



“Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.”
(Colossians 4:17)

The washing of the feet

Take care for the ministry that you have received by the Will of the Lord, that you might perfectly fulfill it!

This service is eminently honorable, though eminently burdensome and fraught with responsibility.

Its fulfillment demands vigilant attention, tireless effort, unceasing prayer, and power and wisdom from on high.

This ministry gradually leads me to the Upper Room of the Mystical Supper, to the effectuation of the Mystery of the washing of the feet of the People of God.

Ministry

Compassion means ministry to our brothers and sisters, and such ministry has always been a hallmark of true Christians: “To gird yourself about with the towel of ministry is not a degrading thing, but a magnificent thing” in Christ our Savior and God.

Love is revolutionary

...when it reminds us that we do not have the right to be content with our own happiness, but that we must, throughout our lives and in every way, give to our brother or sister in need the kiss of life, joy, and hope.

...when it helps us valiantly to overcome an attitude of pessimism, grumbling, and faintheartedness, and we nobly sacrifice ourselves for the sake of our neighbor, whoever that may be.



“O Christ, having taken upon Thy shoulders our nature, which had gone astray, Thou didst ascend and bring it unto God the Father.”

† **Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle**

Protocol No. B184

To:
The Reverend
Father Anders
Uppsala, Sweden



**The Icon
“O All-Hymned
Mother”**

Tbilisi, Georgia
September 29, 2015 (Old Style)
† St. Kyriakos the Anchorite

Beloved in Christ and esteemed fellow-worker and fellow-minister, Father Anders: *Evlogeite!* May the Peace of the Holy Spirit be in your heart and in our entire *Small Flock* in Sweden.

Only just now, and indeed from Tbilisi, am I able to write this letter to express to you my sincerest feelings of love and gratitude.

During my most recent pastoral visit (September 18-23) to your homeland, I yet again received the abundant fruits of your loving hospitality, which, to be sure, always involves a certain amount of self-sacrifice on your part.

Our meetings, at both a personal and collective level, were quite beneficial and edifying, and I pray that this will continue to bear spiritual fruit.

It is my hope that on each visit I might see at least some steady progress with regard to practical matters, and all the more so with regard to spiritual matters.

A great danger in our pastoral work is that of succumbing to a *wearisome routine*, and consequently of mechanically going through the motions of our work and activities in a superficial way, whereas our Lord enjoins us to “launch out into the deep.”

And when we who have been vouchsafed to serve as Shepherds are *alive*, it is then that we will have an *invigorating* effect on our flock, it is then that we will have *active* faithful, it is then that the tree of our Diocese will be *alive* and flourish, with the hope that it will continue to produce spiritual fruits.

Please convey to His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis and to his praiseworthy coworkers, but also to all of our

faithful, my profound gratitude and fervent best wishes.

With my mind's eye focused on our visit in January of 2016, I embrace you all in Christ, praying that our All-Holy Mother might strengthen, guide, and safeguard you in your journey towards the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Least Servant of the Flock of Christ,
†Metropolitan Cyprian
of Oropos and Phyle