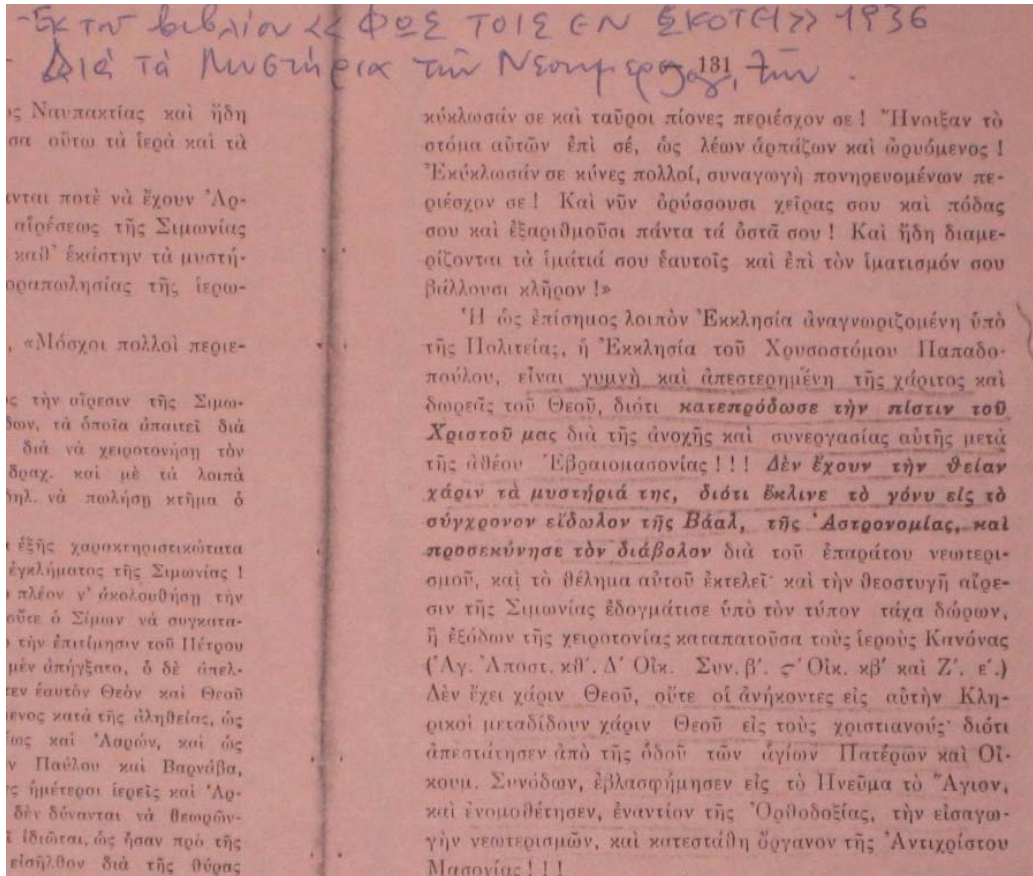


The Apostolic Succession of the Matthewites Derives From A Freemason and Ecumenist "Patriarch"

In his book "Elenchos Kai Anatropē" Mr. Gkoutzidis writes about the various ecclesiological books that were printed by the Zealot Athonite fathers: "At the very same time important documents of an ecclesiological nature are circulated by the Zealot Hieromonks who had departed Mt. Athos, the foremost of which was the then Hieromonk and later Bishop and Archbishop of the G.O.C., Matthew Karpathakis. From among these documents we mention the most important, namely, 'Apostasias Elenchos,' 'Distomos Romphaia' published in 1934 and 'Phos tois en Skotei' published in 1936, which widely shocked the innovative process of Chrysostom Papadopoulos..."

From the last of these Athonite books, 'Phos tois en Skotei' of 1936, we provide the following quote: "...Therefore, the Official Church of Chrysostom Papadopoulos, recognized by the State, is naked and deprived of the grace and gift of God, because it betrayed the Faith of our Christ by its tolerance and collaboration with atheistic Judeo-Masonry!!!..."

Below is a photocopy of the actual page from which the quote is taken:



We agree wholeheartedly with the above quote, that if a bishop enslaves himself to antichristian and satanic Judeo-Masonry, his mysteries are invalid and his hierarchical status is “naked and deprived of the grace and gift of God.” But unfortunately, “Archbishop” Chrysostom of Athens was not the first, nor was he the last, of these Mason “hierarchs.”

Among the masons of high rank also happened to be the Ecumenical Patriarch Joachim III, the first Masonic “Patriarch” of Constantinople. This information is derived firstly from the official website of the “Grand Lodge of Greece,” as well as from several books published by the Zealot Fathers themselves, many of which refer to Joachim III as “the first Mason Ecumenical Patriarch.” On the Greek version of Wikipedia, in the article regarding Joachim III, we read: “According to the official website of the Grand Lodge of Greece, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge called ‘Progress.’ (Πρόοδος).”

And he wasn’t only a Mason, but also an Ecumenist. In the Patriarchal Encyclical of 1904 he asked of the Primates of the Autocephalous Orthodox Churches to discuss the following: “a) the meeting and strengthening by concordance and love, of the Holy Orthodox Churches of God, b) the possibility of relation and Christian love and rapprochement of our Churches with the two great branches of Christianity, namely, Catholicism and Protestantism, c) how it is possible for the Orthodox Church to approach the so-called Old Catholics, who desire a union with us, and d) whether it is possible or not for us to formulate and better adjust our current Calendar.”

He also wrote: “It is beloved of God and Evangelical for me to ask of the leadership of the Holy Autocephalous Churches regarding our present and future relations with the two great branches of Christianity, the Western Church and the Protestant Churches. And it is known that every genuine Christian must pray and petition, as is found in the texts of our Church, for the Evangelical Unity, a teaching constituting a pious and heartfelt desire in the Orthodox Faith, for the unity of them and all who believe in Christ...”

Further down he writes: “Not without worth is our attention towards the issue of a common calendar, so that we can adequate document things said and written, using the same proposed systems of reform of our Julian Calendar, which has been kept by the Orthodox Church for a long time. [This reform shall take place] either by adopting the Gregorian Calendar, since [the Julian Calendar] is scientifically lacking, whereas this one is more accurate. We must consequently also consider the transformation of our ecclesiastical Paschalion. Regarding this topic, the opinions are divided, as we can see from the resulted specific opinions of our Orthodox people...”

Thus, 'Ecumenical Patriarch' Joachim III was not only a Mason (member of the Lodge called 'Progress'), but he was also a branch theory Ecumenist (he called Catholicism and Protestantism 'branches of Christianity' and he expressed a desire for unity with them). Additionally he was also in favour of the reform of the ecclesiastical calendar, either by the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar or the creation of a new calendar. In any case his purpose is spelled out quite clearly as "common calendar," meaning a single calendar for Westerns and Orthodox, to better promote their unity. In other words, 'Patriarch' Joachim III was the forerunner of 'Archbishop' Chrysostom Papadopoulos! He was the 'Metaxakis' before Meletius Metaxakis!!!

But this very Mason, Ecumenist and very-well-would-have-been New Calendarist 'Patriarch' is the very bishop who consecrated Metropolitan Chrysostom Kavouridis of Florina in 1909, who in turn consecrated Bishop Matthew of Bresthena in 1935! In other words, the Apostolic Succession of the Matthewites derives from a Mason, Ecumenist and Modernist 'Patriarch'!!!

So by what means does Bp. Kirykos Kontogiannis and Mr. Eleutherius Gkoutzidis preach to us that supposedly Bishop Matthew offered a "pure" line of Apostolic Succession, whereas all other lines (Russian Church Abroad, etc) are looked upon as "unclean"? What could be more unclean than a consecration derived from a Mason, Ecumenist and Modernist 'Patriarch' such as Joachim III??? Such a line of Apostolic Succession is by far as "unclean" as one can possibly get! Yet Bp. Kirykos presents it as some kind of "spotless bastion" of Apostolic Succession! The fact that Joachim III was a Mason is enough to disqualify the validity of this line, without even mentioning the fact he was also a 'branch-theory' believing Ecumenist heretic, and was also in favour of the reformation of the ecclesiastical calendar!

But the hypocrisy doesn't stop there. This Mason, Ecumenist and Modernist 'Patriarch' Joachim III did not only pass on the Apostolic Succession to the Matthewites. He was also the very 'Patriarch' who blessed the Holy Chrism in 1903 and again in 1912, the very Holy Chrism that the Matthewites were using until as late as 1958! Thus the Matthewites were rechrismating converts from New Calendarism by anointing them with the Holy Chrism blessed by a Freemason, Ecumenist and Modernist 'Patriarch'!!!

Behold a photograph of 'Patriarch' Joachim III and the Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shortly after the blessing of the Holy Chrism on Holy Thursday, 1912:



The consecration of Holy Chrism by Patriarch Joachim III in 1912

Now let us again read the quote from “Phos tois en Skotei” published in 1936: *“...Therefore, the Official Church of Chrysostom Papadopoulos, recognized by the State, is naked and deprived of the grace and gift of God, because it betrayed the Faith of our Christ by its tolerance and collaboration with atheistic Judeo-Masonry!!!...”*

What does this mean? This means that according to their own ecclesiology, the Matthewites THEMSELVES are *“naked and deprived of the grace and gift of God”* because they derive not only their Apostolic Succession but even their Holy Chrism from a ‘Patriarch’ who *“betrayed the Faith of our Christ by his tolerance and collaboration with atheistic Judeo-Masonry!!!...”*

Alas! But let the Matthewites rethink as to whether they truly do have *“pure”* Apostolic Succession and *“valid mysteries”* before they dare to judge or doubt the Apostolic Succession and Valid Mysteries of the historic Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, and the Acacian hierarchy it founded in Greece.