



HOLY METROPOLIS OF VELES AND POVARDARJE
VELES P.C 1400

Protocol No 106 from 21 June 2002

To:
The Holy Synod of Bishops of the
Serbian Orthodox Church
Belgrade

Your Holiness,

Summoned by God's love for unity with Him in the centuries to come and via Your holiness embraced in the one catholic and apostolic Church which is nothing less than the very body of the incarnated and resurrected Christ, we, the Metropolitan of Veles and Povardarje, together with the entire clergy, monastics and pious people of our Holy Metropolis, in response to the brotherly appeal your Holiness addressed to the clergy and the pious people of the Orthodox Church in Macedonia, would like to inform you that we sincerely, freely and responsibly accept the proposed liturgical and canonical unity with the Serbian Orthodox Church and with the whole orthodox ecumene which is in liturgical unity with the SOC.

The unity of the Church is not a supplement but the very essence of the existence in the Church. The Church is one, for one is God and the Saviour of all, and all who believe in Him and in the Kingdom of God, promised by Him, should be in liturgical and canonical unity with the whole Orthodox Church in the world. We consider it our episcopal duty to live but also to teach the pious people that the truth of life is only in the unity with God Himself, as well as with those who are in unity with Him. Those who persistently remain in the schism for whatever reason they might have, but especially for ethnophiletistic reasons, are already condemned at the Constantinople local council and will be ultimately condemned after the Second Coming of Christ, for they preferred to believe the lie, rather than the truth, and they have replaced the personal God with the characteristics of the human nature.

Your holiness, in your address to the archpriests, the clergy and the pious people in the Republic of Macedonia, You have emphasized that the Orthodox Church in Serbia "does not act upon national exclusiveness" and that "you have, neither national nor territorial pretensions towards" the Macedonians. That is quite sufficient to convince anyone reasonable and well-intentioned that with this act of unity no one will be nationally humiliated. As a matter of fact, the real esteem of the national affiliation is possible only in the unity with all the people who make the body of Christ.

Since the reception in liturgical and canonical unity is "with unconditional brotherly love" which means that you have no requests that we change anything in the current liturgical and administrative practice, apart from your refusal to accept in communion, "that cleric, regardless of his rank, who has canonical and moral obstacles for clerical service", which you certainly are obliged to do

by the canonical order of the Orthodox Church, we bind ourselves not to officiate with the Metropolitan of Kumanovo and Polog, Cyril, as his incompetence for any hierarchal rank was known to the Serbian Church and is evident from the act Syn. No. 2348 from 3.08.1965, and, what is more, he was forbidden to officiate by the Holy Synod of the Macedonian Orthodox Church with resolution No. 125 from 7 August 1990 which is still not abolished.

Your Holiness, allow us to recommend ourselves to your holy prayers so that you will mention us at the Holy Proskomide for we hope that starting from today we are no longer in a schism with the Serbian Orthodox Church and, accordingly, with the Orthodox ecumene. We would like to ask you to inform the sister Orthodox Churches that the Metropolis of Veles and Povardarje region is in unity with the Catholic Orthodox Church.

Your brother in Christ,

Metropolitan of Veles and Povardarje,
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