



Union in Genuine Orthodoxy

An Anniversary of Gratitude and Creativity

March 2014 - March 2015



A. In March of 2014, by the good pleasure of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, through the intercessions of the *Theotokos* and of all the Saints, and by the power of the Precious Cross, the pertinent preparations having come to an auspicious fruition, culminating in the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross (March 10/23), we celebrated the Union of the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Community in Resistance with the Holy Synod of the Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece, under His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos.

In essence, this God-pleasing Union constituted the return of the Orthodox in Resistance to their Mother Synod, from which they had cut off ecclesiastical relations and communion in 1984.

This Union was achieved following a theological dialogue many months in duration (2012-2014), which concluded with the joint signing of an Ecclesiological Document entitled, “The True Orthodox Church and the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues.”

The Genuine Orthodox Christians of Romania, under Metropolitan Vlasie, and of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under Metropolitan Agafangel, also joined the blessed Union at that time.

* * *

B. One might ask, after thirty years in which we were not in com-

munion with each other, was this Union in accordance with the Will of the Divine Founder of the Church, and is it in accordance therewith?

The abundant spiritual fruits of this Union and the general acceptance thereof attest that the Lord, through the intercessions of the *Theotokos* and the Grace of the Precious Cross, blessed this Union, thereby reinforcing the Old Calendarist front against the syncretistic panheresy of ecumenism.

The various internal and external reactions—which are, in essence, groundless and non-theological—simply serve to verify that the Union was in accordance with God’s Will and constituted an historical opportunity for:

- firstly, the internal renewal in Christ and expansion of our Martyric Church, and
- secondly, the internationalization of Her presence and message, in anticipation of a true Major Pan-Orthodox Synod of anti-ecumenists for the purpose of dealing with syncretism, regardless of its provenance.

* * *

C. During the course of the first year of this Union, March 2014 to March 2015, the positive steps in the life of our Church were tangible:

- The Holy Synod functioned flawlessly and at a high level, demonstrating the fundamental importance of the genuine Synodal system.
- Activities of an inter-Orthodox nature increased and bore fruit, for the consolidation and expansion of the Union.
- Our theological presence and witness, especially through the Internet, but also through publications in print, is continually being expanded, improved, and consolidated.
- Ecclesiastical piety was rekindled with the proclamations of the sanctity of certain holy figures who have been numbered among the Saints of the Orthodox Church.
- Foreign missions were improved and organized more systematically by the creation of new Dioceses and Metropolises.
- The presence of Hierarchs at various Feast Days, commemorations, and presentations was very significant and emblematic.
- Our Orthodox young people distinguished themselves yet further and were given a strong new impetus for their life and witness.
- Initiatives at an individual and collective level lent a more profound and substantial dimension to the Union and the consolidation thereof.
- The plenitude of our Church, the pious People of God, expresses,

“in season and out of season,” its profound and unreserved satisfaction with the Union and supports it in many ways.

* * *

We send up heartfelt glory and thanksgiving to Christ our Savior, and also fervent entreaty that He ever bless this Union, expand it, and preserve it steadfast, by the power of the Precious Cross, upon the Rock of Genuine Faith and love, for the edification of His Body, “that the world might believe.” Amen!

*Apostolic City of Patras,
Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross
March 2, 2015 (Old Style)
† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle*

