

On the Occasion of the Thirty-Second Anniversary  
of the Consecration to the Episcopacy of our  
Metropolitan and Father Cyprian

## A New “Gravidity”

*Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

Today is the thirty-second Thanksgiving Convocation in memory of St. Parthenios, during which, with feelings of the profoundest gratitude, we are honoring the anniversary of the Consecration to the Episcopacy of our much-revered Elder, Guide, and Father, Metropolitan Cyprian.

- Glory to God for all things. We glorify Christ, our Philanthropic Savior, together with the Merciful Heavenly Father, and our tender Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

- The elevation of our spiritual Father and Elder to the Cathedra of the Episcopacy on February 7, 1979 (Church Calendar) constituted an historical benchmark in the life of our Church generally, and more specifically in the sacred effort to confront the *New Calendar innovation* and the *heresy of ecumenism* at a practical and theological level.

- His sacrificial **service**, which He sustained for so many years, treading the *Royal Path* of **Mercy** and **Moderation**, yet still with amazing nobility, courage, and persistence, has already been inscribed in the imperishable pages of ecclesiastical history, the monastic life, Orthodox spirituality, Evangelical Pastorship, and confessional struggle.

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

All of the foregoing in synopsis intensifies, perhaps, our sadness and *bewilderment* at the protracted illness of our God-sealed Elder.

- Nonetheless, since the close of 2007, though confined to His sickbed, He is not *inert*, as one who abides by the externals of things and events would imagine.

- The God-graced person of His Eminence, our Metropolitan is, if I may be permitted to express myself thusly, like unto an *iceberg*.

- Heretofore, we have seen and known only the visible *peak* of His *persona*; now, however, there has been mystically revealed to us a *reality* which in the past was either unknown to us or which we only suspected.

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

The gradual but steady emergence of this other *reality* takes form by way of a mysterious *spiritual rite*, as we accompany one another to the Portals of true Life.

- One upholds the other: He us and we Him. There is no gap in communication.

- Our being is being opened, bit by bit, to the light, just as Spring opens the flowers, that they might receive life and give life.

- To the extent that the *End* approaches, so much do the mystery and sacredness of life show forth.

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

Our Elder, moving in Christ, is dwelling at present in a state of thanksgiving and praise for the Lord, for at this stage of His life—for which he, indeed, so yearned—he is in His own *realm*: in His monastery, in His cell, immediately before his chapel and in the bosom of the Archangel Michael, with His spiritual family, surrounded by His most beloved persons, and among His beloved things: Icons, votive lights, prayer ropes, photographs, and remembrances of his adventurous life...

- And he *prepares* Himself! And He is *ripening* in the midst of a temperate climate of prayer, gladness, love, tenderness, and sweetness.

- This stage is that of a new gravidity, which demands its own time and its own rhythm. Precisely for this reason, it is something more than a mere sad expectation; *it obtains a mysterious and precious character.*

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*My Dear Brothers and Sisters:*

In genuine interpersonal relationships in Christ, *oral communication* is not everything; more significant and essential is psychic communication—a matter of feeling—or, to be precise, *spiritual communication*.

- Let us, then, resolve to weave a web of *sweetness* and *love* around our much-revered Metropolitan; thus, we will be actually present before him, communicating deeply with Him in the Holy Spirit.

- Those of us who have the blessing of visiting Him and being near Him, let us take part, with the incense of our prayers, in the prolonged spiritual *rite of departure* for reception into the eternal Spring, with the profound nearness and contact of love in Christ: with a **voice** that touches His *being*; with a **gaze** that says it all; with a **kiss to the hand** that will unite our hearts with His.

- In this manner, our questions will be given answers and our bewilderment will be resolved; for, the mystery and sacredness with which life is pregnant will be revealed when we allow the Divine Paraclete to comfort our existence, inundating it with **compassion** and **tenderheartedness**, to the end that we find ourselves in unceasing communion with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

7 February 2011  
St. Parthenios of Lampsakos

† *Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi*  
Acting President of the Holy Synod