



Saint Philaret, Metropolitan of New York the New Confessor

THE ANATHEMA AGAINST THE HERESY OF ECUMENISM AND ITS ADHERENTS

To those who attack the Church of Christ by teaching that Christ's Church is divided into so-called branches which differ in doctrine and way of life, or that the Church does not exist visibly, but will be formed in the future when all branches or sects or denominations, and even religions will be united into one body; and who do not distinguish between the priesthood and mysteries of the Church from those of heretics, but say that the baptism and eucharist of heretics is effectual for salvation; therefore, to those who knowingly have communion with those aforementioned heretics or who advocate, disseminate, or defend their new heresy of Ecumenism under the pretext of brotherly love or the supposed unification of separated Christians,

ANATHEMA

In a letter to Father Anthony Gavalas of Astoria, New York, His Eminence, Metropolitan Philaret, personally explained the significance of this contemporary patristic statement:

14/27 October, 1983

Dear Father Anthony:

I pray that the blessings of our Savior be with you and your Parish.

Please be informed that the Bishop's council during its meeting last August unanimously adopted the following resolution concerning the pan-heresy of Ecumenism, which in a word encompasses all forms of modernism and innovation:

To those who attack the Church of Christ by teaching that Christ's Church is divided into so-called branches which differ in doctrine and way of life, or that the Church does not exist visibly, but will be formed in the future when all branches or sects or denominations, and even religions will be united into one body; and who do not distinguish between the priesthood and mysteries of the Church from those of heretics, but say that the baptism and eucharist of heretics is effectual for salvation; therefore, to those who knowingly have communion with those aforementioned heretics or who advocate, disseminate, or defend their new heresy of Ecumenism under the pretext of brotherly love or the supposed unification of separated Christians. Anathema.

The text of this Anathema is to be attached to the *Synodicon* of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, to be read with the rest of the text of the *Synodicon*.

Please extend my prayerful greetings to your family and the members of your Parish.

With much love in our Lord,

✠ Metropolitan Philaret
President of the Synod



The Metropolitan delivers a sermon on the day of his enthronement, 1964; behind him stands Blessed Archbishop John (Maximovitch) (†1966)