

Statement of Spiritual Principles of the Orthodox Brotherhood of the Dormition of the Holy Ever-Virgin Mother of God Mary

I, _____, accept the Orthodox Church as being the only and exclusive One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and affirm the Seven Ecumenical Councils, and all the Approved Local and Pan-Orthodox Councils, as well as the teachings of all the Holy Fathers and Saints of the Church; all these together being irreformable and inviolate in their sanctity. I profess that the name “True Orthodox”, which Orthodox have been forced to accept, is a correct definition of the Orthodox Faith in times of heresy and schism. As such, I affirm the following:

- 1) The history and heritage of the Pre-Schism Orthodox West is completely and unequivocally affirmed. The Orthodox Western Rites, especially in the liturgical books and other works, published by our Church will be defended, unto death if necessary, because this is the defense of the Saints and work of the Holy Ghost in their lives. As such I will promote the approved Orthodox Western Rite to my fullest ability. Under no circumstances shall it be accepted that Orthodox Western Rites may ever be suppressed, suspended, destroyed, abolished, or degraded.
- 2) The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are affirmed to be the written Word of God, whose histories and testimonies are true, being inspired by the Holy Ghost. As such, all forms of modernist Biblical criticism is rejected. Also, all the traditions of the Church are accepted.
- 3) The Holy Tradition of the Church concerning the life of Our Supreme Lady, the Holy Ever-Virgin Mother of God Mary, is affirmed to be historically accurate and true, especially such things as her Presentation in the Temple, her Dormition, and later her

bodily resurrection and assumption into Heaven, where she was crowned by God “Queen of the Heavens”, and is the highest created person in existence, above even the Celestial Powers.

4) Any form of Freemasonry is explicitly rejected and condemned; and any fraternal organizations or societies which establish themselves on principles of religious ecumenism are completely rejected.

5) The Orthodox Church alone being the True Church of Christ, the heresies of ecumenism and modernism are condemned and anathematized. Therefore, the so-called claimants to the Sees of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Moscow, and those who share ‘*communio in sacris*’ [communion in sacred things] with them, are repudiated as members of the Orthodox Church, and are affirmed to be religious bodies devoid of the Holy Mysteries [Sacraments] of the Church.

6) The heresy of “Imiaslavie” or “Name-worship” is condemned.

7) The usage of the so-called “New Calendar” in the Orthodox Church is completely rejected and condemned.

8) Members of religious bodies condemned above, are not necessarily personally condemned, seeing that a vast number have been innocently led astray, and honestly believe with all their heart that they are canonical Orthodox Christians. In such cases, we must bear with such innocent persons with patience, love, and humility, while being honest and warning them of the grave spiritual dangers in their situation, and prayerfully awaiting their turn to the Church by rejecting communion with their current religious bodies.

8) I promise full and total obedience in all things in accord with the Faith and spiritual life to the Metropolitan of the Holy Synod, and accept the Superior of the Brotherhood as legate of the Metropolitan in all these matter.

9) I reject all forms of gossip, backbiting, or creation of false scandal in the Brotherhood, or the wider Church, and will concentrate on the principles of the spiritual life in our Orthodox Christian Faith.

10) I accept the responsibility attendant upon full membership, when such membership is conveyed, upon myself, in all terms, in the Brotherhood.