

## The Regular Annual Convocation of the Holy Synod in Resistance

Thirty-Seventh Meeting/October 4-5, 2010 (Old Style)

**I. ON** the two days of October 4 and 5, 2010 (Old Style), Sunday and Monday, following a formal notice of invitation (a letter dated August 11, 2010, Old Style, bearing the Synodal Protocol Number 578), the Holy Synod in Resistance of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece convened its Regular Annual Convocation, its Thirty-seventh Meeting.

**a.** At approximately 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, in the Meeting Hall of the Holy Synod, at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Phyle, Attica, Greece, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President, celebrated the Service of the Small Blessing of Waters, with the Members of the Synod in prayerful attendance.

**b.** Following the Blessing of the Waters (Ἀγιασμός), the Hierarchy began its deliberations, in which the following participated: Their Eminences, Bishops Michael of Nora and Silvano of Luni and Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Auxentios of Photike, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes (Clement) of Gardikion, Secretary, and, by teleconferencing, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, who was unable to be personally present on account of the state of his health.



**c.** Absent for justifiable reasons were His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania [from South Ossetia] and His Grace, Bishop Johannes (John) of Makarioupolis [from Sweden].

**d.** In attendance, serving the need for translation, were Archimandrite Father Glykerios and Hieromonk Father John, from the Brotherhood of St. Cyprian.

e. On the following day, October 5, the two phases of the deliberations of the Holy Synod continued, after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, as well as a Memorial Service (Τρισάγιον) for the repose of those members of the Holy Synod previously gone to their rest, celebrated by the junior most in rank among the Hierarchs, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion.

f. Yet again, all of the Hierarchs, despite the weightiness of the extensive subjects under discussion and the strain of three separate sessions, experienced the miracle of the Synodal Spirit, the overshadowing of the Divine Paraclete, and the mystery of the reciprocal interaction of personalities in mutual respect and love.

**II. THE HOLY SYNOD** concerned itself with the following ten (10) subjects on its agenda:

a. A retrospective of the undertakings in the immediately past Period III (2009-2010) of the Standing Holy Synod, 2) the Constitutional Principles (By-Laws) of the Holy Synod, 3) the Canonical functioning of the Standing Holy Synod, 4) the reappointment of Members to the Standing Holy Synod, 5) the Constitutional Principles of the Holy Diocese of Luni, in Italy, 6) the Constitutional Principles of the Australian Exarchate, 7) the activities of the Diocesan Bishops, 8) a proposed Common Declaration [regarding the state of Orthodoxy] together with our Sister Churches, 9) subjects remaining from the Synod's previous convocation (eschatological frenzy, the color of vestments on various Feast Days), and 10) a Pastoral Encyclical to the pious faithful of the Synod in Resistance.

• An unanticipated eleventh subject was added to the agenda, viz.: The Diocese of Sydney and New South Wales—its future after the recent repose of the local Bishop, His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos (Alemangos).

**III. WITH REGARD** to the first subject, His Grace, the Acting President, informed the Hierarchy about the many and diverse activities of the Standing Holy Synod during Period III of its work (October 2009-September 2010).

a. It held sixteen sessions (I-XVI, with *circa* eighty pages of minutes), and in keeping with the threefold Office (*Munus Triplex*) of Our

Lord, of Whom every Hierarchy is a vehicle and expositor, placed great emphasis on Liturgical Worship, on Prophetic and Catechetical issues, as well as on Administrative and Organizational matters.

**b.** It cultivated ever more deeply inter-Orthodox relations with our Old Calendarist Russian, Romanian, and Bulgarian brethren, encouraged missionary visits, and supported our Dioceses in foreign countries with special consignments.

**c.** It increased in particular its Philanthropic and Social Assistance, and especially through the special agency of the Metropolis [of Phyle], that is, the St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild, with regard to which full statistical details were presented in the Synod meeting.

**d.** New stress was put on the publication domain, with renewed publication of our Synodal periodical, "Orthodox Resistance and Witness," as well as the preparation for publication of the "Order of Reception into the Old Calendar Orthodox Church."

**IV. WITH REGARD** to the second subject, the twelve-page document, "Constitutional Principles" of the Holy Synod in Resistance, was approved by a unanimous vote.

**a.** This foundational Synodal document has the following structure: Introduction (sections 1-5); Article I—Constitution, Headquarters, and Purpose (sections 1-9); Article II—Membership of the Holy Synod (sections 1-9); Article III—Meetings of the Holy Synod (sections 1-21); Article IV—The Metropolitan and First Hierarchy (sections 1-7); Article V—Administrative Structure (sections 1-13); Article VI—Foreign Missions (sections 1-2); Article VII—Clergy and Monastics (sections 1-8); Article VIII—Canonical Transgressions (sections 1-9); Article IX—General Ordinances (sections 1-11).

