



CHURCH OF THE
GENUINE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS
OF GREECE

HOLY METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

Message

for the Feast of the Nativity of our Saviour Jesus Christ, 2018

The Great Mystery: Brother and Sister and Mother of Christ “Members of the Household of God”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!

I worship, magnify, and glorify Thee, O my God, Thou Who art Blessed, now and unto the ages of ages!

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Invoking the blessing and guidance of the Most Holy Theotokos, as well as the prayers of our Father and Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory (†2013), I ask for your prayers and attention, that we might, on this Great Day, delve into a Great Mystery.



Throughout the entire history of the world, there existed only one Woman who was chosen to become, literally and physically, the Mother of God.

Thenceforth, the Theotokos, as a Universal Mother and Mother of the Church, begets Christ our God in our hearts, in a mystical and charismatic manner.

Through the Holy Mystery of Baptism, every pious Christian receives the supreme gift of begetting Christ voluntarily in his heart, in the Holy Spirit, by the Grace of the Mother of God.

Thus does the Christian become a spiritual kinsman of our Lord, “of the household” of our Lord, as He Himself assures us:

Behold My mother and My brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of My Father Which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother (St. Matthew 12:49-50).

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Christ-loving Brothers and Sisters,



Yes, as we all know, apart from physical kinship, there is also a much loftier kinship: that of *spiritual kinship*.

There is the spiritual family, the members of which are members of Christ, and the spiritual Mother is the Theotokos, the Mother of the Church.

Our new nature, given to us by the New Adam—Christ—and the New Eve—the Theotokos—renders all Christians, insofar as they are obedient to God and do His will, “partakers of the Divine Nature,” “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation” (cf. II St. Peter 1:4 and I St. Peter 2:9).

Whosoever does the will of God the Father, even if he is lowly and insignificant in the eyes of the world, him will Christ confess before men, before the Angels, and before His Father.

In the Akathist Hymn, we salute the Theotokos: “Rejoice, Dawn of the Mystic Day”!

This Mystic Day has already begun with our Mother, the Birth-giver of God. Amidst the Mystical Light of this Day, of the Eternal Kingdom, our Most Holy Mother begets the kinsmen of our Lord, His spiritual family.

We give thanks to the Theotokos and magnify her with hymns of praise.

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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This great Mystery, this great gift of God to mankind, through the Theotokos and the Church, namely to become “members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19), to belong to His House, the Church, and to constitute His Family and His Body, leads us to a profound sense of our own responsibility.

Do we, in fact, experience in our lives the Mystery of our kinship with God? Do we obey His will, such that His Grace, through the Theotokos, might give us this sense of kinship and unity with God? Is this a matter of first priority in our earthly lives?

And most importantly: Are we able to repeat the words of the Holy Apostle Paul: “Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”? (Galations 2:20).

May we possess this good anxiety and salvific aspiration to engender Christ our God in our hearts, through the Theotokos, that we might hear with certainty the mystical voice of our Savior: “Ye are My brother, and sister, and mother”; enter into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen!



† Holy Nativity of Jesus Christ our Savior, 2018

Your humble intercessor before our Incarnate Lord,
† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle