



The HOLY SYNOD
of the
ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA

March 4, 2008

His Grace, NIKOLAI
Bishop of Sitka, Anchorage, and of Alaska

Your Grace,

The Holy Synod of Bishops has received your request of 3 March, 2008 to His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN. We inform you that we have received many letters of serious complaint from deaneries, clergy, and faithful of the Diocese of Alaska. We are also appalled at your rejection of the good counsel of His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, as stated in your letter.

Not relying on hear-say, yet acknowledging the seriousness of these letters, at your suggestion, all your brother bishops were contacted; and they unanimously agreed that the best course of action for you is that you be placed on a temporary Leave-of-absence (OCA Statute, Article II.1 ; II.7.a,f,I,j ; Apostolic Canon 74, and 34).

The entire Holy Synod of Bishops offers brotherly counsel that you, immediately, embrace this Leave-of-absence as a voluntary leave, as requested by His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN. If you have not responded positively to His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN within 24 hours (that is, 4 PM Eastern Standard Time, 5 March 2008), then we are obliged to make the Leave-of-absence compulsory.

During this Leave-of-absence, you will, according to the direction of Metropolitan HERMAN, absent yourself from the territory of the Diocese of Alaska. An administrator will be appointed, who will conduct the day-to-day affairs of the Diocese of Alaska. A Committee will be appointed, to investigate the complaints, and accusations. Upon receiving the report of this Committee, the Holy Synod of Bishops will make a further decision regarding the Leave-of-absence.

Be assured that the fellowship of Bishops of the Holy Synod offer their love and support to Your Grace.

With fraternal embrace and love in Christ, I remain,

Your Brother and Concelebrant in the Lord,

The unworthy,

+SERAPHIM

Archbishop of Ottawa and of Canada

Cc: Holy Synod of Bishops

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