

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ



ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ
ΓΝΗΣΙΩΝ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΩΝ
ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
ΙΕΡΑ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΣ
ΚΑΝΙΓΓΟΣ 32 (1^ο όροφο)
106 82 ΑΘΗΝΑΙ
ΤΗΛ. 21038 28 280 - ΦΑΞ 21038 47 365
ΕΛΛΑΣ - GREECE

Protocol No. g-2023

Athens, October 9/22, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENT

To the Entirety of the Clergy and People of our Church

Beloved Children in the Lord:

The Venerable Pachomios of Chios (†1905) is already familiar to our flock and is already honored on the island of Chios through holy services and Icons that have been painted of him, and also more widely. He was, *inter alia*, the spiritual guide of St. Nectarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworker. What is unknown to the broader public is that the Venerable Elder in question was a formidable adversary of the contemporary pan-heresy of ecumenism at the time when ecumenism had begun to make its initial appearance. He wrote some telling comments thereon in a text entitled “Concerning the Heretical Lutherans and Calvinists”:

“**If ever** they realize their error, they ought to return without a murmur to the Church from which they fell away. Synods, so-called union, and discussions are not needed in this case, since there is no question of uniting entities that are at variance in polity, the mores and customs of which are mutually conflicting and need to be coalesced and brought into concord.

“**They received** [the Faith] from us, and yet they ran away. If they wish to return to their ancestral Faith, one thing alone is demanded of us: that we go out to meet them as soon as we learn that they are returning to the Father’s hearth, fall upon their necks and kiss them; that we bring out their original raiment and clothe them therein, that we put rings on their fingers and shoes on their feet, and slay the fatted calf, so that we might eat together and make merry with them, for, being dead, they have come back to life, and, being lost, have been found; reeking of stench, they have been cleansed, and, being leprous and maimed, have been healed.

“**It is** ridiculous to demand Synods for the sake of union in such a case.... The Eastern Church has Her Churches open and Her fonts full of water; him who comes to Her of his own accord She will not cast out.”

Beyond this, the Venerable Pachomios was the founder of the Holy Skete of the Holy Fathers on Mount Probateion and of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Constantine and Helen

on Chios, both of them bulwarks of Holy Tradition on this island. Furthermore, he was the spiritual Father of Elder Moses, founder of the Holy Monastery of the Holy Archangels in Athikia, Corinth. He can, therefore, be truly characterized as a forerunner of our sacred struggle for Tradition and against ecumenism. In honoring the Venerable Pachomios, we honor Orthodoxy and her Traditions.

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 on Chios and elsewhere, of our Venerable Father Pachomios of Chios.

The first official solemnization of the Saint's Feast will take place on the evening of Sunday, October 13/26, this year (at 7:00 p.m.), with the celebration of the Festal Great Vespers at the Holy Skete of the Holy Fathers on Mount Probateion, Chios, and then on the morning of Monday, October 14/27 (at 7:00 a.m.), with the celebration of Matins and a Synodal Divine Liturgy, the chief celebrant being His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos of Athens and All Greece, at the same location. Those able to do so are exhorted to come.



At the behest of the Holy Synod

The First Secretary,

Μαρθῶνος Φῶτιος

† Bishop Photios of Marathon