

September 18, 2007

His Eminence, the Most Reverend JOB  
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest  
927 N. LaSalle Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60610

Your Eminence and Concelebrant in the Lord:

I received your letter dated September 14 and I accept your resignation and the resignations of Archpriests Vladimir Berzonsky and John Reeves. Please communicate to the whole Committee that with these resignations, their work is concluded.

While I understand the frustration that you and others feel with the pace of the progress in our common purpose of restoring the integrity of the OCA, I must confess my deep disappointment that you have continued to alienate yourself from the very process of reform. When I appointed you to Chair the Committee, it was my hope that you could be a force for uniting the Church in a common goal. However, the result has been anything but unity. We have become polarized over issues that have nothing to do with our spiritual mission or doctrine. Rather, the focus has become who gets to decide what and who is compromised and who is not. You have missed a golden opportunity to help lead us closer to renewal and for that, I am deeply saddened. Hopefully, the new committee that I will appoint to continue your work will have more success.

Your letter has listed six reasons why you found it necessary to resign, none of which accurately reflect the facts. However, since you have repeated these issues so often, I think it best to discuss them openly at our next meeting of the Holy Synod. Perhaps then we can resolve the underlying issues and move forward together.

Asking for your holy prayers and with brotherly love in Christ, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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

cc: Archpriest Vladimir Berzonsky  
Archpriest John Reeves

