



ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA · ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

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 10 March, 2006

PASTORAL NOTE

To: The Faithful of the Archdiocese of Canada
From: Bishop Seraphim

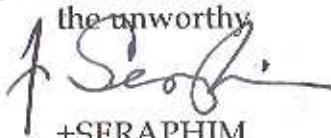
I am aware that there is increasing concern among the Faithful, and the Clergy, of the Archdiocese of Canada, with regard to the current controversy about the financial situation of The Orthodox Church in America, which is being promoted by certain persons in the USA.

In writing to you electronically at this time, I am appending the Statement of the Holy Synod of Bishops, which was produced at last week's meeting, and which is posted on the Website at www.oca.org.

As can be seen from the Statement, the Holy Synod of Bishops is in the process of examining both the allegations, and also the facts of the financial situation. Although certain persons seem to be insisting on immediate responses, this is not possible. We can only act on the basis of concrete information, and this can only begin to be seen after the completion of the mentioned audits. Metropolitan Herman is a very capable leader for us all in this process.

Although it is possible that mistakes were made by one or another person, or groups of persons, it remains the responsibility of the Holy Synod to make sure that, whatever will be found, all things will be put in the best possible order, so that if there were mistakes, they may be corrected quickly, and if there were no mistakes, but rather misunderstandings, then our reporting can demonstrate quickly and clearly the state of affairs. It is our mutual responsibility, as Bishops, Clergy, and Faithful, to keep our confidence focussed on Christ, who is the Head of the Church, and to trust Him that He will make sure that our Church is enabled to fulfil well the Mission He has entrusted to us in North America : to witness to the Truth. And, not only in the spirit of civil law, but also and more importantly, in the spirit of the Gospel, not to give in to fear, neither to condemn anyone off-hand, but to entrust the whole situation prayerfully to Christ. By your prayers, you will enable the Holy Synod, and the Central Administration, to put all things into good order, and better order.

Commending all to your loving prayers, with archpastoral blessings, and love in Christ, I remain yours,

the unworthy

 +SERAPHIM
 Bishop of Ottawa and Canada

See Statement



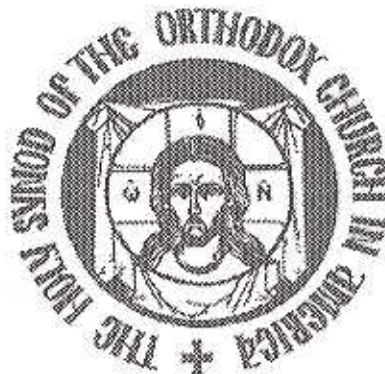
ARCHIDIOCESE DU CANADA · EGLISE ORTHODOXE EN AMERIQUE



OCA News

A statement of the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America

Article posted: 3/1/2006 5:19 PM



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PO Box 675
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March 1, 2006

"Let all things be done decently and in order".
(I Corinthians 14:40)

Office:

516-922-0550

The Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America, under the chairmanship of the Primate, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, met in Extraordinary Session.

Fax:

516-922-0954

The Holy Synod has decided upon the following course of action, continuing to encourage financial accountability, and trust within The Orthodox Church in America.

Email:

info@oca.org

1. Implement Best Practices for Non-Profit Financial Accountability.

Following are the six best practice principles for financial accountability considered applicable to The Orthodox Church in America:

Web:

www.oca.org

1. Ensure clear and decisive financial governance
2. Adopt ethics and conflict of interest policies
3. Implement appropriate financial controls
4. Conduct annual independent financial audits
5. Ensure transparency of financial data and performance
6. Maintain knowledge on emerging non-profit issues

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2. Review the Disposition of all Monies Collected Through All OCA Appeals from 2001.

Our objective is to have a report from the external CPA firm of Lambrides, Lamos, Moulthrop, LLP for presentation to the Holy Synod by the time of the Spring 2006 meeting.

3. Conduct Independent Financial Audits from 2004

In conformity with past practice, the external CPA firm of Lambrides, Lamos, Moulthrop, LLP will conduct independent audits for all 2004 and 2005 accounts. We

have instructed them to give us fair and impartial assessments of our financial controls, and accounting results, providing us with recommendations on how the process can be improved, and made more transparent, disciplined, and accountable.

4. Review of reports at the Spring Session of the Holy Synod

The bishops will review the independently audited reports of 2004 and 2005, and the report on the appeals, when they meet for their Spring 2006 Session, and take such action as may be appropriate (such as establishing a special committee of review).

On the threshold of the Great Fast, we exhort the faithful to remember the Holy Gospel, to conform to the example of Christ, and to live as Christians in mutual repentance and forgiveness.

+ HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington and New York
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

+ KYRILL

Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania
and the Bulgarian Diocese

+ DMITRI

Archbishop of Dallas and the South

+ NATHANIEL

Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Episcopate

+ JOB

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

+ TIKHON

Bishop of San Francisco, Los Angeles and the West

+ SERAPHIM

Bishop of Ottawa and Canada

+ NIKOLAI

Bishop of Sitka, Anchorage and Alaska

+ NIKON

Bishop of Boston, New England
and the Albanian Archdiocese

+ TIKHON

Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania