



The Regular Annual Convocation of the Holy Synod in Resistance Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece

Thirty-Ninth Meeting/October 3, 2012 (Old Style)



I. ON TUESDAY, October 3, 2012 (Old Style), the Holy Synod in Resistance of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece summoned its regular annual Convocation, its Thirty-Ninth Meeting.

a. Although, on the basis of the foregoing published program, it was anticipated that there would be two days of Synodal deliberations (October 3–4, 2012 [Old Style]), in the end it was deemed expedient that the issues on the agenda be dealt with in a single day.

b. On the morning of Tuesday, October 4, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated, as well as a Memorial Service (Τρισάγιον) for the repose of those members of the Holy Synod previously gone to their rest, served by the junior most in rank among the Hierarchs, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, in the Cathedral at the headquarters of our Metropolis, that is, the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle, Attica, Greece.

c. At approximately 9:00 a.m., in the Meeting Hall of the Holy Synod (at the Monastery), His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Act-

ing President, celebrated the Service of the Small Blessing of Waters (Ἀγιασμός) for the new Synodal Period, with the Members of the Synod in prayerful attendance.

d. Following the Blessing of the Waters, the Hierarchy began its deliberations, which were conducted in two sessions (9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.), and in which the following Hierarchs participated: Their Eminences, Bishops Michael of Nora and Silvano of Luni and Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Auxentios of Photike, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion, Secretary, and, by teleconferencing, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, who was unable to be present in person owing to the state of his health.

e. Absent for equally justifiable reasons was His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, who serves the Holy Synod in Sweden, owing to serious health problems. However, he designated His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike as his representative.

f. In attendance, serving the need for translation into Italian, was Archimandrite Father Glykerios, from the Brotherhood of St. Cyprian.

g. The Synod Meeting proceeded flawlessly, by the Grace of God, being conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and peace. Each Hierarch had ample time in which to express his opinions and to elucidate them in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and fraternal love and esteem.

h. To begin with, the minutes of the Thirty-Eighth Convocation (October 4, 2011, [Old Style]) were read and endorsed and signed by all the Reverend Members of the Holy Synod.

i. Next, it was determined that the Convocations of the Holy Synod should henceforth be held invariably, save in exceptional cases, on October 4 (Old Style) of each year, continuing—if the situation calls for this—on the following day, in morning and afternoon sessions, at the headquarters of our Metropolis.

j. The Holy Synod dealt in all with six subjects, which were listed in the program set out in its agendum.

II. WITH REGARD to the first subject on the agendum, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, as Secretary of the Standing Holy Synod, read a four-page report “Concerning the Proceedings of the Standing Holy

Synod (Fifth Period, October 2011–September 2012),” summarizing the work of the Holy Synod in the preceding Period, which encompassed topics pertaining to the Synod (Sister Churches, Dioceses of the Holy Synod in Resistance, Missionary Communities abroad, unity within the Old Calendar movement and relations with the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, ecumenism and anti-ecumenism, and various other issues) and topics pertaining to the Metropolis.

III. WITH REGARD to the second subject on the agenda, that of renewing the membership of the Standing Holy Synod, it was resolved, yet again unanimously, that during the Sixth Synodal Period (October 2012–September 2013), the same members should continue to offer their services, namely, Their Graces, Bishops Cyprian of Oreoi (Acting President), Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion (Secretary).

IV. WITH REGARD to the third subject on the agenda, to wit, the activities of the Diocesan Bishops, the following Hierarchs reported at length:

a. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, the Acting President, spoke about the two clergy-laity gatherings of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle and also about the upcoming one, about the involvement of our flock in the needs of the Church’s work, about the Synodal Fund for Charitable Assistance, about the new catechetical and missionary bulletin, *Edification and Consolation*, which will be published in eight languages, and other matters. He also spoke about essential steps towards the expansion of our mission in Sweden. A report on this subject by the Reverend Father Anders Åkerström has been taken under advisement.

b. His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, talked about the effort to construct a new Church as headquarters for his Diocese, near Cagliari, Sardinia, and also about the celebrations of Feast Days and missionary work.

c. His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni discussed matters pertaining to the parishes of his Diocese in Italy (prospects and problems), and also the work of the St. Gregory the Great Theological School in Pistoia, of which he is the founder and director.

d. His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike talked about matters regarding the parishes and clergy of our Exarchate in America, and various necessary resolutions were approved.

e. His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone spoke about our communities in South Ossetia and Australia, as *Locum Tenens* of our Dioceses there, and about our communities in England, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo.

f. His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion read his report concerning the state and the positive prospects of our communities in the Czech Republic, where special emphasis has been given to the preparation of a website in the Czech language, and in Slovakia.

V. THE ACTING PRESIDENT spoke about a “Pastoral Epistle” from the Holy Synod to the pious faithful of the Orthodox in Resistance. He presented a draft of the “Third Synodal Exhortation,” entitled “The Economic and Social Crisis and the Social Ethos of Christians,” which was unanimously approved for publication.

VI. ON THE SUBJECT of relations with our brethren of the Romanian Old Calendar Church, the Members of the Synod were given an historical retrospective of the recent past and were informed about the inter-synodal consultation with their Synod of Bishops two months ago in Slătioara and also about the positive aftermath of the consultation. It was resolved that we take suitable measures to continue to preserve and strengthen these relations.

VII. WITH REGARD to the sixth and final subject on the agenda, the dialogue with a view to union with the “Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece,” reference was made to relations with its leadership both in the past and at present, attention was drawn to the optimistic atmosphere that now exists between us, and it was suggested that we renew dialogue, which would henceforth be a formal one, on the basis of written proposals on their part. This gave rise to a wide-ranging discussion of relations with the “Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece” and of dialogue therewith, and various opinions and positions were expressed. Bishop Klemes read a special report on this issue, along with concrete proposals for the “facil-

itation of union,” which were not approved by the majority of the Hierarchy. It was emphasized, finally, that our Holy Synod is in favor of dialogue, determination of the format of which it assigned to the Members of the Standing Holy Synod, so that they might make the relevant arrangements and submit our proposals to the other side for the advancement of this important matter.

From the Chancery of the Holy Synod

† Bishop Klemes of Gardikion

October 12, 2012 (Old Style)

St. Symeon the New Theologian

