

From: Orthodox Christian Laity Orthodox_Christian_Laity@mail.vresp.com
Subject: ~Blessed Pascha! Christ is Risen!~
Date: April 30, 2016 at 9:39 PM
To: shosking@mac.com

OC



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BLESSED PASCHA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christ is risen!

Since there is one Bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one Bread. I
Corinthians 10:17

In 1994, a delegation of Orthodox Christian Laity board members traveled to the Fener, Turkey at the invitation of His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew to meet and to present him with our just published Project for Orthodox Renewal. We discussed issues of transparency and accountability in Church Governance in America and uniting the Church under a single canonical Synod. Also discussed was the convening of a Holy and Great Council before the end of the 20th century. We are thankful that His All Holiness and the Synaxis of Autocephalous and Autonomous Hierarchs have agreed to meet in June 2016.



Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) will continue to bring you information about this meeting via our web site www.ocl.org as we cull the sources reporting the preparations. Since 2008, the OCL web site has been the "go to place" to learn about Orthodoxy Christian unity efforts throughout the world. Our reporting on the work of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States is insightful and comprehensive. We are also keeping you informed about the "new ecclesiology" that is trying to rationalize the uncanonical situation in which we find ourselves as a Church in the USA with 12 different parallel jurisdictions. We look forward to the deliberations of the Bishops and pray that they put aside their parochial views of turf, power, status and work in synergy with the Holy Spirit for the good of Christ's Church.

Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL)

[Read more here](#)

The Challenge of Easter: Whether you're a believer or not, there is no way to ignore the radical claim of the Resurrection

When was the last time you felt



stressed out by Easter? So much Easter shopping to do, so many Easter cards to write, so many Easter gatherings to attend. Not to mention the endless stream of Easter commercials on television and online, the nearly unavoidable Easter-themed movies and all those tacky Easter sweaters that you're forced to wear every spring. And don't forget the travails of setting up the annual Easter tree and stringing Easter lights on your house. Every year you lament how overly commercialized Easter has become. Can the holiday get any more money-oriented? You feel that way every year, don't you? Of course you don't....



[Read more here](#)

On the Convocation of the Holy and Great Council

† **Bartholomew**

By the Mercy of God

*Archbishop of Constantinople, New-Rome, and
Ecumenical Patriarch
to the Plenitude of the Church,
Grace and Peace from God*

Our holy Orthodox Church, adorned in purple and fine linen by the blood of her martyrs, the tears of her Saints, and the struggles and sacrifices of her confessors of faith, celebrates today her name day. Following a century-long struggle, this day was appropriately identified as the Sunday of Orthodoxy, marking the day in which truth shone and triumphed over falsehood through the veneration of holy icons as the bearers of the personal presence and divine grace of the incarnate Son and Logos of God and of His saints. In this way, it was acknowledged and proclaimed for all time that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14), honoring and sanctifying material creation and our body in order to render them partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter, 1:4), partakers in divine grace and life....



[Read more here](#)

Official Announcement and Agreed Texts of the Synaxis of Primates Regarding the Holy and Great Synod 2016

The items officially approved for referral to and adoption by the Holy and Great Synod are:



1. The Mission of the Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World
2. The Orthodox Diaspora, Autonomy and its Manner of Proclamation
3. The Sacrament of Marriage and its Impediments
4. The Significance of Fasting and its Application Today
5. Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World...



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What We Expect! Looking Forward to the Holy and Great Council

Lent has come to an end. We are anticipating Pascha.

The liturgical cycle will turn toward Pentecost. This Pentecost, June 19, will be different from other celebrations. We are praying and looking forward to the opening sessions of the Holy and Great Council. This meeting has been 1200



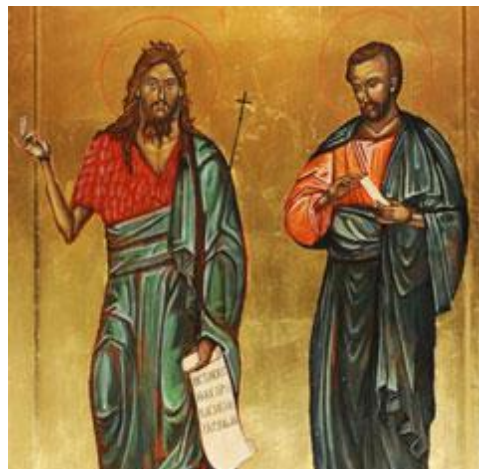
years in waiting, and its agenda has taken 80 years to prepare. This council is a turning point in world Orthodox Christianity and indeed the entire Christian world....

[Read more here](#)

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN AN AGE OF MODERN SCIENCE AND PLURALISM – A Study in Preparation for the Upcoming Holy and Great Council

The document, "Mission of the Church in the World," was released in preparation for the upcoming Holy and Great Council to be held in June (during the Feast of Pentecost) on Crete. This document relates to areas of great significance for problems in the world today—technology, war, discrimination and human dignity, globalization, the influence of the media, and others.

Each of these topics is far-reaching with little readily available literature directly related to these issues in the Church Tradition and in Patristic texts; as such,



this document could provide much needed guidance. In its present form, however, it does not adequately do so....

[Read more here](#)

Preparing for the Great and Holy Council: Theological Reflections

Several weeks ago, you received a “save the date” announcement for OTSA's upcoming conference, (Friday May 27-Saturday May 28), in which we will be discussing the papers that have been written by many of our members and friends, in anticipation of the Great and Holy Council. We



would like at this time to provide you with a registration site, where you may see the pertinent information for the conference, register for it, and also (if you would like, and so long as there is availability), register to stay at St. Vladimir's Seminary, for a very reasonable cost. We will be providing shuttles between St. Vladimir's and the venue for the conference, which will take place at THE INTERCHURCH CENTER (475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115)....

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Scouting for Board Members

If you are interested in becoming part of OCL as a an active board member and want to know more about what it takes to be active, [please contact OCL](#) via email or telephone. Perhaps you are talented in marketing, fundraising, website development, strategic planning and management, church history or other activities. OCL needs you to share this time and talent with us. Share your information with us. Thank you for your consideration.



[Read more here](#)

Continue to Pray for the Unity of the Orthodox Church as the Patriarchs and Hierarchs Prepare for the Great and Holy Council in June 2016

A PRAYER FOR ORTHODOX UNITY

O All Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we your faithful children beseech you to forgive us the sin of divisiveness, which is rooted in our hearts, our dioceses and land. Implant in our lives the holy vine of unity which only you can bestow on those who have come together in your name. Enlighten us with

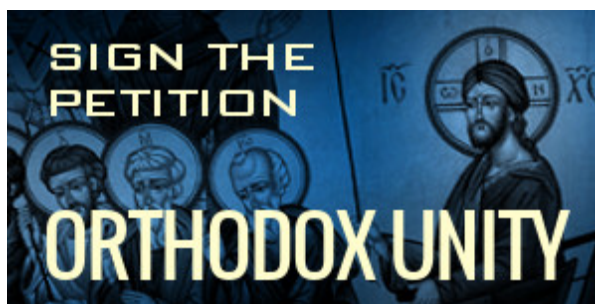


come together in your name. Enlighten us with your grace, so that we may come to the knowledge of your truth and move our hearts to respond with trust and total obedience to your divine will. Through the intercessions of the God-inspired Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea, who in harmony decreed that there should be one hierarch in each city serving your faithful as a loving father over his children, one shepherd over a united flock; we also praise your all-holy name. O Father who is without beginning, O Son who is eternal and O Holy Spirit, the life-creator, illuminate the way and guide us all to once again unite your Holy Church. Amen....



[Read more here](#)

Sign the Petition Today



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Become a Local Advocate for Orthodox Christian Unity!

A Great and Holy Council of all the Orthodox Churches is scheduled in 2016 to consider, among other issues, how to unite the Church in the United States of America. Now is the time to prepare for this awesome event. You can be a part of the process!



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