



HOLY METROPOLIS OF  
OROPOS AND PHYLE  
HOLY SYNOD IN RESISTANCE



## Informatory Encyclical

### To the Spiritual Children Belonging to the Parishes and Monasteries of Our Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

*Venerable Monks and Nuns;*  
*Pious Christians;*  
*Beloved Children in the Lord:*

**B**y the Grace of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, through the prayers of our much-revered Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian, we embrace you all with a holy kiss of love, peace, and unity.

We would like to convey to you our especial joy at the great blessing of today's clergy-laity gathering, in which all of the serving Priests of our parishes, monasteries, and *metochia* (dependencies) participated, together with representatives therefrom, monastics, and lay people, as well as observers from the ecclesiastical communities belonging to our Holy Metropolis.

At the Convent of St. Paraskeve, Acharnai, Attica, on Thursday, October 28, 2011 (Old Style), after having prayed and communed together at a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, we were vouchsafed the great gift of working together fraternally "for the edifying of the Body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12) and of experiencing the presence of our Savior in our midst: "for where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them" (St. Matthew 18:20).

The members of our ecclesiastical jurisdiction, the faithful of the Old Calendar Church, who oppose the heresy of ecumenism and the innovation of the New Calendar, are called upon especially today, at this critical turning point in our nation's history, to work together, so as to strengthen and deepen their love and unity in Christ.

Since we are all honorable members of the Body of Christ, we

are interdependent, are in need of one another, and complement one another ecclesiastically, liturgically, and mysteriologically.

Within the Church there is a distinction of charisms, ministries, and offices, but at the same time the members are united and equal, according to the image of the distinction of Persons and unity of Essence in the Mystery of the Holy Trinity.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit should imbue our spiritual family, in an atmosphere of solidarity and reciprocity, wherein the joy and pain of our brother becomes our own joy and pain.

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With this in mind, we have resolved and pledged, among other things, that each parish, monastery, *metochion*, and ecclesiastical community should contribute to the financial support of our clergy, and also, more generally, to the support of our Church's social ministry, as this is expressed in the multifaceted endeavor of philanthropy and care for the poor.

The exhortation of our Lord, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (St. Luke 6:36) has always been timely in the life of the Church, the members of which would provide for their parish clergy with special care, and also for the indigent and unfortunate.

The participation of all of our parishes, monasteries, *metochia*, and communities will be on a small scale and symbolic, since we understand the gravity of the current economic crisis, which has a particular impact on vulnerable groups in our society; they will deposit or send a statement each month, by way of their serving Priest, to our Church's Synodal Fund for the Needy, which provides for the clergy and the indigent within and outside of Greece.

With the sincere hope that you will fully understand the spirit of this resolution and pledge, the serving Priests and representatives of our parishes, monasteries, *metochia*, and communities have expressed the universal conviction that all of us within the Church have not only pious and legitimate needs but also obligations, such that we might work "decently and in order," (I Corinthians 14:40), with self-denial and a self-sacrificial spirit.

We also express to you our gratitude, since your prayers contrib-

uted to the special convocation of this gathering, which served as a prelude to the clergy-laity gatherings that are to follow, and which will convene regularly, by the Grace of God, every six months, beginning after Pascha (April-May) and then again after the Feast Day (in October) of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, the headquarters of our Metropolis.

It is our wish, as we approach the commencement of the holy period of the Nativity Fast, that your journey towards the sacred Cave of Bethlehem be under the strengthening, guidance, and protection of the Most Blessed Theotokos and of all the Saints, to the Glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Convent of St. Paraskeve,  
Acharnai Attica  
October 28, 2011 (Old Style)  
Holy Martyrs Terence and Neonilla

On behalf of the Gathering  
† *Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi*  
Acting President  
† *Bishop Klemes of Gardikion*  
Secretary