



Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the West Coast

COMMUNIQUE

July 19, 2007

San Francisco, California

To our Beloved, the Faithful Clergy and Laity of the Holy Orthodox Church throughout the Western States,

We greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We gathered together at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco, California, for our second meeting with our Cathedral deans and clergy, conscious of our need to give a living witness to the unity of the Faith we share. As shepherds of the holy flock entrusted to our care, we are building on the work of our first meeting hosted by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese in Los Angeles on Bright Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

We express our joy and affirm the oneness of our voice as we offer a witness of the truth of the Gospel to those around us. We share a vision that is faithful to our Orthodox Christian Tradition and dynamic in its desire to engage in our common work. Our prayer and purpose is to put that vision into action and effect, to the glory of God who offers us this opportunity to witness to Him together.

On several occasions we have concelebrated the Divine Liturgy, partaking of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, as the perfect sign of our unity. It is the Holy Eucharist which renews us and reminds us that it is God who upholds and breaths life into everything. For this reason, we have agreed to institute the tradition of joining together with our clergy and faithful for a Pan-Orthodox celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the first Sunday of Great Lent each year, beginning in 2008.

We have also agreed to work together in the continuing education of our clergy and laity by establishing joint seminars and organizing conferences on topics which effect every diocese and parish. In this spirit, we have decided to jointly commemorate the 1,600th anniversary of the repose of Saint John Chrysostom, with Divine Liturgy and accompanying events planned for November 9-10, 2007.

As we look ahead, building on the work we have begun, we give thanks to our good and loving Lord for his gift of this time together, strengthened by our common prayer and vision. We call upon all of you to pray that our efforts may bear good fruit, for the good of all and unto the salvation of our souls.

With Archpastoral Blessings,

+ METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS
Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of San Francisco

+ BISHOP MAXIM
Serbian Orthodox Bishop of Western America

+ BISHOP JOSEPH
Antiochian Orthodox Bishop of Los Angeles and the West

+ BISHOP BENJAMIN
Bishop of San Francisco and the West,
Orthodox Church in America