

The Œcumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church

A Concise History



Protopresbyter James Thornton

**CENTER FOR TRADITIONALIST
ORTHODOX STUDIES**

**The Œcumenical Synods of
the Orthodox Church**

THE ŒCUMENICAL SYNODS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Concise History

by
Protopresbyter James Thornton

Second Edition



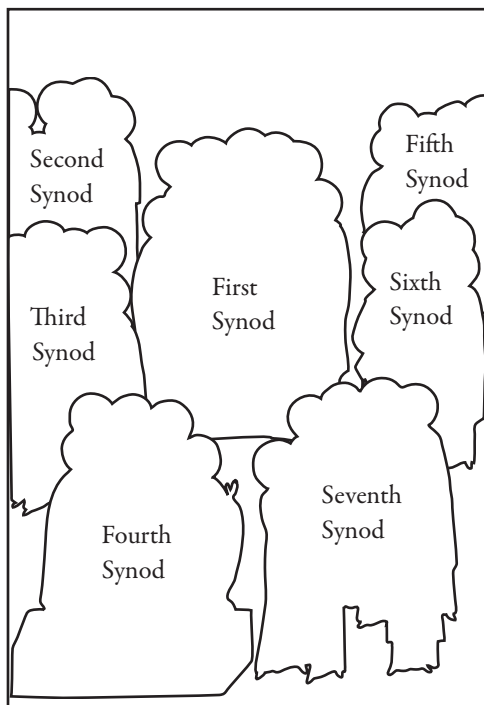
Etna, California

2012

Published with the blessing of
Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle

ON THE FRONT COVER:

The Holy Fathers of the Seven Œcumenical Synods



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CONTROL NUMBER
2007929053

© 2012
Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBER
978-0-911165-63-0

About the Author

The Very Reverend Dr. James Thornton serves the Holy Trinity Eastern Orthodox Church in Oxnard, California, a parish of the American Exarchate of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece, Holy Synod in Resistance. He holds the Diploma and Licentiate in Orthodox Theological Studies from the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies, where he is a Research Associate, and a Doctorate in Advanced Pastoral Studies from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Father James and his wife, Presbytera Elizabeth, live in Southern California.

Other Works by the Same Author

*Wealth and Poverty in the Teachings
of the Church Fathers*

Pitirim Sorokin: Prophet of Spiritual Renewal

*Four Essays on Orthodox Liturgical Issues: A Collection
of Liturgical Commentaries Written from a
Traditionalist Orthodox Perspective
with Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna
and Bishop Auxentios of Photike*

*Protestant Fundamentalistic Thought: Its Incompatibility
with the Orthodox Ethos and its Deviation from the
Founding Principles of American Culture*

*The Shroud of Turin: An Eastern Orthodox Perspective
with Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna
and Bishop Auxentios of Photike*

*Quickened with Christ: Sermons on the Sunday Epistle
Readings of the Orthodox Liturgical Year*

*Made Perfect in Faith: Sermons on the Lives and Works
of Fifty Holy Church Fathers*

*Delight in the Law of God: Sermons on the
Beatitudes and the Commandments of God*

*Of Whom the World Was Not Worthy: Sermons
on the Lives and Works of the Patriarchs
and Prophets of the Old Testament*

*Made Perfect in Faith: A Second Volume:
More Sermons on the Lives and Works
of the Holy Church Fathers*

Contents

Selected Hymns to the Holy Fathers of the Seven Œcumenical Synods	10
Preface and Acknowledgements	11
INTRODUCTION	13
The Œcumenical Synods	
CHAPTER 1	25
The First Œcumenical Synod <i>The First Synod of Nicaea,</i> <i>May 20–August 25, 325</i>	
CHAPTER 2	40
The Second Œcumenical Synod <i>The First Synod of Constantinople,</i> <i>May 22–July 9, 381</i>	
CHAPTER 3	50
The Third Œcumenical Synod <i>The Synod of Ephesus,</i> <i>June 22–July 22, 431</i>	
CHAPTER 4	62
The Fourth Œcumenical Synod <i>The Synod of Chalcedon,</i> <i>October 8–31, 451</i>	
CHAPTER 5	78
The Fifth Œcumenical Synod <i>The Second Synod of Constantinople,</i> <i>May 5–June 2, 553</i>	
CHAPTER 6	92
The Sixth Œcumenical Synod <i>The Third Synod of Constantinople,</i> <i>November 7, 680–September 16, 681</i>	

CHAPTER 7	104
The Seventh Œcumenical Synod	
<i>The Second Synod of Nîcea,</i>	
<i>September 24–October 13, 787</i>	
CHAPTER 8	
Other Synods of Œcumenical Importance	
<i>The Quinisext Synod of 692</i>	120
<i>The Synod of Constantinople of 879–880</i>	122
<i>The Palamite Synods of 1341, 1347, and 1351</i>	133
<i>The Synods of Constantinople</i>	
<i>of 1583, 1587, and 1593</i>	139
<i>The Synod of Iași of 1642 and</i>	
<i>the Synod of Jerusalem of 1672</i>	146
<i>The Synod of Constantinople of 1819</i>	152
<i>The Synod of Constantinople of 1872</i>	155
APPENDIX A	165
Saint Gregory Palamas on	
the Œcumenical Synods	
<i>A Confession of the Orthodox Faith</i>	
APPENDIX B	171
Saint Nicholas of Žiča on	
the Œcumenical Synods	
<i>A Reflection for July 16</i>	
APPENDIX C	173
Hieromonk Seraphim of Platina	
on the Œcumenical Synods	
<i>A Compilation of the Œcumenical Synods</i>	
Bibliography	175
Index of Names	188

*To a tireless missionary for Orthodoxy,
my spiritual daughter
Christina Seidl*

Selected Hymns to the Holy Fathers of the Seven Œcumenical Synods

Ἀπολυτίκιον (Apolytíkion), Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the True Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

Another Ἀπολυτίκιον, First Tone

Let us honor the sevenfold company of the Synods, which preserved intact the good deposit of the Faith whereby we are enriched; for Christ placed them under the Church as seven pillars, and holding their dogmas as a sure anchor, She ever chanteth: Glory to Him that hath shone upon you; glory to Him that hath magnified you; glory to Him that through you confirmeth the Orthodox Faith.

Κοντάκιον (Kontákion), Plagal of the Fourth Tone

The preaching of the Apostles and the dogmas of the Fathers sealed the one Faith of the Church, and clad in the garment of truth woven of the theology from on high, She teacheth aright and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

Μεγαλυνάριον (Megalynáριον)

Divinely-established foundations of the Church and impregnable bulwarks of the True Faith were the assemblies of the Seven Synods shown forth to the world; let us magnify them.

Preface and Acknowledgements

English-speaking Orthodox Christians wishing to study the Great Œcumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church have long been compelled to rely on works by non-Orthodox scholars and writers. Among such works are *The Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Undivided Church*, published as Volume XIV of the Second Series of *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church* and compiled by the Reverend Henry Robert Percival (1854–1903),¹ a nineteenth-century Anglican scholar, and *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325–787)* by the contemporary Roman Catholic scholar Father Leo Donald Davis.² However excellent and carefully written these books may be—and I certainly made use of them in writing the present volume—, they nevertheless reflect the non-Orthodox point of view of their authors, exactly as one would expect. The lack of any books in English on the history of all of the Œcumenical Synods presented from the Orthodox perspective was brought home to me by one of the young people in a parish where I served, who asked for such a book since he wished to study this subject in some depth. I had to admit that I was unaware of any Orthodox books dealing specifically with this subject in English. Since the Œcumenical Synods are so crucial and foundational in Orthodoxy, the need became clear, and I thus began my research and writing in the summer of 2006. I have no doubts that the present book will find its critics and that weaknesses and flaws in content and style will be uncovered. Nevertheless, it is my hope that my efforts will

¹ See *The Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Undivided Church: Their Canons and Dogmatic Decrees, Together with the Canons of All the Local Synods Which Have Received Ecumenical Acceptance*, ed. Henry R. Percival, Vol. XIV, 2nd Ser., of *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, ed. Philip Schaff and Henry Wace (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1991).

² See Leo Donald Davis, S.J., *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325–787): Their History and Theology* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1990).

inspire others more competent than myself to expand upon what I have struggled to present here.

As in my previous books, I wish to thank my wife of nearly thirty-seven years, Presbytera Elizabeth, for her infinite patience in tolerating the immense clutter of books and papers that must accompany research and writing. I also thank my spiritual son Reader Damjan Rakonjac for bringing to my attention the need for this book. I am indebted to the Reverend Father Martin Person, my spiritual sons Andrew Roesell and Michael Coleman, and my Godson Gregory Buls for reading portions of the incomplete manuscript and for their useful suggestions and encouragement. I owe my special and heartfelt thanks to the Reverend Father Dr. Gregory Telepneff of Saint John Chrysostomos Greek Orthodox Church in Saugus, Massachusetts, whose many theological and historical insights have greatly enhanced this book. Finally, I am grateful as well to the Most Reverend Dr. Chrysostomos, Archbishop of Etna, for his advice and encouragement, and to the Reverend Hieromonk Gregory and the Reverend Hieromonk Dr. Patapios for their heroic efforts in proofreading the manuscript and preparing it for publication.

Father James Thornton

*Holy Trinity Eastern
Orthodox Church
Oxnard, California*

*Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the
Seven Œcumenical Synods
July 16, 2007 (Old Style)*

Index of Names

- Abdülaziz Oglu Mahmud II, Sultan, 158
- Adrian I of Rome, Pope, 113, 122, 174
- Adrian II of Rome, Pope, 128, 130
- Agatho of Rome, Saint, 98, 102, 174
- Akakios of Constantinople, Patriarch, 79
- Akakios of Melitene, Saint, 57
- Akindynos, Hieromonk Gregory, 136–138, 169
- Alexander I of Alexandria, Saint, 25, 28–32, 34
- Amphilochios of Iconium, Saint, 17, 45
- Anastasios I, Emperor, 79–80
- Anastasios II of Jerusalem, Saint, 120
- Anatolios of Constantinople, Saint, 173
- Andronikos III Palaiologos, Emperor, 135–136
- Anna of Savoy, Dowager Empress, 136–137
- Anthimos VI of Constantinople, Patriarch, 158
- Anthimos of Bulgaria, Exarch, 158
- Apollinarios of Laodicea, Bishop, 89, 143
- Ariadne the Empress, Saint, 79
- Arios of Alexandria, Presbyter, 25–31, 34–37, 59, 89, 169, 171
- Arkadios, Emperor, 50, 63
- Artabasdos, Emperor, 109
- Athanasios I the Great of Alexandria, Saint, 16, 28–29, 32, 38–40, 48
- Athanasios of Paros, Saint, 155
- Attikos of Nicopolis, Bishop, 68
- Aurelian of Arles, Saint, 87
- Bardas, Cæsar, 125
- Barker, John Walton, Jr., 90
- Barlaam the Calabrian of Gerace, Bishop, 133–136, 138–139, 169
- Basil I the Macedonian, Emperor, 128–129
- Basil the Great of Cæsarea, Saint, 16, 39–42, 44–45, 121
- Basileios (Stephanides), Archimandrite, 123
- Basiliskos, Emperor, 78
- Buls, Gregory, 12
- Calvin, John, 148
- Candidian, Count, 56–57
- Celestine I of Rome, Saint, 55–56, 58, 173
- Charlemagne, Emperor, 117
- Christ, the Lord Jesus, 10, 14, 18–19, 21, 25–26, 28–29, 31–32, 34–36, 39, 41–42, 46, 48–49, 52–55, 57, 60, 62–63, 66, 69, 74–76, 78–82, 94–96, 98–101, 106–108, 110–111, 113–114, 121, 126–128, 130–131, 134, 141–144, 148, 152–153, 158–159, 165–170
- Chrysaphios, Grand Chamberlain, 63–65
- Chrysostomos I of Athens, Archbishop, 123
- Chrysostomos of Etna, Archbishop, 12, 77, 127, 137, 153, 163
- Chrysostomos of Phlorina, Metropolitan, 146
- Coleman, Michael, 12
- Constans II, Emperor, 96–97, 102
- Constantia, *Nobilissima Femina*, 37
- Constantine I of Rome, Pope, 122
- Constantine I the Great, Saint, 25, 30–33, 37–38, 142, 173
- Constantine III, Emperor, 96

- Constantine IV, Emperor, 97–98, 101, 174
- Constantine V Kopronymos, Emperor, 109–112
- Constantine VI, Emperor, 112–113, 117, 174
- Constantios II, Emperor, 38
- Cyprian of Oreoi, Bishop, 123, 141, 144–145
- Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, Metropolitan, 4
- Cyril I Loukaris of Constantinople, Patriarch, 148–149
- Cyril I of Alexandria, Saint, 16, 54–61, 66–68, 75–76, 78, 82, 88, 100, 173
- Cyril I of Jerusalem, Saint, 17, 45
- Cyril II of Jerusalem, Patriarch, 158, 160–161
- Cyril of Thessalonica, Saint, 156–157
- Damasus of Rome, Saint, 173
- Davis, Father Leo Donald, 11, 105–106
- Didymos the Blind, 169
- Diocletian, Emperor, 32
- Diodoros of Tarsus, Bishop, 169
- Dioskoros I of Alexandria, Archbishop, 63–69, 74, 79, 169, 173
- Dositheos II of Jerusalem, Patriarch, 123, 148–149
- Dragas, Protopresbyter George Dionysios, 131
- Dvornik, Father Francis, 123
- Elias III of Jerusalem, Patriarch, 130
- Epiphanius of Constantinople, Saint, 83
- Eudoxia, Empress, 50
- Eulogios of Edessa, Saint, 45
- Eunomios of Cyzicus, Bishop, 89
- Euphemia the All-Praised, Saint, 65, 68
- Eusebios of Caesarea, Bishop, 32, 34, 106
- Eusebios of Dorylaeum, Bishop, 63–65
- Eusebios of Nicomedia, Bishop, 34, 36–37
- Eustathios of Antioch, Saint, 32
- Euthymios I of Constantinople, Saint, 123
- Eutyches of Constantinople, Archimandrite, 62–69, 75–76, 78, 81, 89, 169, 173
- Eutychios of Constantinople, Saint, 87, 90, 173
- Evagrius of Pontos, Deacon, 169
- Facundus of Hermiane, Bishop, 86
- Felix II of Rome, Saint, 79
- Ferrandus of Carthage, Deacon, 86
- Flavian of Constantinople, Saint, 63–64, 66, 68
- Florovsky, Protopresbyter Georges Vasilievich, 17–18, 22–23, 26–27, 34, 48, 52–54, 58–59, 66, 76, 85, 90, 95, 163
- Fortescue, Father Adrian Henry, 155
- Fox, Clifton R., 142
- Frend, William Hugh Clifford, 39
- Gennadios II Scholarios of Constantinople, Saint, 123
- George I of Constantinople, Saint, 99, 174
- George II of Antioch, Patriarch, 120
- Germanos I of Constantinople, Saint, 108–109
- Gerostergios, Father Asterios, 79, 81, 84
- Gibbon, Edward, 105–106

- Gratian, Emperor, 45
- Gregoras, Monk Nikephoros, 137–138
- Gregory, Hieromonk, 12
- Gregory I the Theologian of Constantinople, Saint, 16–17, 39–40, 42, 44–47, 82–83, 173
- Gregory II of Rome, Saint, 109
- Gregory III of Rome, Saint, 109
- Gregory V of Constantinople, Saint, 153
- Gregory XIII of Rome, Pope, 139, 145
- Gregory of Nyssa, Saint, 16–17, 39, 42, 45
- Gregory Palamas of Thessalonica, Saint, 133–139, 165
- Head, Marilyn Constance, 93
- Herakleios, Emperor, 93–94, 96, 102, 104
- Hierotheos of Antioch, Patriarch, 158
- Hierotheos of Nafpaktos, Metropolitan, 13, 16, 19, 24, 124, 132–133, 139
- Hilarion of Trnovo, Metropolitan, 158
- Hilarus of Rome, Saint, 64–65
- Honorius I of Rome, Pope, 95, 98–99, 102–103
- Hormisdas of Rome, Saint, 82
- Hosius of Cordova, Saint, 30–32, 37–38
- Ibas of Edessa, Bishop, 84–85, 88–90
- Ignatios I of Constantinople, Saint, 125–126, 128–130
- Irene the Empress, Saint, 112–113, 117, 174
- Isidore I of Constantinople, Saint, 137
- Jacob Baradaïos of Edessa, Bishop, 75
- James the Brother of the Lord, Saint, 14
- Jeremiah II Tranos of Constantinople, Patriarch, 139–140, 144
- Jerome of Bethlehem, Saint, 38
- Joachim VI of Antioch, Patriarch, 140
- Jobes, Karen H., 150
- Job of Moscow, Saint, 140
- John I Chrysostomos of Constantinople, Saint, 50–51, 61, 84
- John I of Antioch, Archbishop, 56, 58–61, 67
- John II of Rome, Pope, 83
- John V Palaiologos, Emperor, 136–137
- John VI Kantakouzenos, Emperor, 136–137
- John VIII of Rome, Pope, 130, 132
- John XIV Kalekas of Constantinople, Patriarch, 134–137
- John of Damascus, Saint, 16, 107–108
- John the Forerunner, Saint, 25
- Julian of Halicarnassus, Bishop, 80–81
- Justin I, Emperor, 80–81
- Justin II, Emperor, 92–93
- Justin of Ćelije, Saint, 13, 19, 141
- Justinian I the Great, Saint, 80–81, 83–87, 89, 91–92, 94, 101, 104, 173
- Justinian II Rhinotmetos, Emperor, 120, 122
- Kallistos I of Constantinople, Saint, 138
- Kallistos of Diokleia, Metropolitan, 147–148, 155–156, 161
- Leo I the Great of Rome, Saint, 63–65, 67–68, 74, 100, 173
- Leo II, Emperor, 78
- Leo II of Rome, Saint, 102–103
- Leo III the Isaurian, Emperor, 104–109, 125
- Leo IV the Khazar, Emperor, 112

- Leo V the Armenian, Emperor, 117
 Leontios, Emperor, 120
 Libanios of Antioch, 85
 Licinius, Emperor, 30, 32
 Loukios of Alexandria, Archbishop,
 40
 Makarios I of Antioch, Patriarch, 99
 Makarios I of Jerusalem, Saint, 32
 Makarios of Corinth, Saint, 154
 Makedonios I of Constantinople,
 Archbishop, 46, 89, 169, 171, 173
 Marcian the Emperor, Saint, 65, 70, 75,
 101, 173
 Maris the Persian, 85, 88, 90
 Mark of Ephesus, Saint, 123
 Martin I of Rome, Saint, 96–97
 Martyrios of Jerusalem, Patriarch, 79
 Mary, Blessed Ever-Virgin *Theotókos*,
 25, 35, 49, 51–56, 60, 62, 69, 82, 100,
 108, 112, 114, 117, 166, 169, 171
 Maurice the Emperor, Saint, 93
 Maximian of Constantinople, Saint, 59
 Maximinus II, Emperor, 32
 Maximos I the Cynic of Constantino-
 ple, Archbishop, 47
 Maximos the Confessor, Saint, 16,
 24, 97
 McGuckin, Father John Anthony, 57,
 59
 Meletios I of Alexandria, Saint,
 139–140
 Meletios II of Alexandria, Patriarch,
 141
 Meletios of Antioch, Saint, 45–46
 Meletios of Lycopolis, Bishop, 36
 Meletios (Syrgos), Archimandrite, 147
 Memnon of Ephesus, Saint, 56, 58–59
 Menas of Constantinople, Saint, 85
 Metallinos, Protopresbyter George
 Demetrios, 124
 Methodios I of Constantinople, Saint,
 118, 124–125
 Methodios of Sirmium, Saint, 156
 Metrophanes I of Constantinople,
 Saint, 31, 173
 Meyendorff, Protopresbyter John Feo-
 filovich, 134, 157, 159
 Michael I of Antioch, Patriarch, 130
 Michael II of Alexandria, Patriarch,
 130
 Michael II the Stammerer, Emperor,
 117
 Michael III, Emperor, 118, 125, 128
 Modestos, Exarch, 41
 Moses the God-Seer, Saint, 25
 Neilos II Diasporinos of Rhodes, Met-
 ropolitan, 123
 Neilos Kabasilas of Thessalonica, Met-
 ropolitan, 123
 Nektarios of Constantinople, Saint,
 46
 Nektarios of Pentapolis, Saint, 123
 Nestorios of Constantinople, Arch-
 bishop, 16, 51–59, 62, 67, 70, 78, 82,
 84–85, 89, 110, 169, 171, 173
 Nicholas I of Rome, Pope, 125–126,
 128–129
 Nicholas of Žiča, Saint, 171
 Nicholas the Myrrhgusher of Myra,
 Saint, 32, 35
 Nikodemos the Hagiorite, Saint, 154
 Noah the Patriarch, Saint, 141
 Oikonomos of the Oikonomoi, Proto-
 presbyter Constantine, 123
 Origen of Alexandria, 83–84, 89–90,
 143, 169, 171

- Ostrogorsky, George Alexandrovich, 97, 102, 106–107, 111, 137
- Ouspensky, Leonid Alexandrovich, 105, 118
- Paisios of Hilandar, Saint, 162
- Paphnoutios the Great of Thebes, Saint, 32
- Parthenios I the Elder of Constantinople, Patriarch, 147
- Patapios, Hieromonk, 12, 153
- Paul II of Constantinople, Patriarch, 169
- Paul III of Constantinople, Saint, 120
- Paul IV the New of Constantinople, Saint, 112
- Paul the Apostle, Saint, 106, 114
- Pelagios of Laodicea, Saint, 45
- Percival, the Reverend Henry Robert, 11
- Person, Father Martin, 12
- Peter I the Fuller of Antioch, Patriarch, 79
- Peter II of Sebaste, Saint, 45
- Peter III Mongos of Alexandria, Patriarch, 75, 79
- Peter VI of Alexandria, Patriarch, 120
- Peter Mogila of Kiev, Metropolitan, 147–149
- Peter of New York and New Jersey, Archbishop, 28, 126
- Peter the Apostle, Saint, 73–74, 106
- Philo of Alexandria, 28
- Philostorgios, 29
- Phokas, Emperor, 93
- Photii of Triaditza, Bishop, 140
- Photios the Great of Constantinople, Saint, 29, 123, 125–126, 128–130, 156
- Pilate, Pontius, 49
- Pomazansky, Protopresbyter Michael Ivanovich, 14, 22–23
- Prestige, George Leonard, 15
- Pulcheria the Empress, Saint, 50, 65, 70
- Pulcini, Father Theodore, 156
- Pyrrhos of Constantinople, Patriarch, 169
- Rakonjac, Reader Damjan, 12
- Reparatus of Carthage, Bishop, 86
- Roesell, Andrew, 12
- Romanides, Protopresbyter John Savvas, 67, 124
- Rusticus of Rome, Deacon, 86–87
- Sebastian of Rome, Deacon, 87
- Secundus of Ptolemaïs, Bishop, 36
- Seidl, Christina, 9
- Seraphim of Platina, Hieromonk, 173
- Sergios I of Constantinople, Patriarch, 94–95, 98–99, 102, 122, 169
- Severos of Antioch, Patriarch, 76, 80–81
- Silva, Moisés, 150
- Sisinnios I of Constantinople, Saint, 50
- Sokrates Scholastikos, 52
- Sophia, Empress, 92
- Sophronios I of Jerusalem, Saint, 95
- Sophronios IV of Alexandria, Patriarch, 158
- Sophronios IV of Jerusalem, Patriarch, 139–140, 144
- Sophronios of Vratsa, Saint, 162
- Spyridon of Trimythous, Saint, 32
- Stephen the New, Saint, 111
- Stephen the Protomartyr, Saint, 41
- Sylvester of Alexandria, Patriarch, 139–140, 144

- Sylvester of Rome, Saint, 31, 173
Symeon of Thessalonica, Saint, 123
- Tarasios of Constantinople, Saint, 112–113, 174
Telepneff, Father Gregory, 12
Theodora the Empress, Saint, 118
Theodore IV Balsamon of Antioch, Patriarch, 123
Theodore of Mopsuestia, Bishop, 84–85, 88–90, 169, 173
Theodoret of Cyrrhus, Bishop, 70, 84–85, 88–90
Theodosios I the Great, Saint, 45–46, 49–50, 73, 173
Theodosios II the Younger, Saint, 50–51, 56–59, 63–65, 173
Theodotos of Ancyra, Bishop, 57
Theonas of Marmarica, Bishop, 36
- Theophilos, Emperor, 117–118
Thomas Aquinas, 136
Thornton, Presbyter Elizabeth, 5, 12
Thornton, Protopresbyter James, 5
Tiberios I, Emperor, 93
Timothy II Ailouros of Alexandria, Patriarch, 75
Treadgold, Warren, 30
- Ulfilas of the Goths, Bishop, 47
- Valens, Emperor, 38, 40–41, 44
Valentinian of Scythia, Bishop, 87
Vasile Lupu of Moldavia, Voivode, 147
Vigilius of Rome, Pope, 86–91, 102, 173
Vincent of Lérins, Saint, 21, 51–52
- Zeno, Emperor, 78–80, 93

The Œcumenical Synods of the Orthodox Church

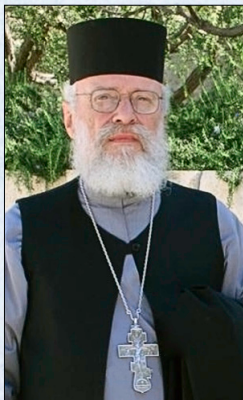
“One must not add or subtract anything from the sacred Symbol of our Orthodox Faith; for therein have we faithfully been Baptized; and those who distort this Faith shall be delivered most justly to the penalty of anathema.

“Let us all leap up in joy of heart, uniting in a single celebration the Holy Synods of the Fathers, since through them we have beheld the light of Orthodoxy; for they have all been revealed as beacons guiding us to the discovery of right dogmas.

“Let us ask cleansing for our souls, and let us strive to live our life piously, that we might be numbered with the Holy Fathers who have preserved the rich treasure of correct doctrine for us, their children.

“Christ shone forth from thy womb, O Mother of God, and hath deified the human race and vouchsafed it His Own glory; and He hath shown us who ever proclaim thee truly the *Theotókos* to be heirs thereof.”

*Ninth Ode of the Canon to the Seven Holy Œcumenical Synods
by Patriarch Germanos II of Constantinople (reigned 1222–1240)*



The Very Reverend Dr. James Thornton serves the Holy Trinity Eastern Orthodox Church in Oxnard, California, a parish of the American Exarchate of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece, Holy Synod in Resistance. He holds the Diploma and Licentiate in Orthodox Theological Studies from the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies, where he is a Research Associate, and a Doctorate in Advanced Pastoral Studies from the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

ISBN 978-0-911165-63-0