

# “Interventions”



At the outset of 2022

## Thoughts and Concerns On the *Virus of Doubt*

**We are crossing** the threshold into 2022 accompanied by the continuing coronavirus pandemic. And it is with sorrow that we observe that this tribulation has not helped us to become wiser, more judicious, and more mature in Christ.

At the beginning of the tribulation, the spiritual meaning, for those who assiduously endeavor to have the “mind of Christ,” was crystal clear: God, in His loving-kindness, imposed on us a penitential “rule of prayer,” as much for our own failings, deviations, and sins, as for those of the whole world.

**A genuine and sensitive Christian is one who always prays and repents for those who never pray or repent.**

This tribulation gave us the opportunity for reflection, deliberation, and self-criticism; to progress in self-knowledge; to forgo what is superfluous; to sober up; to discover our personal and social responsibilities; to resolve upon a radical personal change, “going to the Father,” freed from the weight of a worldly lifestyle (ambition, love of pleasure, consumerism, egocentric complacency, etc.).

Strangely, though, sensible, sober, and irenic voices in this regard were not heeded, but rather disputed and derided; uninformed and ignorant voices rose to the forefront; Orthodox theology and the Orthodox ethos were abused; the Internet was reduced to a stinking sewer; Synodal decisions were treated with contempt, even by Priests; whoever dared to speak the truth risked facing the deadly anti-ecclesiastical virus of rebellion, disobedience, self-direction, opposition, diatribes, audacity, irreverence....

All of these things, however, are rudiments of this world and not “according to Christ”; they are not characteristic of the Church, but rather of parachurch organizations; not of the faithful believers, but of the partisans of “groups” and “parties.”

Is this, then, the way we will enter 2022? Divided along party lines?



With the virus of doubt regarding every genuine ecclesiastical position? Poisoned and negatively influenced against our Holy Synod, against ecclesiastical unity, against the Body of Christ? God forbid, through the intercessions of the Theotokos and St. Basil the Great!

Let each of us reflect on the responsibility for which we are accountable.

† *Metropolitan Cyprian*

January 1, 2022 (Old Style)

† Circumcision of the Lord; St. Basil the Great