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THE TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH

"MOTHER OF GOD CENTRE", A SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL
ORGANIZATION

USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY
ANALYTICAL REPORT

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The True Orthodox Church (TOC) has several trends (branches) and no centre. It does not differ in dogma from the Russian Orthodox Church, however, its followers do not recognize the legitimacy of the hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church. They hold services in private homes. There is an especially large number of TOC monasteries and communities in Kuban, Byelorussia and the Ukraine. Till recently the TOC was completely secret because membership was punishable by a prison sentence. Even now, the bishops and clergy of the TOC are suspicious of social innovations and prefer to bide their time since they are distrustful of the good intentions of the authorities.

There is no complete unity among the bishops. For instance, there is a spiritual branch of the TOC, the True Orthodox Church of the Mother of God, which has inherited the traditions of the Optina startsy. The majority of the priests of the Mother of God Centre belong to this spiritual branch.

Till recently, three metropolitans of the TOC lived on an estate which had two, or three buildings on it surrounded by a high fence. One of the houses served housekeeping needs, including the kitchen, the other was the refectory and church. The bishops and priests did not venture out of the estate for tens of years, but when there was a need for going out, they usually put on a black shawl and woman's skirt, so as not to attract the attention of a chance passer-by.

The Metropolitan Gennady, who died several years ago, had been ordained bishop by Archbishop Seraphim. He was raised to the rank of Metropolitan during Christmas services in the underground vaults of Tbilisi prison whose chief warden, being a believer, did something that was unimaginable in those days of totalitarianism: on Christmas Eve he summoned all the prisoner bishops of the Georgian Orthodox Church and also several bishops of the True Orthodox Church and told them

confidentially that it was possible to arrange Christmas services. The bishops were given vestments in keeping with their office since it turned out that in the prison underground there was a little church that had remained from previous times. A feastday Liturgy was performed during which the then head of the Georgian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Malkhaz said to Gennady, "We are doomed to rot here, they will not let us out of here alive. But you are an ordinary priest, they will let you out. You shall be a Metropolitan". Thus Gennady was ordained Metropolitan by twenty Georgian and four TOC prelates.

The Reverend Gennady was a great ascetic. He roamed about Russia, never living long in one place and founded twelve secret monastic settlements and consecrated more than 500 monks.

The last few years of their lives the Metropolitans Gennady, Feodosius and Grigory, who made up the secret Council of one of the branches of the True Orthodox Church, lived in one house. Their daily schedule was: in the morning - monastic canon, moleben and daily Liturgy in full bishop's raiment. The house had no windows so nobody should know that there was a whole church complete with iconostasis and Holy Gates in the house. It was terribly stuffy on account of that.

After the noonday meal, they rested. In the evening there were the Hours and all-night vigil. Several nuns used to come in the evening for discourse or the three metropolitans received the faithful who came from other towns. They preferred to associate with people of their own circle.

The money of which there was quite a large sum at times (donated by persons who asked to be prayed for) was used to render assistance to wanderers and persons coming from afar. There were the most diverse people in the True Orthodox Church. There were simple folk who worked in the countryside; there was an archbishop who worked as a stoker (naturally, no one suspected he was an archbishop), and there were persons with higher education, some with doctor's degrees.

The theoretical discord between the True Orthodox Church and the Russian Church Abroad refers chiefly to the problem of whether the laying of hands is canonical or uncanonical. In this respect each of the churches believes it is the heir of Apostolic grace and denies the other church that quality. The Mother of God Branch of the TOC is sooner inclined to believe in the successiveness of the spirit (in keeping with the Melchisedek rite), which means that regardless of whether the canonic succession continues or is disrupted, the grace of God is conveyed to true hearts who observe the fundamental church dogmas and rules and, what is most important, inherit the spirit of orthodoxy (profound repentance as a means of transformation), sealed in the traditions of the holy fathers and the Prophetic Revelations of the Mother of God in Russia.

