



CHURCH
OF THE TRUE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS
OF GREECE

HOLY METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

Headquarters: Phyle, Attica (Athens)

The Union
of the Old Calendarist Orthodox in Resistance
with the Church of the
True Orthodox Christians of Greece
and Its Inter-Orthodox Character

I. The Formation of a Common Holy Synod

Following the completion of the fourteen-month Official Dialogue between the Old Calendarist Orthodox in Resistance and the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, under Archbishop Kallinikos, which ended in agreement on the Common Ecclesiological Statement entitled, “The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues,” and also on the text concerning structural proposals for the administrative coördination of the Union, the Community of the Orthodox in Resistance submitted to the Holy Synod in question a document, dated February 21, 2014 (Old Style), which proposed the revocation of its walling-off of some thirty years ago, since the reasons for maintaining the same have now ceased to exist.

The document was delivered on Tuesday, March 5/18, 2014 at a midday meeting of the Holy Synod at the Church of Christ “the Unfading Rose” in Piraeus, in the presence of Archbishop Kallinikos and following members of the Synod: Their Eminences, Metropolitans Justin of Euripos and Euboia, Gerontios of Piraeus and Salamis, and Chrysostomos of Attica and Boio-

tia, and Their Graces, Bishops Gregory of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Philippi, and Theodosios of Brestena.

The Holy Synod accepted the document and proceeded to lift the penalties imposed upon the then Hierarchs of the Synod in Resistance, recognizing their Consecrations and Mysteriological acts and those of their successors who heretofore remained in communion with them.

There followed a joint session of the Synod, with the participation of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle and Their Graces, Bishops Ambrose of Methone and Klemes of Gardikion.

At this session, Metropolitan Cyprian thanked God for the miracle of the accomplishment of unity, and also the *Panagia* for her blessing, and hopes were expressed for the consolidation and success of the Union.

Thereafter, the structural proposals for the Union contained in the memorandum regarding the coördination of its administrative aspect were approved following a discussion of the subject, and the bases for the subsequent steps were laid.

II. *Trisagion at the Grave of the late Metropolitan Cyprian*

On Thursday, March 7/20, at 10:00 a.m., His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens (Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece), together with Their Eminences, Metropolitans Gerontios of Piraeus and Salamis and Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, and Their Graces, Bishops



Gregory of Christianoupolis, Photios of Marathon, and Ambrose of Philippi, went to the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica (Athens), where they were cordially received by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, Their Graces, Bishops Am-

brose of Methone and Klemes of Gardikion, the Abbot of the Monastery, Archimandrite Father Theodosios, and the Monastery Brotherhood. Over the grave of the late Metropolitan Cyprian, in a Chapel appended to the Monastery Cathedral, a *Trisagion* was chanted for his repose, and His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos read the appointed Hierarchical prayers.

Next, refreshments were served in the large reception hall of the Monastery, and the Hierarchs discussed matters pertaining to the ecclesiastical Union.

III. Inter-Orthodox Deliberation

On Friday, March 8/21, at 9:00 a.m., the Hierarchs of the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, namely, His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens, Their Eminences, Metropolitans Gerontios of Piraeus and Salamis, Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, Demetrios of America, and Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, and Their Graces, Bishops Gregory of Christianoupolis, Photios of Marathon, and Ambrose of Philippi, Ambrose



of Methone, Silvano of Luni, Klemes of Gardikion, and Auxentios of Photike, along with Their Graces, Bishops Antonie of Ploiești, Dionisie of Galați, and Evloghie of Sibiu from our Sister anti-innovationist Church of Romania, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, assembled at the Holy Monastery of the





All-Immaculate Virgin, in Megara, Attica (Athens).

After being received at the Monastery with due solemnity and honor, the Hierarchs worshipped in the Church, where a Doxology was chanted, and a *Trisagion* was then celebrated at the grave of Archbishop Chrysostomos (Kiouses) by His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos, and refreshments were served.

At around 10:00 a.m., all of the aforementioned Hierarchs took part in an inter-Orthodox deliberation in the Monastery Church, the main topic being the scrutiny and endorsement of the Common Ecclesiological Statement, “The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues,” to the end that it might form the basis for a wider Union and a common witness and confession of the Faith.

Following a lengthy discussion of the statement, point by point, and the approval of certain necessary emendations and adjustments thereto, complete agreement was reached, with God’s help.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, First Hierarch of our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, who had recently arrived from Ukraine, together with His Eminence, Archbishop Georgiy of Chișinău and Moldova and a Deacon, came in almost at the end of the first part of this important and historic inter-Orthodox deliberation, being received with honor and love.

After the provision of a fasting, though plenteous, meal, the proceedings of the second part of the inter-Orthodox deliberation continued in the meeting hall of the Monastery. The scrutiny of the Common Statement was resumed, for the sake of securing the full agreement of our Romanian and Russian brethren, and this was indeed achieved.



There followed the examination and resolution of other ecclesiastical matters, which, because they were handled in a positive and harmonious manner, led to the auspicious completion of the proceedings of this long-drawn-out, exacting, but also particularly blessed deliberation, which constituted the basis for the impending liturgical ratification of the Union of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Romania, and of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

It should be noted that, although the presence of His Eminence, Bishop Photiy of Triaditzia, from Bulgaria, who was positively disposed towards the Common Statement, was expected, problems of a practical and pastoral nature nonetheless prevented him from coming to the present deliberation. We await his later arrival, for the sake of strengthening and broadening the unity that has been attained.

IV. A Synodal Inter-Orthodox Concelebration of Unity and Confession of the Faith

On the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, March 10/23, at 9:00 a.m., a liturgical concelebration of the Union was held, as the culmination

of the agreement and unification achieved between the Church of the True Orthodox Christians and the Community in Resistance, as well as their communion with the Sister Churches of Romania and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

the Holy Monastery of St. Nicholas in Paiania, Attica (Athens), in its splendid *Katholikon*, which is in the style of Athonite *Katholika*, with its marvellous iconography and overall ecclesiastical adornment.

The Monastery was built by the first Archbishop—after the repose of Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Phlourina (†1955)—of the Church of the



True Orthodox Christians of Greece, the Athonite Elder Akakios (Pappas), Bishop of Talantion (†1963). The sacred Relics of both Confessor-Hierarchs were present during the Divine Liturgy, so that they might share in the joy of their spiritual descendants and might supplicate for Christ's Holy Orthodox Church. At this Monastery, in 1962, there took place the Consecrations of the Bishops of the new first Synod of the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, under Akakios of Talantion, namely, Auxentios, Gerontios, Parthenios, Chrysostomos (Naslimes), and Akakios the younger, with the coöperation of Archbishop Leonty of Chile and Peru (†1971), from the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

The most significant anniversary, however, was that of the calendar innovation, ninety years ago on precisely this day, when March 10, 1924 was forcibly and inadmissibly "christened" March 23 by the impious innovators, thereby signalling the first fruits of the division over the calendar and of the



rupture of the Church. Thus, on this very day, ninety years later, the True Orthodox Christians, not only of Greece but also throughout the world, declared their unity in truth and love as the first fruits of a blessed new era of confession on behalf of the Church and against the syncretistic cacodoxy of ecumenism.



His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens was the principal Celebrant at the Divine Liturgy, and the following members of the Holy Synod took part: Metropolitans Justin of Euripos and Euboea, who, notwithstanding his advanced age (he is now ninety-seven years old!), impressed everyone by his robustness, Gerontios of Piraeus and Salamis, Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, Demetrios of America, and Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, and Bishops Gregory of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Philippi, Ambrose of Methone, Silvano of Luni, Klemes of Gardikion, and Auxentios of Photike. Also concelebrating were, from our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, its First Hierarch, and His Eminence, Archbishop Georgiy of Chișinău and Moldova, and from our Sister anti-innovationist Church of Romania, Bishops Antonie of Ploiești, Dionisie of Galați, and Evloghie of Sibiu. Many Priests, including the Reverend Father Anders Åkerström from Sweden, five Deacons, and numerous Subdeacons also took part.



The Very Reverend Archimandrite Gregory (Tavlarios) served as Ecclesiarch. Together with His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piraeus, he labored exceedingly for the proper organization and smooth running of this radiant celebration. The multitudinous “Orthodox Ecclesiastical Byzantine Choir,” under the direction of the musicologist Mr. Michael Makres, chanted in an impressively festal style.





At the end of the Doxology, the Honorable Cross was borne aloft on a tray decorated with flowers and was elevated by His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos.

The petitions were chanted by the participating clergy in other languages besides the predominant Greek, thereby emphasizing the inter-Orthodox and festal character of the spiritual unity of True Orthodox everywhere.

Great joy and emotion were occasioned by the arrival in a wheelchair, towards the end of the Divine Liturgy, of the now ailing and venerable Metropolitan Akakios of Attica and Diavleia, co-founder of the Monastery in question and the oldest True Orthodox Hierarch in Greece, who is now eighty-eight years of age, having been consecrated a Hierarch during the aforementioned Consecrations of 1962.

His Grace, Bishop Photios of Marathon, Secretary of the Holy Synod, who was not taking part in the Divine Liturgy, read a Synodal Encyclical from the *Ambon* on the occasion of the Union, during the communion of the clergy. After this, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle delivered a festal message suitable for the occasion (“A Sermon of Thanksgiving on the Occasion of the Union and of Springtime”).

A large throng of Orthodox people inundated not only the spacious Church but also the adjacent areas, participating in the joy and exultation of the Union, a truly sacred experience of an inestimable gift imbued with the Cross and Resurrection, with optimism and hope, and also with thanksgiving to our Lord and God, Who has looked graciously upon His beleaguered People! Innumerable pious Orthodox faithful communed



from two holy Chalices.

After the Dismissal, His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos delivered a brief address, a spirited confession of the Faith, in which he also thanked those who had contributed to the celebration of this Feast. Metropolitan Akakios and Metropolitan Agafangel offered salutations of encouragement and satisfaction.

Many clergy, who had liturgized in their parishes, arrived before the Dismissal, in order to participate in the joy of the Union, to revel in the exultation of the Church, and to pray together for resplendent progress in love and peace.

After the abundant repast provided for the clergy, refreshments were served in the Monastery's reception room, where the holy Hierarchs present, eighteen in number, signed the original Greek text of the Common Ecclesiastical Statement.

Commemorative photographs were then taken in the concourse of the Monastery, and everyone, clergy and laity, departed in praise and thanksgiving to the supremely laudable Name of our Holy Triune God for this incalculable gift of the Unity of the True Orthodox Church, praying that we might not only preserve but also augment it. May it be so!

