

The Regular Annual Meeting of the Holy Synod in Resistance*

(4 October 2005 [Old Style])



ON **MONDAY**, 4 October (Old Style), the Holy Synod in Resistance convened at its *regular annual meeting (the thirty-first)*, under the Presidency of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, and with the presence of all of its Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs from Greece, America, Australia, Italy, Austria, and Sweden.

The Holy Synod dealt primarily, on the basis of its agenda, with seven questions, of which the following four are worthy of especial mention and promulgation:

1. On the initiative of His Eminence, the President [of the Synod], and after consultation on the subject through correspondence, it was unanimously resolved that the **Three Holy New Hierarchs**—St. Photios the Great, St. Gregory Palamas, and St. Mark of Ephesus—be proclaimed special Patrons of the work of the Holy Synod against the

contemporary Western challenge of ecumenism, and be celebrated every year together on the first Sunday of November.

2. On the initiative of His Eminence, the President [of the Synod], as a culmination of earlier communiqués, the question of the communion of the Holy Synod with the **Russian Orthodox Church Abroad**—which [Church] is, on the one hand, moving steadily towards communion with the Moscow Patriarchate, while, on the other hand, it violates and transgresses the *theological basis* of our union therewith in 1994, to wit, our *anti-ecumenical outlook and collaboration*—was discussed at length and in very great detail

• **It was finally** resolved by a majority vote, that it be made known to the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, and officially promulgated, that communion with it is being **severed decisively**, its President, His Eminence, Metropolitan Laurus, having been deleted already for a year from the *sacred Diptychs*. Although the official announcement and full implementation of this *act* has been postponed for the present, by virtue of extreme economy and for pastoral reasons, it will take effect without further ado, immediately and automatically, upon the opening of communion between the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and the Moscow Patriarchate.

3. On the initiative, initially, of His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, it was resolved unanimously and without reservation that the Ossetian Archimandrite George (Pukhaev) be appointed Bishop, with a view to strengthening the missionary work and Orthodox witness in the much-suffering Republic of South Ossetia (in the Caucasus); further, His Eminence, the President [of the Synod] was entrusted with bringing to fruition matters pertinent to the invitation and Consecration of the candidate.

• **For** further developments in this regard, see “[The Consecration of His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania](#)” on our Synodal website.

4. His Grace, Bishop Ambrose presented a special “*Report on Expenditures on Foreign Missions*” for the period October 2004 through September 2005, during which the following allocations were made to each country in which the Holy Synod carries out missionary work:

■ Republic of the Congo (€2,287); Uganda (€7,390); Georgia–South Ossetia (€7,450); Romania (€2,850); Italy (€300); Austria

(€3,200); Czech Republic (€650); Democratic Republic of the Congo (€14,270); Kenya (€12,900); Singapore (€900); Moldavia (€450), amounting to a **total of €52,647 (\$66,335)**.



***Source:** *Άγιος Κυπριανός*, No. 329 (November-December 2005), p. 240.