Today the True Orthodox Church evokes increasing sympathy since it is justly regarded as a martyr Church that has not stained itself by compromises with its conscience and which has a lighter weight of sin compared to the official church.

I remember the extraordinary grace that came from above during services conducted by Metropolitan Grigory. A solid man of middle age who looked like the typical Orthodox deacon with a low resonant voice, he was transformed completely during service. Tears flowed down his cheeks all the time, and his singing was exquisitely beautiful, but the main point was that it was especially cordial, simple and pure, one felt he had the protection of the angels.

Metropolitan Grigory was a man of remarkable destiny. He was the nephew of the hermit Metropolitan Gennady, the head of the Church, who in the closing years of his life rebuked the former on account of his pride. Gennady would easily call Grigory a fool or an ass in the presence of visiting young priests or simple parishioners. Grigory would flush, but would take it meekly as penance.

Six months after the demise of Metropolitan Gennady, he appeared to Grigory in his dream and asked "Will you be my lay-brother?" Grigory meekly nodded ...Two days later he died

during a service. He had a heart attack but he completed the service and gave up the ghost a few minutes after Holy Communion. Their cloistered way of life was the cause: for twenty years the metropolitans had not left the precincts of their house and lived in continuous expectation of a raid.

They made and consecrated the holy oil once a year, the nuns made them their clothes and vestments. The necessary articles of worship such as the panagia (Pectoral Image), the signs of the prelates' rank and many other things were obtained by some wonder. Some were inherited and dated back to Tsarist times, most of them were beautifully decorated with pearls. If any one of the brethren got into trouble, he was fearlessly defended.

All three metropolitans were harassed during the stagnation period for being parasites and "underground" priests. A local paper published a slanderous propaganda article about them. However, the last of the metropolitans used to show it to his visitors with a touch of pride, pointing to the place where he figured as the associate of the hermit metropolitan.

There is no unity of thought among the clergy of the True Orthodox Church. There are young priests and bishops of pro-Western orientation; and there are the supporters of the monarchy and the return to the old order of things. There are also those who are oriented to internal "mental activity" and sobermindedness (the Mother of God branch), who advocate the traditions of Optina Pustyn and the Mt. Athos startsy.

It should be pointed out that for the True Orthodox Church, which was not linked with the outside world either through agreements, covenants or bargains with its conscience, it was easier to carry out the spiritual mission of bringing the good tidings, and of inner prayerful recluseness. A catacomb way of life also contributed to sobermindedness, profound repentance, and inner prayer, while little importance is attached to outer marks of priestly or hierarchic distinctions. However, strength of the spirit and the gifts

characteristic of the startsy, especially the gift of foresight, is highly valued.

In the years of the Khrushchev and Brezhnev persecutions, the TOC had a large number of startsy endowed with high spirituality. Some of the monks experienced in feats of the spirit, who had been expelled from the monasteries took up their good work in the remote parts of the country and gradually joined the TOC. The religious communities usually congregated around a starets or priest, like the Rostov starets John who died ten years ago. The community he created is alive to this day. Father John's flock revere him to this day for his keen foresight and loving heart. The starets had pronounced many a prophecy, the future of Russia, among other things, and many of them have come true. He had little formal schooling, but had immense spiritual power though he had not been ordained.

The True Orthodox Church has preserved the tradition stemming from the Orthodox startsy and practically forgotten by the official church, namely, the teaching of the acquisition of the Holy Spirit, of true asceticism - the traditions of the startsy of Mount Athos, Sts. Anthony and Theodosius of the Caves, Sergius of Radonezh, Niel Sorky, Paphnutius of Borovsk, Paisius (Velichkovsky), the Optin startsy and Seraphim of Sarov. The clandestine way of life dictated aspirations little connected with this world.

The highest standards among monks is their progress up the ladder of perfection (the degree of their fulfilment of the commandments of grace). The mention of monks is not accidental, they make up the greater part of the truly Orthodox believers, they are wanderers who have abandoned worldly life (since constant persecution has driven them to wandering about the country).

