



STANDING HOLY SYNOD IN RESISTANCE

Regular Meetings

XX (July 8, 2008 [Old Style])–XXIV (September 24, 2008 [Old Style])

I. The Standing Holy Synod in Resistance continued to meet without fail on a regular basis throughout the summer, up to the conclusion of the First Period of its incumbency (October 2007–September 2008). During this time, by the Grace of God, it held twenty-four meetings and, with the help of the *Theotokos*, addressed a large number of pastoral, missionary, and inter-ecclesiastical issues that concern our Orthodox Ecclesiastical Community.

1. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, as Acting President, presided over these meetings, which were attended by Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion, the latter serving as Secretary.

2. The meetings were held at the Headquarters of the Holy Synod in Resistance, that is, at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, near Phyle (Athens), Greece.

3. The Standing Holy Synod convenes on a regular basis every two weeks, on Tuesday; when there is an impediment thereto, however, the date of the subsequent meeting is determined by the members of the Synod.

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II. At the five recent meetings (XX–XXIV) in the First Period of its operation, from July 8, 2008 (Old Style) through September 24, 2008 (Old Style), the Standing Holy Synod dealt with the following matters, to which we refer selectively and in order of priority.

1. The Holy Synod discussed at these four recent meetings (XX, XXI, XXIII, and XXIV) the ongoing informal union dialogue with the Holy Syn-

od of the “Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece” (G.O.Ch.) under Archbishop Chrysostomos (Kiouses).

(i) Under discussion were the three latest meetings held (IV-VI), and three further internal synodal reports were compiled (Reports V-VII), to the end of informing our full Hierarchy.

(ii) The dialogue continues, but has reached a critical juncture. There were also protracted discussions about this stage in the dialogue at the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of our Synod of Bishops (October 4, 2008 [Old Style]).

2. At four meetings (XXI, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV), the Holy Synod dealt with preparations for the Thirty-fifth regular annual meeting of our Synod of Bishops (October 4, 2008 [Old Style]): the compilation of an agenda, proposals from Hierarchs, etc.

3. At four meetings (XXI, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV), the Holy Synod discussed matters concerning our Sister Churches in Romania and Bulgaria and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad: the visit of Bishop Cyprian, together with Bishops Ambrose and Klemes, to Romania (for the Feast Day of the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Slatioara, August 6, and the Feast of St. Niphon, August 11); the visit of Bishop Cyprian to Sofia (for the Feast Day of the Cathedral of the Dormition, August 15); the case of the renegade Hieromonk Cassian (Angelov); our participation in the Fifth All-Diaspora *Sobor* of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under His Eminence, Bishop [now Metropolitan—*Trans.*] Agafangel of Odessa and Tauris, in New York, U.S.A. (November 2008), etc.

4. At these same four meetings (XXI, XXII, XXIII, and XXIV), issues pertaining to our foreign missions, especially in Africa, but also in England, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, were addressed: Bishop Ambrose’s missionary visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo (July 2008), financial problems, the legal status of our Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the St. Cyprian School in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, etc.

5. The Holy Synod dealt at three meetings (XX, XXII, and XXIII) with the grave crisis through which our Diocese of Alania, under His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania, is passing on account of the conflict in South Ossetia, took steps towards confronting this crisis, and then tabled the entire matter until the annual meeting of the Synod of Bishops (October 4, 2008 [Old Style]) for final consideration, with the expectation that Bishop

George would participate therein. In the end, however, despite his intentions, Bishop George was unable to attend this meeting.

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III. Other issues addressed by the Standing Holy Synod were as follows:

1. The Synod decided, at meeting XXI, that two of the Fathers of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina should be ordained to the Priesthood (Hieromonk Pachomios and Hierodeacon Theochares), that Hieromonk Neilos (Michalakes) should be received from one of the other Old Calendar jurisdictions in Greece (meetings XXIII and XXIV), and that it be officially confirmed that the Reverend Father John Younan, from Egypt, no longer belongs to our clergy (meeting XXIV).

2. It was resolved that decrees of divorce be issued for the dissolution of two marriages outside Greece (meeting XXIII), and questions concerning good Church order were discussed (meeting XXII).

3. The Holy Synod was informed about ecumenical developments (meeting XX) and events involving communion between Orthodox ecumenists and the Uniates, etc.

4. In addition, the Holy Synod has been following developments in the ranks of the “True Orthodox Christians” of Russia, and in particular those under Archbishop Tikhon (meetings XXII and XXIII). It also made contact, through an exchange of visits, with the ailing Metropolitan Athanasios of Acharnai (“Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece”) (meeting XXIII). Finally, through the offices of Bishop Klemes, it welcomed Metropolitan Athanasios of Larissa (“Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece”), who visited the Headquarters of the Holy Synod, accompanied by certain of his clergy, in conjunction with his overtures to the Holy Synod of the “Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece” under Archbishop Chrysostomos (Kiouses) (meeting XXIII).

At the Headquarters of the Holy Synod in Resistance,
Phyle, Attica, December 6, 2008 (Old Style)
St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Bishop of Myra

*From the Chancery of the Holy Synod
† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion*