

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ

ΑΡΧΙΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΑ
ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΣΥΝΟΔΟΥ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 836

Τῇ Αρχιγραμματεία τῆς Ἀγιωτάτης Ὁρθοδόξου Αὐτοκεφάλου Ἐκκλησίας
Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας,

Εἰς Πράγαν.

Σεπτῇ ἐντολῇ τῆς Α.Θ.Παναγιότητος, τοῦ προσκυνητοῦ ἡμῶν Αὐθέντου καί Δεσπότη, τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου, ὁμοφώνῳ δέ ἀποφάσει τῆς Ἀγίας καί Ἱερᾶς Συνόδου, γνωρίζεται ὑμῖν καί δι' ὑμῶν τῇ Ἐκκλησίᾳ Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας, ὅτι, μετὰ τήν γενομένην συνεργασίαν μεταξύ τοῦ Παναγιωτάτου Πατριάρχου ἡμῶν καί τῆς ἐπί τῶν Διορθοδόξων Ζητημάτων Συνοδικῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς ἀφ' ἑνός καί τῆς ὑπό τόν Σεβ. Μητροπολίτην Μιχαλουπόλεως κ. Γεώργιον ἐπισκεφθείσης τῇ 2α Μαρτίου ἐ. ἔ. τό Ἱερόν Κέντρον ἐπισήμου Ἀντιπροσωπείας τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας ἀφ' ἑτέρου, τό Οἰκουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον ἀνέμενε μέχρι σήμερον τήν ὑποβολήν αὐτῶ ἐπί τῶν δύο ἐκκρεμῶν σημείων, ἤτοι πρῶτον τῆς ἐναρμονίσεως, τῇ συνεργασίᾳ καί ἐκπροσώπων αὐτοῦ, τοῦ Καταστατικοῦ τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας πρὸς τοὺς ὄρους τοῦ Πατριαρχικοῦ καί Συνοδικοῦ Τόμου τοῦ ἔτους 1998 περὶ ἀνακηρύξεως τοῦ κανονικοῦ αὐτοκεφάλου αὐτῆς, καί δεύτερον τῆς αἰτήσεως τῆς γνώμης τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου ὡς πρὸς τήν γενομένην χειροτονίαν εἰς βοηθόν Ἐπίσκοπον παρά τῷ Μητροπολίτῃ Μπρονό καί Ὀλομούτς κυρίῳ Συμεῶν τοῦ Ἀρχιμανδρίτου Ἡσαΐου.

Ἐκτοτε, παρά τήν παρέλευσιν ἑξαμήνου που χρονικοῦ διαστήματος, οὐδεμία ἐπικοινωνία ἐγένετο ἀπό μέρους ὑμῶν πρὸς τὰς ὑπηρεσίας τῆς Μητροῦς Ἐκκλησίας. Ἀντιθέτως, διὰ νεωτέρων οὐχὶ κανονικῶν ἐνεργειῶν καί πράξεων, ὡς τῆς χειροτονίας τοῦ Ἱερομονάχου Μιχαήλ Ναρντάρ εἰς Ἀρχιεπίσκοπον Πράγας καί τῆς μεταθέσεως τοῦ παραιτηθέντος πρ. «Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Πράγας» κ. Ἰωακείμ εἰς Πρέσοβ, ὡς βοηθοῦ Ἐπισκόπου παρά τῷ Σεβ. Μητροπολίτῃ Πρέσοβ κ. Ραστισλάβ, ἡ ὄλη ὑπόθεσις περιεπλάκη ἔτι περισσότερο, οὐδεμίαν παρέχουσα δυνατότητα εἰς τήν Μητέρα Ἐκκλησίαν πρὸς κατ' οἰκονομίαν ἀντιμετώπισιν τοῦ ζητήματος.

Ἐνῷ δέ ὁ σεπτὸς Προκαθήμενος τῆς πρωτοθρόνου Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως ἀνέμενε, μετὰ μεγάλης ὑπομονῆς, τήν ὑποβολήν σχετικῶς ὑφ' ὑμῶν, κατὰ τὰ συμπεφωνημένα, πρὸς κατ' οἰκονομίαν διευθέτησιν τοῦ ἀνακύψαντος ζητήματος, περιῆλθεν εἰς τό Οἰκουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον ἡ πληροφορία ὅτι ὁ ἐκ τῶν κυρίως ὑπευθύνων τῆς προκληθείσης ἀνωμαλίας Σεβ. Μητροπολίτης Πρέσοβ κ. Ραστισλάβ ἀντί νά συναισθανθῇ τό σφάλμα αὐτοῦ καί νά ἀναζητήσῃ τρόπους ἐπανορθώσεως αὐτοῦ, προέβη εἰς ἀπαραδέκτους δηλώσεις, ἄκρως προσβλητικὰς, ἀσεβεῖς καί τοῦτ' αὐτό ἐχθρικός πρὸς τήν Μητέρα Ἐκκλησίαν Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, τήν μεταλαμπαδεύσασαν τό φῶς τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου εἰς τήν χώραν αὐτοῦ, οὐδέν ἄρωμα σοφίας καί ταπεινώσεως ἀποπνεούσας, ἀποσκοπούσας ὅπως πείσῃ τοὺς ἀγνοοῦντας τήν κανονικότητα περὶ τῆς ὀρθότητος τῶν ἀπόψεων καί τῶν ἐνεργειῶν αὐτοῦ.

