

## ENCYCLICAL

for the Feast of the Nativity of our Savior Christ

Protocol No. 1793

# Hope and Vision

*From the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word  
to the Mystery of the Holy Trinity*

*My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

**O**n this great day, gathered together yet again in the Temple of the Glory of our Lord, participating in the Supper of the Kingdom of God, and guided by the Divine Comforter to the True Light, we worship with all reverence the ineffable Mystery of the Incarnation of our Savior Christ.

Glory and thanksgiving to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

**The Good** News, the joyous Tidings, the Gospel message that **God the Word has become flesh**, when continually confessed, constantly proclaimed, and unceasingly announced, renews **our Hope** and revives **our Vision**.

Now, why is this?

**It is** because one Mystery leads us to another. The Incarnation of the Word—the first Mystery—discloses to us the Holy Trinity—the second Mystery.

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*Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

**Today** it is revealed to us that **God is Love**; that is, He is not a monad, He is not a Person alone by Himself. Rather, He is a Union



of Persons, a Community of Three Divine Persons, a Communion of Love.

**God** does not only *have* love, but *is* Love itself. He is absolute Love; He is the Source of Love; He is an Ocean of essential, natural Love. He possesses Love in the literal sense, truly, and in His essence.

**And** when it is revealed to us that “**God is Love**,” this means that the entire Holy Trinity in common is, and is called, Love, and that the Persons of the Holy Trinity are united, joined together, and mutually interpenetrate each other unconfusedly, both by reason of Their one Essence and on account of this essential Love.

**It** is precisely this Great Truth, this Good News, that first and foremost renews **our Hope**: God, as Love, sustains and preserves all things, guiding and drawing them to Himself unceasingly. He is not forgetful of His Creation or of us His creatures, but is constantly concerned and solicitous to restore us to communion among ourselves and with Him, to communion according to the image of the Holy Trinity.

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*My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

**This** Good News, this Gospel, likewise renews **our Vision**, which is in danger of fading amid the dullness of daily life, notwithstanding the liturgical exhortation: “Let us love one another, that we may with one mind confess: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Trinity one in essence and undivided.”

**Only** if we abide in Love; only if we have Love among us; only if we experience a communion of Love; only if we are united in mutual interdependence—only then do we abide in the Holy Trinity and the Holy Trinity in us; only then do we become a Temple, an abode, and a dwelling-place of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; only then is the yearning of Christ fulfilled, “that they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us.”

**Hope and Vision!** Let us not allow **our Hope** and **our Vision** to be darkened and lost amid the debris of any crisis or ordeal whatsoever.

**Our** Faith and our Confession, today and always, that “**The Word became flesh**” and that “**God is Love,**” are the most precious gifts to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters, gifts which regenerate us and unite us in mutuality.

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**May** the prayers of our much-revered Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian, through the intercessions of the Most Blessed *Theotokos*, strengthen, guide, and protect us, so that we might offer a consistent witness to the Christification of Man, to the Great Mystery of the Encounter between God and Man, unto the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages. Amen!

### + **The Holy Nativity of Our Savior Jesus Christ, 2012**

Your humble intercessor before our Incarnate Lord,  
† Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi,  
*Acting President of the  
Holy Synod in Resistance*



**Note:** *The Reverend Parish Priests are asked to read the present Encyclical immediately after the Holy Gospel of the Divine Liturgy for the Nativity Feast (Christmas).*