

The Holy Synod in Resistance Celebrates the Sunday of Orthodoxy

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 3/16, 2008, a Hierarchical Concelebration by the members of our Holy Synod took place at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica (Headquarters of the Holy Synod in Resistance). His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, was the principal celebrant, with the participation of Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion, Priests and Deacons. A large crowd of devout Orthodox was in attendance.



Before Holy Communion, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone spoke about this Great Feast and its meaning.



After the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the clergy and lay-people held the customary procession with the Holy Icons around the newly-built Cathedral. During this ceremony, the Bishops read portions of the *Synodikon* of Orthodoxy, and exclaimed “Anathema” to the heretics and “Eternal be their memory” to the Confessors of our Holy Orthodox Faith.



- That evening (7-9 p.m.), the regular annual “Convocation for Orthodox Awareness” was held in Athens at the Novotel Convention Center (Plateia Bathes). These Convocations are organized by the Brotherhood of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina at the behest of the Holy Synod in Resistance, with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, First Hierarch of



the Holy Synod and, beginning this year, under the supervision of His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod.

The [Sixteenth Convocation](#), held under the special patronage of the Three New Holy Hierarchs, Sts. Photios the Great, Gregory Palamas, and Mark of Ephesus, and bearing the general title: **“The Dialogue With the Vatican and Expressions of Opposition to Papisism,”** once again drew a very large audience from Athens and other regions of Greece. The two-hour long program—which was of a very high standard—included the following elements:



A. Ecclesiastical hymns chanted by the Byzantine Choir of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina (21:30).

- “To thee, O Guardian Leader,” Plagal of the Fourth Tone, *Kon-takion*.
- “Thine immaculate Icon,” Second Tone, *Apolytikion*.

- “As servants of the Trinity,” Fourth Tone, *Apolytikion* of the Three New Holy Hierarchs
- Verses from the Great Doxology, Plagal of the Fourth Tone, *largo*, by Iakovos the Protopsaltes.
- “O joyous Light...,” Vesperal Thanksgiving Hymn, Second Tone. Abridged arrangement by Socrates Papadopoulos.
- Verses from the *Polyeleos*, “Praise the Lord, ye His servants,” Plagal of the First tone, by Petros the Peloponnesian.



B. *Opening remarks* and an *introduction* to the Convocation by the Master of Ceremonies, His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis (6:00).

C. *A presentation* by the Secretary of the Holy Synod, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, entitled: “**The Dialogue With the Vatican and Expressions of Opposition to Papism,**” in two parts and eight sections (lasting a total of approximately one hour):



1. *“They Will Bring Us in League With the Pope!”*
2. Papism Is in Every Way Contrary to the Gospel.
3. Dialogue in the Truth or the Triumph of Papocentric Ecumenism?
4. Resumption of dialogue.
5. The Meeting in Ravenna.
6. The Joint President of the Commission for Dialogue, Metropolitan John (Zizioulas) of Pergamon.
7. Official Voices of Orthodox protest from the Domain of the New Calendar Church.
8. We Prefer Communion with the Saints!



D. In between the two parts of the presentation, a special video documentary was shown, entitled: **“The Phanar and the Vatican: ‘Towards a Final Amalgamation?’”** (18:20), in three segments:





1. The Era of Dialogue
2. The Tenth Meeting in Ravenna
3. Dialogue, Ecumenism, and Opposition.

- This documentary helped towards a better understanding and assimilation of the speaker's views.

E. The Master of Ceremonies delivered an afterword (2:30), followed by a

F. Concluding address by His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, entitled: “Speaking the Truth in Love” (7:45), which succinctly summarized the stand and mission of our Holy Synod in the face of contemporary ecclesiastical reality.



G. The Byzantine Choir chanted *Ton Despóten*” and “What God is Great as our God.” His Grace, the Acting President brought the Sixteenth Convocation to a close with the invocation “Through the prayers...” Those present then received, as a blessing, a reproduction of the Holy Icon of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (depicting the Restoration of the Icons).



■ The Sixteenth Convocation, marked by the high level of the treatment of its theme, already constitutes a milestone in the history of Orthodox Resistance and Witness. Its spirit was confessional, fortifying, resolute, dispassionate, irenic, and unifying in nature. May its strong and resonant message—so tragically true—serve, through the intercessions of our Lady, the *Theotokos*, to awaken and edify the *pleroma* of the Church, and may the seed thereof bear fruit a hundredfold!