Αί έκφρασθῆσαι ἀτυχῶς θέσεις καί δηλώσεις τοῦ Μητροπολίτου κ. Ραστισλάβ κατὰ τοῦ ἱερωτάτου θεσμοῦ τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου καί τοῦ σεπτοῦ Προκαθημένου αὐτοῦ Παναγιωτάτου Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου κ. κ. Βαρθολομαίου, ἰδοῦσαι μάλιστα καί τό φῶς τῆς δημοσιότητος εἰς ἰστοσελίδας καί καταγγελθεῖσαι καί ἐπισήμως εἰς τό Οἰκουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον, προεκάλεσαν βαθεῖαν λύπην καί ἀγανάκτησιν.

Ἡ Α. Θ. Παναγιότης, ὁ Οἰκουμενικός Πατριάρχης κ. κ. Βαρθολομαῖος καί ἡ Ἁγία καί Ἱερά Σύνοδος, κατόπιν τούτων, ἀξιολογήσασαι ἅπαξ ἔτι καί εἰς βάθος τό ὅλον θέμα, καταδικάζουν ἐν πρώτοις τήν ἀνοίκειον ταύτην, ἀντικανονικήν καί ἀπράδεκτον συμπεριφορᾶν καί τās οὐδόλως ἀνταποκρινομένας εἰς τήν πραγματικότητα καί εἰς τήν ἀλήθειαν δηλώσεις ταύτας, θιγούσας ὄχι μόνον τόν θεσμόν τῆς εὐεργετησάσης τήν ὅλην Ὁρθοδοξίαν Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως ἀλλά καί αὐτό τοῦτο τό πολίτευμα, τήν τάξιν καί τήν παράδοσιν τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας, καί ἀποτελούσας προσβολήν κατὰ τῆς Προσωπικότητος τοῦ ἀναλισκομένου εἰς τήν διακονίαν τῆς Παγκοσμίου Ὁρθοδοξίας Παναγιωτάτου Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου, τῆς παγκοίνως ἀναγνωριζομένης, ἰδιαίτέρως ὁμως, μή δυνάμενοι ὁ Πατριάρχης καί ἡ Σύνοδος, ἐκ τῶν πραγμάτων νά ἀναγνωρίσωσι τās γενομένας ἀντικανονικάς πράξεις ἀπό τῆς παραιτήσεως τοῦ Μακαριωτάτου κ. Χριστοφόρου μέχρι σήμερον, ἔκριναν καί ἀπεφάσισαν ὁμοφώνως ὅτι, κατόπιν καί τῶν εἰρημένων δηλώσεων, οὐδέν περιθώριον καί οὐδεμία δυνατότης θεραπείας τῶν γενομένων ὑφίσταται.

Ὡς ἐκ τούτου, καταγγέλλονται τά ἀνωτέρω γεγονότα καί δηλοῦνται ταῖς κατὰ τόπους Ἁγιωτάταις Ἐκκλησίαις ὅτι τό Οἰκουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον ἀδυνατεῖ πλέον νά προβῆ εἰς τήν χρῆσιν οἰασθήτινος ἐκκλησιαστικῆς οἰκονομίας πρὸς ἐπίλυσιν τοῦ ἀνακύψαντος ἐν τῇ Ἐκκλησίᾳ Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας θέματος περὶ τήν ἐκλογήν τοῦ Προκαθημένου αὐτῆς καί προτρέπεται τήν Ἱεράν Σύνοδον καί τήν Κληρικολαϊκὴν Συνέλευσιν τῆς ἐνιαίας Ὁρθοδόξου Ἀυτοκεφάλου Ἐκκλησίας Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας ὅπως, συναισθανόμεναι τόν ὄλεθρον εἰς τόν ὅποιον ὁδηγεῖται τό σκάφος τῆς τοπικῆς ταύτης Ἐκκλησίας, ἐπαναξιολογήσωσι τό ὅλον θέμα ὑπὸ τήν προοπτικὴν τῆς ἀκυρώσεως τῆς ὅπως ποτέ γενομένης ἀντικανονικῆς καί μή ἀναγνωριζομένης πανορθοδόξως ἐκλογῆς τοῦ ἐν λόγῳ Μητροπολίτου κ. Ραστισλάβ ὡς Προκαθημένου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ταύτης καί προβῶσιν εἰς τήν ἐκλογήν νέου Προκαθημένου αὐτῆς, συμφώνως πρὸς τās διατάξεις τοῦ τε Πατριαρχικοῦ καί Συνοδικοῦ Τόμου τοῦ ἔτους 1998 καί τοῦ ἰσχύοντος Καταστατικοῦ Χάρτου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας.

