

St. Amphilochius of Iconium
23 November/6 December 2010

To the Members of Our Holy Synod

At the last meeting of the Holy Synod in October of this year, the consensus among the bishops in attendance was that, in our relations and meetings with the bishops of the True Orthodox Christians in Greece, a great deal of patience and deliberation was needed to help build solid foundations of mutual trust and concord in many issues.

We have, after all, only now, gotten to know each other in some small and humble way. In a gesture of good will, we have only just now lifted the depositions against a number of their bishops in Greece, just as, a few years ago, they lifted the "deposition" against Archbishop Auxentius. We hope that this same spirit of trust and reconciliation is present and will increase among them as well.

But this is something that only time will tell and can heal.

There are yet many issues that must be hammered out: pastoral, sacramental, administrative, ecclesiological. These will all take much time and much thoughtful and prayerful consideration. The ancient Greeks had a saying: All good things are acquired with labor.

Not with haste. Not with impetuosity. Not with irresponsible and ill-considered decisions.

Our primary goal remains to establish Eucharistic inter-communion, especially for the sake of our traditional Orthodox laity.

This has begun already, at least in the Metropolis of Boston, as clearly stated in the position paper that His Eminence, Metropolitan Ephraim published some years ago, and it has been already implemented, with his blessing, in many cases in our Church here in North America.

We already discussed this very issue at our last meeting, and when we gather together again, patience and deliberation will accomplish more than anything else. Much serious study is still needed, as we agreed at our last meeting.

In Christ,

✠Metropolitan Ephraim

✠Bishop Demetrius