

Declaration and Confession of the True Orthodox Christians

WE, THE HIERARCHS, clergy, and people of the True Orthodox Church, under the presidency of His Beatitude, Auxentius, Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, seeing that Ecumenism teaches of a Church of Christ consisting of branches with differing or even opposing doctrines and practices; that it attributes efficacy for salvation to the sacraments of the non-Orthodox—who have lost or never had the canonical form of baptism, and of whom many ordain women to the priesthood and episcopacy, while others do not recognize the priesthood at all; that it manifests these beliefs in joint services and common prayer with Orthodox, heterodox, and even non-Christians and pagans; and that in so doing it seeks to enslave our spiritual freedom and the Truth of Christ to falsehood and to the powers and concerns of this world, which is the spirit of Antichrist; we hereby declare Ecumenism to be the culmination of all heresies, entirely contrary to the Apostolic Faith of the Fathers, abhorrent to the Holy Trinity, and the preparation for Antichrist, and that any of the Faithful who holds communion with Ecumenists or espouses their tenets is subject to all the anathemas that fall upon heretics.

Considering, furthermore, the great betrayal of the Church perpetrated by Metropolitan Sergius, the *locum tenens* of the Patriarchal throne of Russia, on July 16/29, 1927, when he enslaved the Church to the atheist Communist state—or rather when he created a schism from the Church to enslave himself and his followers to the prince of this world; considering the seven decades of murderous persecution inflicted by the Moscow Patriarchate upon the Orthodox who remained steadfast in the confession of faith expressed in the encyclical letter of September 14/27, 1927, issued from the Solovki concentration camp itself by the confessing bishops and martyrs, condemning Metropolitan Sergius and all who followed his treacherous path; and considering that his heirs, the present hierarchs of the Moscow Patriarchate, have neither con-

demned Sergianism, which gave what is God's to Caesar, nor ceased to betray the Apostolic Faith by their participation in the World Council of Churches and the heresy of Ecumenism, nor cast out of their congregations the protestantizing spirit of the "Living Church," condemned by the sainted Patriarch Tikhon, with its transgression of the canonical baptism by triple immersion and many other innovations which make it unrecognizable as Orthodox in its doctrines and practices; we solemnly declare that any of the Faithful who holds communion with any of the Sergianists and their successors is violating the Truth and Faith of Christ and is submitting to the spirit of Antichrist and is subject to the anathema of the Church.

February, 1993



SAINT TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW
Icon Painted by the Holy Transfiguration Monastery