolis of Etna, constituting their liaison with the Holy Synod.

III. Inter-Orthodox Deliberation and Concelebration

a. Another ripe spiritual fruit of the Official Dialogue is the coming together in agreement on the aforementioned **ecclesiological statement** (see §I.f), not only of the True Orthodox Church of the Greeks, but also the True Orthodox Churches of the **Russians, Romanians, and Bulgarians**.

b. On the occasion of the God-pleasing **Union** of the True Orthodox of Greece, an **inter-Orthodox deliberation** will be held on **Friday, March 8/21, 2014**, here in our country, for the purpose, firstly, of confirming the already accomplished agreement of all of the Orthodox Synods on the **ecclesiological statement** and, secondly, of discussing other issues, for the ensurance of this multilateral Union.

c. The proclamation and solemnization of this **Union**, bilateral on the one hand and multilateral on the other, will be carried out, by the Grace of God, on the coming **Third Sunday of the Holy Fast, the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, March 10/23**, through a concelebration of the Divine Liturgy by a multitude of Hierarchs at the Holy Monastery of St. Nicholas in Paiania, Athens.

d. Thus, precisely on the day on which the unity of the Orthodox was forcibly sundered in 1924, on the very same day, **March 10/23**, we will celebrate the reunion of the divided True Orthodox anti-ecumenists.

IV. Our Hierarchy

a. We set forth for you the full membership of our Hierarchy, so that you may become familiar with your Shepherds and pray for them:

Archbishop

† Kallinikos of Athens and All Greece

Metropolitans

- † Akakios of Attica and Diavleia
- † Maximos of Thessalonica and Demetrias
- † Athanasios of Larisa and Platamon
- † Justin of Euripos and Euboia
- † Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis
- † Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia
- † Moses of Toronto
- † Demetrios of America
- † Chrysostomos of Etna
- † Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle

Bishops

- † Gregory of Christianoupolis
- † Photios of Marathon
- † Sergios of Portland
- † Ambrose of Philippi
- † Ambrose of Methone
- † Michael of Nora
- † Silvano of Luni
- † Klemes (Clement) of Gardikion
- † Theodosios of Bresthena
- † Christodoulos of Theoupolis (Assistant to the Metropolitan of America)
- † Auxentios of Photike (Assistant to the Metropolitan of Etna)

Retired Hierarchs

- † Metropolitan Paul (formerly) of America
- † Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis
- † Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis
- † Bishop George (formerly) of Alania

b. With the conviction that the prayers of all of you will continue to inspire and

strengthen us, we embrace you with a holy kiss and remain ever grateful and humble
Ministers of reconciliation and peace in Christ our Savior and God.

† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle