



PRAVOSLÁVNÁ CIRKEV V ČESKÝCH KRAJINÁCH A NA SLOVENSKU
POSVATNÁ SYNODA
ПРАВОСЛАВНАЯ ЦЕРКОВЬ В ЧЕШСКИХ ЗЕМЛЯХ И В СЛОВАКИИ
СВЯЩЕННЫЙ СИНОД
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN THE CZECH LANDS AND IN SLOVAKIA
HOLY SYNOD

✉ Bayerova 8, P.O.Box 98, 080 01 Prešov, Slovensko

IČO 319 46763

**Communiqué of the the Holy Synod
of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia**

The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia assembled for its regular meeting on December, 9th, 2013, in Prague with the participation of honoured guests, two bishops of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and two bishops of the Moscow Patriarchate.

The session of the Holy Synod was opened by His Eminence Simeon of Olomouc and Brno, the *Locum Tenens* (Metropolitan Administrator) of the Church, who at the very beginning refused to add to the proceedings the subjects brought in by the other synodal bishops. Moreover, Archbishop Simeon against the will of the other bishops, the members of the Holy Synod, invited at the meeting another person completely unknown to the others present.

The Holy Synod, shortly after the start of its working session, has taken the decision to relieve the present *Locum Tenens* from his duties and to appoint His Eminence Rastislav, Archbishop of Prešov and Slovakia as the *Locum Tenens* of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia.

The Holy Synod has come to this decision relying on the fact that His Eminence Archbishop Simeon had refused for a long time to convene a session of the Holy Synod, even after repeated requests from the other bishops, members of the Holy Synod.

Another reason for this undertaken step was the disrespect for the synodal administrative system of the Church from the side of the former *Locum Tenens* Archbishop Simeon and the authoritative assertion of his own will, regardless of the opinion of the other members of the Holy Synod.

As a very unfortunate act has been seen by the other bishops the declaration of the former *Locum Tenens* Archbishop Simeon in the media, where he presented a misleading view of the internal state of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands; that is, the Czech part of our Church.

All the present bishops were negatively surprised by the effort of the former *Locum Tenens* to get rid of the Auxiliary Bishop Jáchym in the form of dismissing him as an employee of the Diocese of Olomouc and Brno, which was seen as an attempt to refuse the presence of Bishop Jáchym at the meeting of the Holy Synod. The convened bishops were appalled by this procedure.

The members of the Holy Synod also considered non-canonical the procedure that the former *Locum Tenens* applied with regards to his official visit to Serbia at the invitation of the Serbian Orthodox Church in order to celebrate the 1700th Anniversary of the Edict of Milan, where the former *Locum Tenens*, without the knowledge of the other members of the Holy Synod invited the Metropolitan Emeritus Christopher (originally as a driver), who, however, served there instead of Archbishop Simeon as a full representative of the Holy Synod and of our local Church.



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Moreover, right before the meeting of the Holy Synod, the former Metropolitan Administrator tried to cancel the tomorrow's meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands, which is to submit the confirmation of who is the right statutory representative of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands to the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic by December, 13th 2013. Otherwise, our church is endangered by the possible blockage of funds from property compensation by the state to the churches.

The members of the Holy Synod are obliged to state that they replaced the *Locum Tenens* from this position against his will and not in terms of his decision.

The Holy Synod decided by absolute majority of three quarters of its members, in the presence of the bishops of Ecumenical and Moscow Patriarchates, in the matter of dismissing from the office of the former *Locum Tenens* and of the electing a new one.

After his dismissal, the *Locum Tenens* left the meeting of the Holy Synod, which, nevertheless, continued in its agenda. The members of the Holy Synod then greeted the honoured guests and thanked them for their participation..

The Holy Synod directed all clergy to remember the name of the new *Locum Tenens* during the services: *O hospodini Vysokopreosvjaščennijšem Rastislavi, archiepiskopi prjaševstím i Slovákii, blústitel'i mitropoličaho prestola* (For His Eminence Rastislav, Archbishop of Prešov and Slovakia, the Metropolitan Administrator).

The Holy Synod confirmed Archimandrite Fr. Mark Krupica, ThD. as the administrator of the Prague Orthodox Diocese and stated that Fr. Marek Krupica ThD. is also the statutory representative of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands.

The Holy Synod delegated His Grace Bishop Jáchym of Hodonin to canonically supervise the Orthodox Diocese of Prague in Prague until the enthronement of a new duly elected bishop; his name is to be remembered during the worship along with the name of the new *Locum Tenens*.

The Holy Synod took the decision on the date of the General Assembly of our local Church in order to elect the new Metropolitan. It will be held in Presov, Slovakia, on Saturday, January, 11th, 2014.

The Holy Synod also noted, while checking the decisions of the previous meetings of the Holy Synod, that the Metropolitan Emeritus Christopher has the blessing to serve the Divine Liturgy and other religious services exclusively and only in the monastery in Těšov, Czech Republic.



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The Holy Synod decided to laicize the former priest Evžen Freimann as a result of his acts which are found to be incompatible with the priestly office and due to his obstinate resistance to any lawful ecclesiastical authority.

The Holy Synod confirmed the decision of the Diocesan Council of the Orthodox Diocese of Prague dated December 5th 2013 regarding Archpriest Jan Polansky who appealed to the Holy Synod regarding that decision. Fr. Polansky was revoked from the position of the protopresbyter of the Plzen area; however, he still remains the Rector of the Orthodox parish in Plzen. His appeal to the ecclesiastical court of the Orthodox Diocese of Presov does not meet the territorial jurisdiction requirements and it is in the contradiction with the holy canons.

The Holy Synod adopted the text of the message of the Holy Synod to the clergy and the faithful of the Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands and Slovakia on the occasion of the Feast of the Nativity.

+Rastislav, Archbishop of Prešov and Slovakia, *Locum Tenens* (Metropolitan Administrator)
+Jiří, Archbishop of Michalovce and Košice
+Jáchym, Bishop of Hodonin