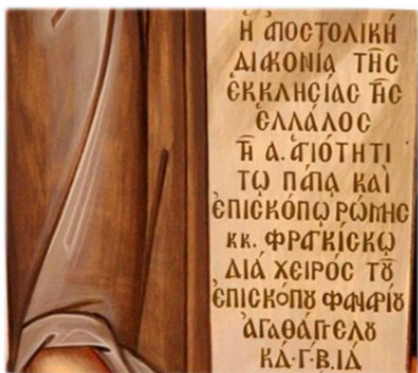


The Two Agathangels

Which Does Honor to His Name and Office?



The Bishop of Phanarion, Director of the *Apostolike Diakonia* [the missionary arm and publishing house] of the Orthodox Church of Greece, was received, along with the many members of his entourage, early on March 11 (Old Style)/24 (New Style), 2014, by Pope Francis.



The Bishop in question painted an Icon of the western saint, Francis of Assisi, and presented it to the Pontiff, who bears his name, with an especially prominent inscription and dedication (see photograph: “The *Apostolike Diakonia* of the Church of Greece to His Holiness, the Pope and Bishop of Rome[,] through the hand of Bishop Agathangel of Phanarion, 24.3.MMXIV).

- It is reported in the well-known blog, “Dogma,” that *“A gift with special symbolism was given today to Pope Francis by the General Director of Apostolike Diakonia, Bishop Agathangel of Phanarion. It was an Icon of St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Order of Franciscan Monks and patron of the present-day Pope Francis.*

“What is special about this Icon is the fact that this Roman Catholic saint is painted on the basis of Byzantine artistic techniques, in an effort to bring the two Churches closer together by way of the ecclesiastical arts.”

It behooves us to make note of the distressing nuance of the action of the Bishop in question, since by this action he acknowledges and declares both iconographically and, moreover, theologically, that the pan-heresy of Papism constitutes a secure soteriological domain.

* * *

In diametrical opposition is the stand of the other Agathangel, Metropolitan of New York and Eastern America and Chief Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.



This Archpastor, ignoring the labor, time, and costs, travelled to Greece, along with Archbishop George and Deacon Father Michael, in order to take part in the **Inter-Orthodox Deliberation of True Orthodox Christians** on Friday, March 8 (Old Style)/21 (New Style), 2014, as well as the historic Union Liturgy that took place on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross on March 10 (Old Style)/March 23, 2014, in the Church of St. Nicholas, its walls covered with Orthodox Icons, in the renowned convent of the same name in Paiania (Athens), Greece.

After this historically significant Liturgical Concelebration, he also signed, with the other seventeen Bishops who took part, the **Unitive Ecclesiological Statement**: “The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues,” which essentially united the True Orthodox of Greece, Russia, and Romania in one common and strong Anti-Ecumenical Front.

Let the reader judge which Agathangel honored his name and office....

