



ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ  
ΠΑΤΡΙΟΥ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣΤΙΚΟΥ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΥ  
ΙΕΡΑ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΝΙΣΤΑΜΕΝΩΝ

Ref. No. 644

To the Rev. Fathers  
Hieromonk Enoch  
Deacon Finbarr Brandt-Sorheim  
Deacon Joseph Suaiden  
100 Abbey Lane  
W. Milford, NJ 07480, USA

Fili Attiki  
October 18, 2012, O.S.  
† Holy Apostle Luke

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*Beloved Brothers in Christ,*

With prayerful wishes for your health both of body and soul, after a delay for which we ask your patient endurance, we are replying to your letter dated 1/14.9.2012.

a. First of all, we thank you for your response to our *Appeal for Unity*, because this demonstrates that you are seriously concerned with the question of the unity of the *Orthodox Anti-ecumenists* throughout the world.

b. At the same time, however, the extremely weighty questions which you put to us comprise an impediment for your participation in a meeting to discuss such unity, since in our *Appeal* there is the clearly stated condition “let there not be any prerequisites for the convocation of delegates” (*Proposal 2*); also we have the impression you do not meet the criteria for a “valid ecclesiastical body”.

c. To clarify this point, we consider “valid ecclesiastical bodies” (*Introduction, § 2*) to be only those established Orthodox Communities which meet the following two basic conditions:

(1) they have broken communion with their former ecclesiastical Authorities (Synod, Official Local Churches...) only for matters of *Faith and Righteousness*, and consequently they are in *God-pleasing, lawful and canonical resistance and separation*, and

(2) the *source of their episcopal ordinations* is certain beyond any doubt from the standpoint of canonicity, and is also God-pleasing and “beyond reproach” and “unquestionable”, that is free from any other form of impediment and self-interest.

d. These points comprise the patristic teaching concerning this matter, as it has been set forth, for example, by St. Theodore the Studite, as he wrote to Stephan the Reader and those with him (see Epistle 53, E.L. I, PG 99, 1105AB).

e. With continued prayer that the greatly desired and perfect gift of unity of the true orthodox *Anti-ecumenists* be granted from on high, we conclude with sincere respect.

On behalf of our Holy Synod

† Cyprian, Bishop of Orei  
Acting President

† Clement, Bishop of Gardikion  
Secretary