

Athens, November 1/14, 2014

Announcement

To the Entirety of the Clergy and People of our Church

Beloved Children in the Lord:

A hallmark of the true Church of Christ is that She at times undergoes persecutions at the hands of the powerful of this world. Our sacred struggle for the Orthodox Faith suffered bloody persecutions already from the outset of apostasy from the Festal Calendar, a prelude to the tempest of ecumenism.

The first victim of these persecutions, the Protomartyr of the sacred struggle, was the New Martyr Catherine (Routtes). This valiant servant of God, seeing law enforcement agents attacking an Orthodox Priest, risked her own life and received a mortal blow herself, in lieu of the Priest, from the rifle butt of a pursuing policeman. As the historian of our sacred struggle, the late Metropolitan Kalliopios of Pentapolis, tellingly recounts, her funeral service was not a simple burial, “but a sacred procession with the Relics of a Martyr. Thousands of faithful accompanied the funeral cortège, some holding flowers, others candles, and others palm branches.”

Wherefore, the Holy Synod of the Hierarchy of our Church, during its session on September 5/18, this year, undertook to confirm the holiness, already acknowledged among the faithful of our Church, of the Holy New Martyr Catherine.

The first official Synodal solemnization of the Feast of the New Martyr will take place on the evening of Thursday, November 14/27, 2014 (at 5:00 p.m.), with the celebration of Great Festal Vespers at the Church of the Holy Cross in Magoula, Attica (Settlement of Neos Pontos), and then on the morning of Friday, November 15/28 (at 6:00 a.m.), with the celebration of Matins and a Synodal Divine Liturgy, presided over by His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens and All Greece, at the same location. Those able to do so are exhorted to attend.

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