

METROPOLITAN PHILARET OF NEW YORK

ZEALOUS CONFESSOR FOR THE FAITH



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Zealous Confessor for the Faith

Edited by
Subdeacon Nektarios Harrison, M.A.



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METROPOLITAN PHILARET OF NEW YORK

Zealous Confessor for the Faith

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I. Orthodox Christianity

II. Russian Orthodox Church

Dedicated To

This volume is dedicated to the Holy Hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, my wife Tamara and my dear friends Maria, Father Deacon Joseph, Reader Joseph and their families.



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The future Metropolitan Hilarion (then newly elected Bishop Hilarion)
with Metropolitan Philaret

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

We are eternally grateful to God that our small Press has been greatly blessed to offer to the Saint-loving flock of Christ the life, witness and writings of our Father among the saints, Metropolitan Philaret of New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

This book fulfills the main mission of our Press: to connect contemporary Christians to the latest and most brilliant flowers in the paradise of the Church. As one incorrupt not only in life and faith but also in body after his repose, Blessed Father Philaret has both the veneration of the faithful on earth and the miraculous testimony of heaven to confirm the boldness he now has before God. Oh, how much we need such an example in our day! How blessed we are to now have it readily accessible!

We are indebted to our brother in Christ, Subdeacon Nektarios, a devoted servant of Christ's Church and zealous disciple of the saints, who, with undivided attention and patient perseverance, labored diligently to collect, organize and present all that the great hierarch offered and God blessed. We pray that the Holy Hierarch will reward him now and forever for his sacrificial love on behalf of the brethren.

Dearest to Christ, the Lord has not, and will not, leave us bereft of eye-witnesses of the Word in our generation and those to come—even in the days of Antichrist. This book is a confirmation of His faithfulness and, also, a call to all to synergy, to cooperation, to imitation of Christ in and through His saints. May this present volume inspire us all to follow and imitate our Holy Father Philaret in his love and devotion to Christ and Holy Orthodoxy in spite of the ever-growing tide of apostasy. His joy is full and, next to him, ours too. This cannot be taken away by anyone or anything in this world!

O Holy Hierarch and Confessor of Christ, Blessed Philaret, pray to God for us!

— Archpriest Peter Alban Heers, D.Th.



EDITOR'S PREFACE

My first introduction to Holy Orthodoxy in 2004 was through a zealous priest named Hieromonk Averky (Moreno) from Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York. This Hieromonk who later would become my long-distance Spiritual Father instilled in me at a young age the traditional Orthodox Ethos and a great love for the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad. It was this chain of events that planted the seeds that would later become this book of collected writings from one of the great First-Hierarchs of the Russian Church Abroad; the Blessed Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky).

In his time, the words of Blessed Metropolitan Philaret of New York, Chief Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, distinctly resounded with clarity and righteousness, upholding the Orthodox truth. His words in this volume continue to have ever more meaning in the current times of increasing apostasy: “untainted by political considerations or calculations of any kind... [his voice] is like the Holy Fathers of ancient times, who placed purity of Orthodoxy above all else and he stands in the midst of today’s confused religious world as a solitary champion of Orthodoxy in the spirit of the Ecumenical Councils.”¹

Although Vladyka Philaret reposed in November of 1985 his timeless writings and outspoken message of adhering to “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” is more important today than ever before. In our age of post-patristic apostasy where Ortho-

1 Brotherhood of Saint Herman of Alaska, “Our Living Links with the Holy Fathers: Metropolitan Philaret of New York,” *Orthodox Word* 12, no.1 (January-February 1976): 3-5.

dox Christian hierarchs and clergy around the world are adopting the soul-destroying heresies of modernism and ecumenism at a staggering rate, we can always seek truth, spiritual edification and archpastoral guidance in the letters, homilies, writings and encyclicals of our First-Hierarch and Father among the saints, Metropolitan Philaret of New York.

Blessed Father Philaret, Pray to God for us!

Subdeacon Nektarios Harrison, M.A.
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
Researcher & Editor



P R E F A C E

In these days of general apostasy in the Christian world, even among the Orthodox, the life of Metropolitan Philaret of New York and Eastern America of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad is a breath of fresh air in the sea of a great weakening of true faith. Metropolitan Philaret was chosen as First-Hierarch much in the same way as the sainted Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow and All Russia had been elected. It was providential as he led the Church Abroad through many contemporary temptations afflicting the Church in general, such as Ecumenism and Modernism. Vladyka Philaret was a gifted sermonizer and speaker. His many sermons helped guide his spiritual children in maintaining the true faith. Even on the eve of his repose in 1985, he left in his typewriter his last words of advice: “Keep that which you have been given.”

His epistles were a warning to his fellow hierarchs in other local churches to abstain from the tendency towards Ecumenism in a false spirit of love and also were a guide to those who sought to remain steadfast despite the inclinations of a wicked age towards the “wide path.” Without judging anyone, the Holy Hierarch reminded all the Orthodox of the ageless path to salvation as taught by the Holy Fathers. May his writings and his very life inspire us to remain true to our holy faith. His holy incorrupt relics are a testament to the truth that he represented and still does through books such as this.

+ **LUKE**

Bishop of Syracuse

Abbot of Holy Trinity Monastery,

Rector of Holy Trinity Seminary, Jordanville, New York

Holy and Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian

July 14/1, 2022



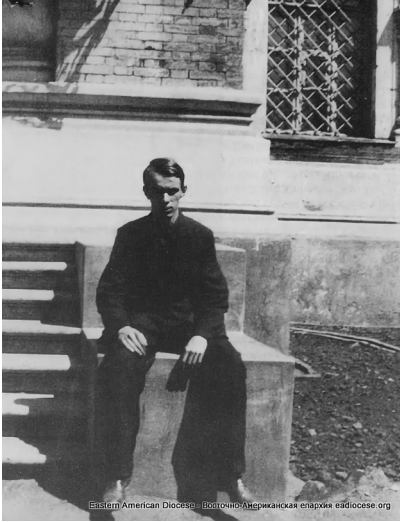
Eastern American Diocese – Восточно-Американская епархия (radioles.org)

THE LIFE OF METROPOLITAN PHILARET

Eastern American Diocese Biography of Metropolitan Philaret²

Metropolitan Philaret was born George Nikolaevich Voznesensky in Kursk on March 22, 1903. His mother, Lidia Vasilievna, died when George was only 18 years old, while his father, soon thereafter accepting monastic tonsure under the name Dimitry, became an archbishop. In 1947, his father was repatriated to the USSR, where he died shortly thereafter. Metropolitan Philaret's family moved to Blagoveshchensk, on the Amur River in 1909. In 1920, he completed the eighth-grade gymnasias. Moving with his family to Harbin, he entered the Russo-Chinese Polytechnic Institute and graduated as an electromechanical engineer in 1927. In 1931, he completed the pastoral theology courses, soon thereafter renamed the Theology Department, at the University of St. Vladimir. He would later become a professor of New Testament, Pastoral Theology, and Homiletic studies at the same. In 1930, he was ordained to the diaconate and in 1931 was tonsured a monk under the name Philaret. A year later, he was ordained a Hieromonk, in 1933 — elevated to the rank

2 “Biography of Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky),” Official Website of the Eastern American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, accessed July 8th, 2017, <http://archive.eadiocese.org/History/metphilaret.en.htm>



Met. Philaret (George) as a Layman

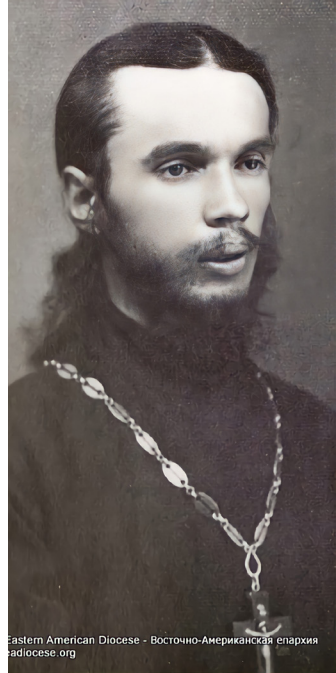
of hegumen, and in 1937 — to the rank of archimandrite. One of Vladyka’s university colleagues recalled, “Archimandrite Philaret did great work advancing Church activities and pastoral homiletics.

Worshippers would seek to attend whatever church he was serving in. He was beloved by every class of Harbin’s Orthodox population. The name of Archimandrite Philaret was renowned even beyond the confines of the Harbin Diocese. He was kind, and accessible to all who approached

him and that was a great many people. People who went to him knew that they would receive proper advice, as well as comfort and help. Archimandrite Philaret was very strict with himself; he was known as a true ascetic. Our kindhearted Vladyka also had a very rare kind of memory. When one would meet him, he would express great interest in every facet of one’s life; he felt no need to remind anyone of his own needs or difficulties, but would develop any topic of conversation, and was ready to answer any question.”

When Soviet forces occupied Manchuria, Archimandrite Philaret decisively refused to accept a Soviet passport. When a newspaper reporter came to interview him, asking what he thought of “the wise decision on the part of the Soviet government to offer the Russian population of Harbin the chance to reestablish the citizenship of their homeland,” he heard the following courageous response: “I do not consider accepting Soviet citizenship possible, and will not do so, until such time as I will not have confirmed by the facts, and 100% without a doubt, that the persecution of religion, antireligious propaganda, and attacks on servants of the Church have ceased entirely, and that the Church, which did not ‘secede,’ but was banished by the government, has once more taken its rightful place.”

Until the end of his days in China, Archimandrite Philaret never accepted Soviet citizenship, despite the danger inherent in taking such a position. Another time, Archimandrite Philaret was disciplined for his boldness. Once, having discovered a church newsletter in which Lenin was counted among the geniuses and benefactors of mankind, Archimandrite Philaret expressed his indignation in a sermon, which received widespread notoriety. His fearless denunciations of the *theomachist*³ Communists inspired a particular hatred within them, and they decided to burn Archimandrite Philaret alive, lighting his monastic cell on fire. But the Lord preserved His chosen one, although with severe burns, Vladyka escaped the fiery trap alive.



Met. Philaret in his 20s

At all times working to defend his flock, he, in his own words, “never sullied my lips and my prayer with prayers for the servants of Antichrist,” despite multiple threats. Additionally, Archimandrite Philaret also exchanged correspondence with the head of the Russian Church Abroad, Metropolitan Anastassy, ignoring the dangers implicit in doing so.

The Synod of Bishops tried long and hard to receive a visa for him to exit China and judging by available archived correspondence, almost every diocese of the Church Abroad hoped to get him for itself. Only in 1962 was the Synod of Bishops able to get Archimandrite Philaret to Hong Kong, from whence he was able to quickly get to Brisbane. A large portion of his former parishioners had gathered in Australia, and upon his arrival there, with a great many signatures, they petitioned the Synod to appoint him bishop of that city. The petition was enthusiastically supported by

3 Theomachist: A person who resists the divine will of God.