



OLD CALENDAR  
ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GREECE  
HOLY SYNOD IN RESISTANCE

Protocol No. 678

Phyle, Athens  
October 6, 2013  
Holy Apostle Thomas

Synodal Encyclical

To the Most Devout Clergy and the Christian Congregation  
of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle

Most devout Priests and all other blessed Orthodox Christians of the Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle, Grace to you from God the Lord and Ruler of all.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who in His love for mankind was made incarnate for our salvation, established the Holy Church for the purpose of imparting salvation to each and every one of the faithful through their sanctification, instruction, and guidance by the Holy Apostles and their successors, namely, Her Shepherds. These He appointed to continue His redemptive work: “As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you”; “He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that rejecteth you rejecteth Me; and he that rejecteth Me rejecteth Him that sent Me”; “He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth him that sent Me” (St. John 20:21; St. Luke 10:16; St. Matthew 10:40).

Just as the Church was established to be eternal, so also the work that the Apostles undertook has proved eternal, being transmitted through the Holy Spirit in the Mystery of the Priesthood to their successors. The Church is not, indeed, conceivable without them. As the Apostolic Father, St. Ignatius the God-Bearer, writes: “Without these [the Shepherds] no Church is worthy of the name” (*Epistle to the Trallians*, III.1). Just as a believer is not saved if he remains outside the Orthodox Church, even so he is not benefited by remaining in Her without the Stewards of the Divine Mysteries, to wit, Her Shepherds and Teachers. Therefore, the supreme

importance of the Episcopal office in the Orthodox Christian Church and its indispensability are quite evident.

Thus it is that our Holy Synod in Resistance of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece, in its maternal solicitude and love for its Orthodox flock, at its Fortieth Convocation, on the fourth day of the month of October, in the Year of Salvation 2013 (Old Style), undertook, at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica [Athens], Greece, to fill the vacant Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle, and also its Presidency, and by canonical votes elected and appointed as Metropolitan and First Hierarch His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, hitherto *Locum Tenens* and Presiding President of the Holy Synod, a pious man, Orthodox in the Faith, and capable of shepherding the People of God.

Thus, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian has been appointed, by the Grace of the All-Holy and Consecrating Spirit, the authentic, canonical, and lawful Chief Shepherd and spiritual Protector of the Most Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle, and also President of our Holy Synod, possessing the right, as a Hierarch, to bless and sanctify all Orthodox Christians and to carry out everything that pertains to his office, and, with his installation to his sacred Throne, to examine and adjudicate every ecclesiastical issue in accordance with the Divine and Sacred Canons and the precepts of the Gospel, as the Holy and God-bearing Fathers have interpreted, elucidated, and handed them down to us.

In announcing these things to all of you, the Holy Synod in Resistance exhorts and beseeches you to accept His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle as your canonical and lawful Hierarch, and to obey and submit to him readily and wholeheartedly in all of his God-pleasing injunctions, as Holy Writ commands: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account” (Hebrews 13:17). The Holy Synod also exhorts and beseeches you, the clergy, to commemorate his name in all of the Divine services and petitions, in conformity with ecclesiastical order, and to render to him, all of you, as due your spiritual Father, fitting honor, reverence, love, and confidence.

He Who is the Ruler of all, our only God, Who is worshipped in Trinity of Hypostases and Unity of Essence, blessing will bless you, and multiplying will multiply you, coöperating, in His love for mankind, with your Shepherd in his pastoral service and with him nurturing you in life-giving pastures and beside the water of spiritual rest and Orthodox Confession.

May the Grace of our Chief Shepherd and Savior and His infinite mercy be with you all.

For the Holy Synod  
† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion  
Secretary