

To the Reverend Father Spyridon Tanous, Sweden
Saturday, July 1, 2018 (Old Style) + Commemoration of Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Beloved in Christ Father Spyridon:

I pray that you ever remain under the Radiant Protection of our Most Holy Mother and that you constantly walk along the path of the Will of God. **A**men!

I received your electronic **message, dated June 8/21, 2018**, in response to which I have the following to say, in brief.

1. You have correctly understood my **Statement** that you no longer belong to our Holy Diocese of Stockholm and All Scandinavia.

2. Your guidance under our Holy Synod remains merely theoretical at this point, since:

First of all, when you came to Greece, His Beatitude **did not accept your proposal** to be directly under the Holy Synod, but rather he directed you to the Diocesan Hierarchy, that is to my unworthiness.

Secondly, nothing of what you have done since that time did you place under the blessing of our Holy Synod; that is, **you acted without its knowledge**.

3. Your three projects—Radio, the Camping and Conference Center, and the Campaign—which, as you write, you are doing “with [your] own money” as “projects that do not belong to the Church,” should most certainly have been presented to your **Authority** for review, insofar as you are a Priest under a **Canonical Ecclesiastical Authority**.

4. It is not possible for an Orthodox clergyman to act independently of his Bishop, without his knowledge, and indeed in opposition to him, all the while creating the impression, by means of various postings on the Internet, of ecclesiastical and synodal approval.

5. I do not feel that you are working “against the Church” or “against the Orthodox faith,” but rather, with brotherly and paternal concern, I remind you that ● you do **not** possess an **ecclesiastical mindset**, ● you are **not** acting according to **ecclesiastical order**, ● you do **not** bear witness to the mentality of an **ecclesiastical Shepherd**, who ought ● **to be** spiritually united with his Bishop ● **to** act in cooperation with him, ● **to** concelebrate with him ● **to be** devoted solely to the spiritual cultivation of the faithful, far from all other occupations.

I wrote to you moved by love for your person, with the hope that I would make myself clear regarding my position towards you, and that you will consider your future course with a greater sense of responsibility.

With my hope in your prayers, I remain,

The Least Minister,
Girt with the Towel of Servitude,
† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili