

An appeal

At the present time all over the world there is an attack on the Orthodox Christianity, and not only on us but on anybody, who is seeking the truth.

There are rumors about 8th Ecumenical Council, which will consist of all who call themselves Christians. About such an event we have a testimony of the Church Fathers that predicted possibility of such event, by stating that it will be called by Antichrist or by one of his forerunner, and from Church viewpoint it will have no use of this event because it will harm the Church, it will try to destroy the Church that Son of God created. This will be the consequence of present ecumenical movement.

At the present time the Orthodox world is divided, the Orthodox Patriarchs that use to be the bastion Orthodox Faith hundred years ago changed being poisoned by mortal spirit of ecumenism.

This will be a great danger and great temptation for Orthodox Christians and in order to survive the parishes that are faithful to Orthodoxy have to be WHOLE, have to be united, must have ONE spiritual goal.

The problems in our Parish.

Our lease ends in three months (June 30) and we have to do something, but I feel there is disunity in our parish. Let's look for past two years how this parish was when we did not have our own place – our parish spirit was different.

In order to survive the attack on Orthodoxy we need a spiritual unity for our parish to survive, if we lose the parish then most of us or each of us will be dissolved in look-worm condition of our surrounding and you all heard more than once how the Holy Scripture warns us about look-worm spirituality – it is the worse state! This is consequence of ecumenical movement, which basically destroys Orthodoxy by substitute its own teaching about the Church instead the Orthodox teaching about ONE CHURCH, which the Orthodoxy underlines. Is this spirit of “UNCHURCHINESS” got to our parish?

Our Church Fathers warn us that there will be a time when appearance of church structure will exist, the physical church structure will shine, but inside will be spiritual emptiness – there will be no Orthodoxy there!

In order for this Parish to survive, we have to have spiritual unity inside the parish. We all can and should have our own personal opinion and viewpoint and have to use it wisely but we had to be able to restrain it for the benefit of success of our parish.

We also have to comprehend what we would like and what we are able to get. And another important thing to keep in mind : WHAT IS OUR GOAL NOW.

I think and I believe you think the same – is to get a place for the Church, place to have our services, **everything else has to be put after we accomplish our goal.**

May the Lord help us to accomplish this in any way that He will direct us.

Joseph, Bishop of Washington.