



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

April 4, 2016

Mr. George Pontikes, President
Orthodox Christian Laity
P.O. Box 6954
West Palm Beach, Florida 33405-6954

Dear Mr. Pontikes,

I thank you for having me on your mailing list regarding the Orthodox Christian Laity ministry. It is important that all who love the Church should be aware of efforts which are in harmony with the Holy Spirit Who presides over the Church throughout the world.

Although the Holy and Great Synod has been scheduled to take place this June in Crete after much effort, there are a few voices already declaring the failure of such a gathering. Obviously they are not aware of the Greek word, APOLOGIA, which in essence means for people to come together to discuss in peace their differences. There is no question in my mind that the presence of the Holy Spirit will prevail.

Even here in the United States within the God-blessed Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops, consensus on important matters does not seem to interest some of the hierarchs. A few of them feel very strongly that their parishes in the United States should remain extensions of the mother churches in foreign countries.

A more acute problem is with the military chaplaincy. Whereas the Orthodox Church in the United States should have one Endorsing Agent to indicate that all jurisdictions are in essence One Church, we have several endorsing agents. This has allowed the Department of Defense to look upon us not as one Church, like the Roman Catholic, but as separate denominations like the Protestants. This is why there are at least nine military chaplains in our military who call themselves Orthodox, but are not Orthodox Christians from any canonical jurisdiction.

I state these things not to cast any negativity on the efforts that are being made to be recognized as the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church by the Department of Defense, but simply to remain patient, as the Orthodox Christian Laity ministry has been doing with a positive spirit.

The Holy Spirit has been showing His presence, as Saint Luke writes in the Book of Acts. When the fullness of time comes, as our Lord maintains in Saint Matthew's Gospel, which we hear at the presanctified Holy Liturgies of Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday, we shall witness promising things happening before our Lord's return.

Therefore, let us behold one another from whichever Orthodox Christian ministry we uphold, as members of the holy Body of Christ, which will again show forth as it was in the first millennium of the Church.

Faithfully in Christ,

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

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