

Republic of Greece
THE CHURCH OF THE GENUINE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS OF GREECE
The Holy Synod
Athens, Greece

Protocol Number: g-2069

ENCYCLICAL

To All of the Sacred Clergy and Laity of the Holy Metropolis of Etna and
the Holy Diocese of Portland, in the United States of America

To the most devout Priests, the Most Honorable Church Council Members, and to all of the blessed Christians of the Holy Metropolis of Etna and of the Holy Diocese of Portland, in America, who are striving in the Sacred Struggle for Most Holy Orthodoxy, may the Grace and peace of God be with you, and from us prayers and blessings:

Owing to the poor state of health of His Eminence, the Metropolitan of Etna and His Grace, the Bishop of Portland, on account of cardiological problems, both, in letters dated July 7/20 July, 2014, and September 3/16, 2014, respectively, have submitted in writing their resignations from their Diocesan Thrones. Our Holy Synod, having no other recourse, accepted the resignations of the holy Brethren, though entreating them to continue executing their pastoral duties until the expiration of the current year, 2014.

Our Holy Synod, in its Meeting on November 6/19, 2014, agreed to the proposal of the Holy Eparchial Synod in America that the two ecclesiastical Dioceses, both Sees located in the Western United States of America, be merged into a single and unified Diocese. The Bishop who will assume the Pastorship of this united Diocese will be elected at a Meeting of the Holy Synod of Bishops on January 9/22, 2015, in the presence of whichever Bishops from America can attend. Furthermore, it was decided that His Eminence, Metropolitan Demetrios of America will be appointed the common *Locum Tenens* of the Dioceses of Etna and Portland, and that he will be commemorated in the Divine Services from January 1/14, 2015, until the Enthronement of the new Shepherd of the consolidated ecclesiastical Diocese.

Accordingly, we call upon all of the Clergy and Laity of the Holy Metropolis of Etna and the Holy Diocese of Portland to pray for the appointment of a worthy Hierarch to the Throne of the consolidated Diocese.

Thereupon, copiously bestowing on all of you the prayers and blessings of our Holy Synod, we pray that the Giver of every good thing and Divine Founder of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, may grant you a blessed New Year, rich in all spiritual virtue.

In the Year of Salvation, 2014, on the 14th/27th of December,

The Holy Synod
Republic of Greece

The Archbishop
† KALLINIKOS of Athens and All Greece

The Members

† Metropolitan AKAKIOS of Attika and Diavleia
† Metropolitan MAXIMOS of Thessalonike and Demetrias
† Metropolitan ATHANASIOS of Larisa and Platamon
† Metropolitan JUSTIN of Evripos and Euboia

† Metropolitan GERONTIOS of Piræus and Salamis
† Metropolitan CHRYSOSTOMOS of Attica and Boiotia
† Metropolitan MOSES of Toronto
† Metropolitan DEMETRIOS of America
† Metropolitan CHRYSOSTOMOS of Etna
† Metropolitan CYPRIAN of Oropos and Phyle
† Bishop GREGORY of Christianoupolis
† Bishop PHOTIOS of Marathon
† Bishop SERGIOS of Portland
† Bishop AMBROSE of Philippi
† Bishop AMBROSE of Methone
† Bishop MICHAEL of Nora
† Bishop SILVANO of Luni
† Bishop KLEMES of Gardikion
† Bishop THEODOSIOS of Bresthena
† Bishop CHRISTODOULOS of Theoupolis
† Bishop AUXENTIOS of Photike

[Signed, sealed, and authenticated in the original]

BONA FIDE COPY

The First Secretary of the Holy Synod
† Photios, Bishop of Marathon