

Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece

Announcement of the Decisions of the Holy Synod of Bishops, September 1/14-2/15, 2015

From Monday, September 1/14 through Tuesday, September 2/15, 2015, in the hall of the Church of Christ “of the Unwithering Rose,” in Piræus, Greece, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece convened for a regular meeting.

Those present were His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens and All Greece; Their Eminences, Metropolitan Athanasios of Larisa and Platamon, Metropolitan Justin of Euripos and Euboia, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Attica and Bœotia, and Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle; Their Graces, Bishop Gregory of Christianoupolis, Bishop Photios of Marathon, Bishop Ambrose of Philippi, and Bishop Ambrose of Methone; His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni; and Their Graces, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion and Bishop Theodosios of Bresthena.

After the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters for the New Ecclesiastical Year and for the inauguration of the new Synodal Period, the Holy Synod of Bishops discussed the following matters and made decisions thereon:

1. The annual reappointment of members of the Synodal Commissions took place.
2. The Hierarchs redesignated the membership of the Synodal Courts.
3. *Locum Tenentes* were assigned to the vacant Dioceses.
4. The Hierarchs discussed the scheduling of the annual Synodal Convocations and settled the details both for the Synodal Memorial Service for Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Phlorina and Archbishop Chrysostomos of Athens on Saturday, September 6/19, 2015, and for the Synodal celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the Third Appearance of the Precious Cross on the evening of the Saturday after the Exaltation of the Cross (September 20/October 3, 2015).

The Hierarchs also decided:

- to exhort the clergy to celebrate the Feast of the Third Appearance of the Cross on an annual basis;
- that the Great Blessing of the Waters (with the immersion of the Precious Cross) be held in different locations next Theophany;
- that the keynote addresses at the Synodal Convocations on the Sunday of Orthodoxy and on the Feast of the Holy Apostle Paul be delivered by His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Philippi and His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, respectively;
- that a convocation be held every year in memory of the Fall of Constantinople on the Sunday closest to May 29 (Old Style).

5. It was resolved that honorific distinctions be conferred on the Sunday of Orthodoxy in 2016.

6. The Hierarchs decided who should be designated to represent the Holy Synod at the annual Feasts of St. Glicherie of Romania and of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Slătioara, Romania.

7. It was decided that our Church’s Calendar for 2017 be dedicated to the Holy New Martyr Catherine of Mandra, Attica (†1927).

8. There was an alteration in one clause of the Regulations governing ecclesiastical procedure: provision was made for the possibility of issuing summonses and decisions by e-mail in certain instances.

9. The Hierarchs discussed the progress of efforts being made by certain of the Metropolises of

our Church to establish ecclesiastical legal entities.

10. The Hierarchs were informed about developments in the case of the Skete of the Holy Fathers in Chios.

11. The Hierarchs were informed about matters pertaining to our Church's missions.

12. A petition submitted by the retired Hierarch George, formerly Bishop of Alania, was discussed.

13. A petition from a group of clergy in Uganda to join our Church was discussed.

14. The Hierarchs discussed the matter of the relationship of Romanian parishes in Italy to our Diocese of Luni.

15. A proposal for the declaration of the sanctity of two prominent members of our Church was discussed.

16. There was a discussion and appraisal of efforts hitherto put forth to achieve full ecclesiastical communion between the Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece and the Genuine Orthodox Church of Bulgaria.

[At this point the meeting was adjourned, to be continued the following day.]

16 (continued). The Hierarchs resumed the adjourned discussion concerning progress in achieving full ecclesiastical communion with the Genuine Orthodox Church of Bulgaria and decided on further steps.

17. The constantly deteriorating health of His Eminence, Metropolitan Maximos of Thessalonike and Demetrias was discussed. In view of this, necessary decisions were made, which will be communicated shortly in a pertinent encyclical.

18. The Hierarchs evaluated the ongoing apostasy among the ecumenist official Orthodox Churches.

19. The issue of the secularization of the Mysteries (chiefly of marriages and Baptisms) was addressed. It was decided that pamphlets on this subject be compiled and published.

20. The Hierarchs discussed, in the presence of a deputation of Athonite monks, the question of how to coordinate the anti-ecumenical struggle of Athonite Zealots more effectively with that of the Holy Synod,

21. The possibility of producing an annual *Typikon* for Divine Services according to the Church's Festal Calendar was discussed.

22. The issue of a more systematic promotion of catechetical instruction was aired.

23. The Hierarchs discussed means for the more systematic functioning of a school for catechists and Church education programs through a system of distance learning.

24. Certain matters of current interest were addressed.

From the Chancery