



Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians
of Greece
Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle



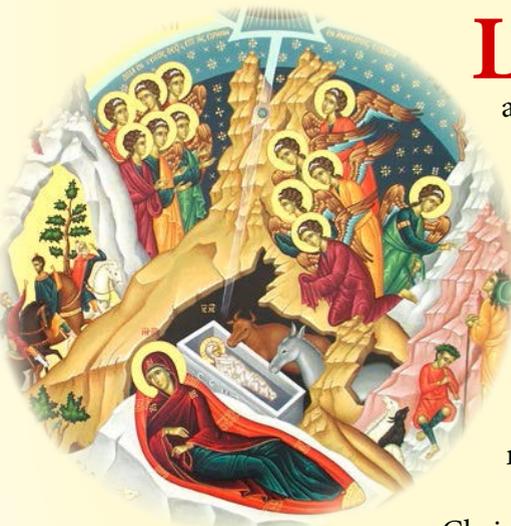
Message

On the Occasion of the Feast of the Nativity of Christ our Savior, 2014

The Mystery of the Incarnation of God and the Mystery of Compassion

Our loving response to His tenderhearted Nighness

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



Let us pray, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that we be given the blessing of discoursing today, yet again, on the Mystery of the Incarnation of God.

Amid the light and the mysterial majesty of this Feast, we celebrate the Nuptials of God with mankind!

This is the essence of Christmas: God, out of love for our nature, comes as a Bridegroom. He finds His fallen Bride; He grants her forgiveness upon the Cross;

He embraces her in the Resurrection; and He glorifies her at the Ascension, by way of an eternal union.

Let us not adopt a sentimental or moralistic approach to the great Mystery of the visitation and manifestation of God in the flesh.

We are constantly called upon rather, and especially on this day, to enter deeply into, and to experience in our own lives, the unique Truth that the

Incarnation of the Word, the union of God with Man, the deification of our nature, the Wedding of the Lamb, is an unending and astounding reality that is disclosed in the Mystery of the Church.

The Church consists, organically, of the members of Christ: of all of us. We are His Body. We are His glory. We are the incarnate Life of God in the world. We are the unceasing birth and rebirth of Christ. We are His perpetual Advent. We are the loving response to His infinitely tenderhearted nighness.



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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today we welcome Christ. We worship the Mystery of the embrace of the Uncreated and the created—the Mystery of Love.

However, we do not take part in this Wedding as individuals. The boundless Compassion of our Savior is instilled and given flesh in the world by means of every believer. God allotted to mankind His unique concern: Man.

In honoring and worshipping the Incarnation of God, we honor and worship His infinite Love and Compassion, wherein the Mystery of our salvation is encapsulated.

The Mystery of the Nativity of Christ is indissolubly bound up with the Mystery of Divine Compassion.

Our Lord and God cherishes nothing so much as compassion. He is Himself Compassion. And it is precisely for this reason that Christ sums up the entirety of His Gospel in Compassion.

Compassion is the fundamental law of Heaven for God Himself. It is also a fundamental law on earth for man.

Without compassion, God would cease to be God. Without compassion, man ceases to be Man.

Out of compassion God embraces man, and the Church is born. His Church is the Abode of His Compassion.

The Bride of Christ, His Abode, unceasingly renews and rekindles in our heart those things which the Only Compassionate One has implanted: feelings of compassion.

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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today we worship with gratitude the Incarnation of God and the revelation of His Compassion.

Through His Incarnation out of His Compassion, we have become united with Him and are His Bride. Through Compassion we are called upon constantly to reaffirm this our preternatural union with Jesus, our Beloved.

Blessed be the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, for He has enabled our created nature to have Divine parentage and to experience such profound Mysteries: that man should be given birth by God, be granted increase by Christ, and

be brought to fecundity by the Holy Spirit; that he should become a temple and tabernacle of the Holy Trinity.

And all of this takes place within His Church, the Abode of Compassion.

May the Most Blessed *Theotokos*, through the holy prayers of our Elder, Father, and Shepherd, Metropolitan Cyprian, of blessed memory, vouchsafe us to be ever-luminous witnesses of the Nativity of Christ, of the Compassion of God, and of the Nuptials of the God-Man with mankind! Amen!

† Holy Nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ, 2014

Your humble intercessor before our Incarnate Lord,

to Ὡρωσὸς ἡ Φυλῆς Κυπριαῖος

† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle

