



“Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.”
(Colossians 4:17)

“O Christ, having taken upon Thy shoulders our nature, which had gone astray, Thou didst ascend and bring it unto God the Father.”

**The Icon
“O All-Hymned
Mother”**

† **Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle**

The washing of the feet

Take care for the ministry that you have received by the Will of the Lord, that you might perfectly fulfill it!

This service is eminently honorable, though eminently burdensome and fraught with responsibility.

Its fulfillment demands vigilant attention, tireless effort, unceasing prayer, and power and wisdom from on high.

This ministry gradually leads me to the Upper Room of the Mystical Supper, to the effectuation of the Mystery of the washing of the feet of the People of God.

Ministry

Compassion means ministry to our brothers and sisters, and such ministry has always been a hallmark of true Christians: “To gird yourself about with the towel of ministry is not a degrading thing, but a magnificent thing” in Christ our Savior and God.

Love is revolutionary

...when it reminds us that we do not have the right to be content with our own happiness, but that we must, throughout our lives and in every way, give to our brother or sister in need the kiss of life, joy, and hope.

...when it helps us valiantly to overcome an attitude of pessimism, grumbling, and faintheartedness, and we nobly sacrifice ourselves for the sake of our neighbor, whoever that may be.

Protocol No. B226

To:
The Reverend
Father Anders Åkerstrom
Uppsala, Sweden

En route by air to Rome
January 16, 2016 (Old Style)
† *Veneration of the Chains
of the Holy Apostle Peter*

Beloved in Christ and fellow minister, Father Anders: I embrace you in the Holy Spirit and ask for your God-pleasing prayers.

Only just now do I have the opportunity to write to you, as I travel by air to Rome, and from there to Cagliari, Sardinia, where we will take part in the Feast Day of the great local Saint, the Holy Martyr Efisius.

I was not able to write to you sooner, since I arrived back in Greece on the previous Tuesday very ill, with the symptoms continuing over the following days. Having not yet recovered, it is only by a miracle that I am able to travel again today, in order to continue my ministry.

I would like, then, despite my tardiness, to express first to Your Reverence, and also to our Small Flock in Sweden, my profound gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the warm hospitality you showed me, Father Jiři, and Father Antonios.

We once again lived in an atmosphere of the Family of Christ, giving and receiving love and joy in the Holy Spirit.

At the Divine Liturgy, we experienced the Mystery of the Upper Chamber of Pentecost and were renewed in the Grace of our Lord, Which covered our Eucharistic *Synaxis* so perceptibly.

This, along with other experiences in our Sweden, laced with snow like a bride, was a token and sign that

the horizons of our missionary field are expanding ever more.

Please convey to His Grace, Bishop Johannes, Father Stefanos, Deacon Father Theochares, Father Kyprianos, the Sisterhood of the Convent of St. Philothei, Presbyteras Birgitta and Viktoria, and also to all of our faithful, my profound and sincere prayers for their health of soul and body and their steady progress on the path of our Lord, and may our Mother the *Theotokos* grant them things heavenly in return for things earthly.

I embrace you with a holy kiss, hoping that in May I will once again be vouchsafed to be with you at the Patronal Feast of our Episcopal Residence.

The Least Servant of the
Flock of Christ,
Metropolitan Cyprian
of Oropos and Phyle