**b.** The text of these "Constitutional Principles" will be published following completion of the proposed amendments.

**V. WITH REGARD** to the third subject, the five-page document, "By-Laws for the Functioning of the Standing Holy Synod in Resistance," was approved by a unanimous vote.

**a.** The contents of this important document are as follows: I. Introduction (sections 1-3); II. Membership (sections 1-4); III. Place

and Time of Meetings (sections 1-7); IV. Functioning (sections 1-8); V. Minutes (sections 1-5); VI. The Secretary (sections 1-3); VII. Concluding Remarks (sections 1-7).

**b.** The “By-Laws for the Functioning of the Standing Holy Synod” will also be published.

**VI. WITH REGARD** to the fourth subject, it was unanimously resolved that during Synodal Period IV (October 2010-September 2011) the same Members of the Standing Holy Synod, namely, Their Graces, Bishops Cyprian of Oreoi (Acting President), Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion (Secretary), should continue in office.

**VII. WITH REGARD** to the fifth subject, the document, “Charter of the Diocese of Luni and the Exarchate in Italy,” was approved by a unanimous vote.

**a.** Vis-à-vis this very detailed and important document, which has been translated for the purpose of further study, some suggestions for improvement were made.

**b.** These amendments will be communicated to the Standing Holy Synod before the “Charter” is published.

**VIII. WITH REGARD** to the sixth subject, a draft of the “Constitutional Principles” of our Exarchate in Australia was submitted in broad outline to the Hierarchy for review.

**a.** When this draft receives its final form, it will be approved by the General Assembly of the Exarchate.

**b.** Thereby, the work of our Holy Synod in Australia will be carried out henceforth within the legal framework of that country.

**IX. WITH REGARD** to the seventh subject, that is, the “Activities of the Diocesan Bishops,” six Hierarchs in all took the floor.

**a.** His Grace, Bishop Cyprian, the Acting President, presented an account of our communities in Sweden (on the basis of a written report by the Reverend Father Anders Åkerström) and Georgia.

**b.** His Grace, Bishop Ambrose described the situation of our communities in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, England,

South Ossetia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, and Kenya, and also he communicated his impressions from a visit to Haiti, a missionary territory of our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

**c.** His Grace, Bishop Auxentios and Their Eminences, Bishop Silvano and Bishop Michael spoke about the problems, progress, and prospects of our ecclesiastical work in the United States and Canada, Italy, and Sardinia.

**d.** Finally, His Grace, Bishop Klemes reported in brief on our small communities in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and also on the prospects of opening a mission in Poland.

**X. WITH REGARD** to the eighth subject, that is, the composition of a “Common Declaration” with our Sister Churches, further work thereon was not possible, since the First Hierarchs of our Sister Orthodox Church in Romania and of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, contrary to their wishes, were not able to attend, as anticipated [on account of visa difficulties].

- Nevertheless, it was unanimously resolved that the groundwork be prepared for such a project, for the assurance and strengthening of unity with our Sister Churches.

**XI. WITH REGARD** to the ninth subject, that is, the undertakings remaining from the previous, Thirty-sixth Meeting, particular attention was given to the report concerning [the prevailing spirit of ] eschatological frenzy.

**a.** It was unanimously resolved that, in the first place, we should publish a Synodal Encyclical on the subject to our flock. The existing complete draft will be closely studied and, if approved, submitted for publication.

**b.** Following this, three detailed studies on this topic will gradually be published in order to substantiate in theological and intellectual terms the teachings contained in this Synodal Encyclical.

**XII. WITH REGARD** to the tenth subject, that is, a “Pastoral Epistle to the Pious Faithful of the Orthodox in Resistance,” it was unanimously resolved that the existing draft version be published.

**a.** This Epistle is deemed appropriate in view of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of our Holy Synod.

**b.** This anniversary coincides with the global economic and (more generally) social crisis, in an atmosphere of eschatological frenzy, with the ninetieth anniversary of the so-called ecumenical movement, and also with the [emergence of] many distressing divisions between the Old Calendarist anti-ecumenists.

**XIII. WITH REGARD** to the eleventh subject, that is, our Diocese in Australia, after the repose of the local Bishop, His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos (Alemangos), the following resolutions were passed by a unanimous vote:

**a.** It is fitting that the Holy Diocese of Sydney continue its existence, since its expansion, especially over the course of the past year, is evident and its legal recognition is impending.

**b.** Until a suitable person is found for appointment to its Cathedra, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone is designated Locum Tenens, by Synodal vote, of the Holy Diocese of Sydney.

*From the Chancery of the Holy Synod  
† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion*

*October 26, 2010 (Old Style)  
Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-Gusher*

