

JUST FOR THE RECORD

– Part Two –

By Metropolitan Ephraim

Below are copies of *The Thyateira Confession*, an official document "published with the blessing and authorization of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople" in 1975. This document, too, has never been retracted:

The Thyateira Confession

The Faith and Prayer of Orthodox Christians

in English and Greek

PUBLISHED WITH THE BLESSING AND AUTHORISATION OF THE
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE

BY HIS EMINENCE ATHENAGORAS KOKKINAKIS

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ARCHBISHOP OF THYATEIRA AND GREAT BRITAIN

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DEMETRIOS BY THE GRACE OF GOD ARCHBISHOP
OF CONSTANTINOPLE
NEW ROME AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
TO THE MOST REVEREND ARCHBISHOP OF THYATEIRA
AND GREAT BRITAIN AND EXARCH OF WESTERN
EUROPE BELOVED BROTHER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
CO~LITURGIST LORD ATHENAGORAS GRACE BE TO
YOUR EMINENCE AND PEACE FROM GOD

We have received in due time and read joyfully at the Meeting of our Holy and Sacred Synod the letter dated February 6th of last year of Your Beloved Eminence by which you submitted to us a Study under the Title "The Faith and Prayer of the People of God" seeking the Blessing of the Church for its publication to serve the needs of the Christian flock of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, under your care.

This Study has been examined by the Synodical Committee of the Patriarchate and has been found appropriate for the care of the spiritual needs of the rational flock which is entrusted to the care of Your Eminence. In addition it has been considered as a fit aid even for our own Catechists and for the benefit of the non-Orthodox who desire to receive general information concerning our Orthodox Church.

Gladly therefore according to the Decision of the Synod We extend our Blessing for the publication of this excellent work, the product of your pastoral zeal and the spiritual endurance of Your Eminence, and congratulate you whole-heartedly on its production and seeking from God whatever is best Whose Grace and Infinite Mercy be with you and remain

DEMETRIOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Beloved Brother in Christ
January 10, 1975

From page 69 of *The Thyateira Confession*:

When they are not near a Roman Catholic Church, Roman Catholics are permitted to receive the Holy Communion in Orthodox Churches; and the same is also extended to Orthodox when they are not near an Orthodox Church.

From page 70 of *The Thyateira Confession*:

On account of friendly relations it has become customary for the Orthodox to perform funerals for the Anglicans and offer to them the Holy Eucharist in places where there is no Anglican clergyman available. This is reciprocated for the Orthodox Christians wherever there is no Orthodox clergyman available. This is done both officially and unofficially and in various localities it is a necessary practice expressing Christian sacramental hospitality. Furthermore it is certain that the Christian people themselves seek this sacramental hospitality. This is certainly a sign of the intention of the People of God by thus establishing practical unity because they see that both groups believe in the same Bible and traditions and confess the same Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople.

*Our note: This is not true. "Both groups" do **not** believe in the same Bible and traditions and confess the same Creed.*

[To be continued]