

[translation from the original Greek]

HOLY SYNOD OF THE TRADITIONAL CALENDAR OF GREECE
AUTOCEPHALOUS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA
HOLY METROPOLIS OF AUSTRALIA AND ALL OCEANIA

March 17, 2011

His Grace Bishop
Nikandros of Dorylaion
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia
Adelaide

Your Grace,

I received your letter dated 9th of this month, the contents of which are unacceptable and full of untruths.

The Sacred Canons, which you equate with the secular law you refer to and requires police enforcement and legitimizes the abuse of power, are known to me. It is precisely their contents and directives which forced me to depart from the jurisdiction I belonged to, the general ecclesiastical conduct and activity of which was incompatible with Orthodox tradition and order. My departure was a matter of conscience and not a disorderly escape. The Sacred Canons not only allow, but in fact require that the clergy in particular, and the faithful in general, cut themselves off from Bishops who violate, ignore and continually infringe the formulations of the Fathers on faith and doctrine. The church you belong to is the sinful daughter of a sinful mother and you, and your superiors, are the subjects of their strict regulations, rather than us who conscientiously have chosen to advance "in obedience to their laws". As a result, I completely bypass the issue of ecclesiastical courts etc with which you threaten me, as they do not concern me. }

With regards to your reference to "irregular ecclesiological groups", this is now the same old worn out slander of the new calendarists which do not convince anyone. His Beatitude Archbishop Auxentios of Athens and all Greece and our Holy Synod is, Your Grace, ecclesiologically canonical and officially recognized by the Greek State and functions legally. It follows the CANONICAL and TRADITIONAL calendar which you innovating new calendarists accuse or accept according to circumstances. Proof of this is your childish mention of the co-called "contradiction" that we allow our churches here to operate with the new calendar and you call us "unia". In other words, you consider us on the one hand "ecclesiologically" non-existent, while on the other hand showing so much concern of late for the "old calendarists". It has been officially stated and sufficiently stressed that the special ecclesiastical situation in Australia, which is a product of your own doing, is for the time being dealt with through much leniency and economy on the part of our Holy Synod. You will however be

deprived of these baseless arguments also, as there will soon be a local church that will be using the Traditional Calendar - in Adelaide moreover - and in due course in other States as well.

Regarding the matter of the territorial jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, I inform you that it has lost these rights from the time it made innovations and transgressed the teachings and commands of the Holy Ecumenical Synods and has dialogue and common prayer with all kinds of heretics, chief of whom is the arch-heresiarch Roman pontiff. Consequently the Australian land does not belong to him and by extension I do not require his permission to enter and leave.

I also pray, as the least of Bishops, that the Holy Spirit which unifies and comprises the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the Fathers will enlighten and guide you and us "to come to the knowledge of truth".

With greetings in the love of Christ
The Assistant Bishop

+ Christodoulos of Trimythous