Τήν ἀπόφασιν ταύτην τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου ἀνακοινούμενος ὑμῖν καί δι' ὑμῶν πᾶσι τοῖς Ἱεράρχαις καί τῇ Γενικῇ Κληρικολαϊκῇ Συνελεύσει τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Τσεχίας καί Σλοβακίας, διὰ τά περαιτέρω, διατελῶ μετὰ τῆς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀδελφικῆς ἀγάπης.



Τοῖς Πατριαρχείοις, τῇ 26ῃ Αὐγούστου 2015

Ἱερομ. Βαρθολομαῖος
Ἱερομηνδρίτης Βαρθολομαῖος Σαμαρᾶς
Ἀρχιερατὴς

To the Chief Secretariat of the most holy Orthodox Autocephalous Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia,

In Prague.

At the venerable directive of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and with the unanimous decision of the Holy and Sacred Synod, we hereby inform you, and through you, the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia that, following the collaboration that took place between His All-Holiness our Patriarch and on the one hand the Synodal Committee on Inter-Orthodox Affairs and on the one other hand the official Delegation of the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia under His Eminence Metropolitan George of Mihalovce during their visit to the Holy Center on March 2, 2015, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has awaited to this day for a submission hereto on two outstanding matters: namely, first, on the aligning of the Constitution of the Orthodox Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia with the terms of the Patriarchal and Synodal Tome of 1998 with regard to the declaration of its canonical autocephaly; and, second, on the request for the opinion of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with regard to the ordination that took place of Archimandrite Isaiah as auxiliary Bishop to Metropolitan Simeon of Brno and Olomuc.

Since that time, although a period of almost six months has transpired, there has been no communication from your part to the offices of the Mother Church. On the contrary, through more recent uncanonical activities and actions, such as the ordination of Hieromonk Michael Nardar to Archbishop of Prague as well as the transfer of the resigned former "Archbishop of Prague, Joachim to Presov as auxiliary Bishop to His Eminence Metropolitan Rastislav of Presov, the entire matter has been increasingly complicated so as not to permit any possibility to the Mother Church for resolving this issue with dispensation (*oikonomia*).

And while the venerable Primate of the First-Throne Church of Constantinople awaited, with great patience, for the relevant submission on your part, in accordance with what was agreed and in order to resolve with dispensation (*oikonomia*) the matter that has arisen, it came to the attention of the Ecumenical Patriarchate that the person among those predominantly responsible for the transpired anomaly, His Eminence Metropolitan Rastislav of Presov, instead of perceiving his error and searching for ways of correcting it, proceeded to make unacceptable statements that were extremely offensive, irreverent and even hostile to the Mother Church of Constantinople, which transmitted the light of the Gospel to his land. These statements reflected no sense of wisdom and humility, but were merely destined by His Eminence to convince those already ignorant (regarding the canonicity of the matter) about the correctness in his own opinions and actions.

Unfortunately, the positions and statements of His Eminence Metropolitan Rastislav against the most sacred institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its venerable Primate, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew created profound sadness and frustration, especially inasmuch as they saw the light of publicity through the Internet and were formally denounced to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In light of this, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod, having once again evaluated the entire matter in depth, first of all condemn this inappropriate, uncanonical and unacceptable conduct as well as the statements by Metropolitan Rastislav, which in no way reflect reality or truth and offend not only the

institution of the Church of Constantinople, which has proved beneficial to Orthodoxy in its entirety, but also the very polity, order and tradition of the Orthodox Church, thereby comprising an offense to the venerable person of His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch, who is entirely consumed in his service to Orthodoxy worldwide, as recognized by all. More specifically, however, inasmuch as the Patriarch and the Synod are accordingly unable to recognize the uncanonical actions that have ensued since the resignation of His Beatitude Christopher to this day, they have deemed and decided unanimously that, following also the above statements of Metropolitan Rastislav, there is no room and no possibility of reconciling what has transpired.

Therefore, the aforementioned events are denounced, while it is announced to the most holy local Orthodox Churches that the Ecumenical Patriarchate can no longer proceed to adopt any ecclesiastical dispensation (*oikonomia*) in resolving the matter that has transpired in the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia with regard to the election of its Primate; therefore, it urges the Holy Synod and Clergy-Laity Assembly of the united Orthodox Autocephalous Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia, conscious of the destruction to which the vessel of its local Church is being led, to reassess the entire matter in light of the invalidation (as never occurring) of the uncanonical and unrecognized (on a Pan-Orthodox level) election of the said Metropolitan Rastislav as Primate of this Church and advance to the election of a new Primate in accordance with the regulations of the Patriarchal and Synodal Tome of 1998 and the prevailing Constitution of the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia.

In announcing this decision of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to you and through you to all Hierarchs as well as the General Clergy-Laity Assembly of the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia for your information, I remain with fraternal love in the Lord.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the 26th of August, 2015

✠ Archimandrite Bartholomew Samaras
Chief Secretary