The True Orthodox Church was most cruelly harassed. Believers lived in constant fear of raids, investigations and the like. The police were always after them and only through the grace of God were they able to persevere in the unequal

struggle and not falter in spirit. To this very day it is common practice in the TOC to conduct services in a private home behind locked doors. The service is interrupted each time someone knocks on the door.

Yet I have to say that though the local police very often knew of the existence of the underground church, their reaction was not the same. Some tried to root it out while others looked the other way.

There were many sympathizers among the police. One police chief even asked the priest to pray for him while others simply believed in secret (that was all in Brezhnev's times). True they made young monks get a job and did not allow them to live long in one place. They were more tolerant of the old men.

To this day the layman finds it hard to understand why young men turn to religion and join the monkhood. What is it that attracts them in the religious way of life? In the TOC the most important thing is prayer and bows. For example, there is the 500 prayers and 500 bows that are obligatory for all. That is one of the manifestations of the oldest tradition, that inner activity of the soul and the acquisition of the stamp of true spirit. Night vigils are especially highly valued, that is, the prayers and bows that are offered up at night. It is believed that one bow made at night equals ten made in the daytime. For the sake of comparison, we can say that night-time prayer has been prohibited in the largest of the Lauras belonging to the Moscow Patriarchy who believes that monks should sleep at night.

The TOC does not abridge any of the canons, Hours, or prayers and reads all the texts in full during service. Abridgement of texts and hymns has become common practice in the ROC. It is also the purely Russian Orthodox practice of the monks reading the Psalter in between services, with Hallelujah sung, and prayers for the living and the dead. The Psalter is read joyously, from the heart. The TOC also attaches great importance to confession.

True Christianity is distinguished for strict fasting. It is clear that such a high demand placed on the purity of Orthodox dogmas, canons and traditions, given our very modest possibilities, requires special effort, sacrifice and a stern life style. Underground vaults and cellars in houses are often converted into shrines where services are held behind locked doors. There is sunflower seed oil in the icon-lamps instead of special oil. The electric lights are not turned on and only the candles light up the room. Because of a shortage of priests very often you see a hieromonk officiating, with several nuns to help him with the singing and prayer-reading.

There had been ex-actors and scientists from large cities among the ascetics of the TOC. They were tempted by promises of a "sweet life" but they preferred the grace of God to poverty of the spirit. The blessed pilgrims are the nucleus of the True Orthodox Church.

The communities of the true Orthodox are distinguished for special warmth and simplicity of relations between the members, quite in the spirit of early Christianity. Following the example of the Christians of the early centuries, the True Orthodox arrange a common meal after church services. They attach special significance to obedience which is considered the most important yardstick of spiritual perfection.

The grounds for consecration and ordination is the presence of the special grace of God. In order to be made the superior of a monastery it is necessary to guide twelve men to monkhood, and another twelve is required for the archimandritcy.

Truly Orthodox spirit is shown in the fact that church books are copied by hand, not only because there is a shortage of the books but because that is the ancient tradition stemming from the medieval monastic scribes. It is believed that when a monk copies a religious book, a special grace descends on him and the word is written visually in the book and invisibly, in blood, in his heart. Young nuns are often commissioned to copy the Psalter in large handwriting, also

the sermons of the startsy that are circulated by "samizdat", and accounts of the Revelations of the Mother of God and her appearance to the people.

The ascetics and recluses of the TOC prefer divine thought to divine science, because the former bears the stamp of profound immersion into the spiritual text.

Life in the unfavourable conditions of lack of freedom and constant danger brings people together in one large fraternal family and many problems are successfully resolved through common effort.

Pyotr Bolshakov (priest)

"MOTHER OF GOD CENTRE", A SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The Mother of God Centre has been functioning since 1988 as an association of nontradition-minded priests and believers. It has members who belong to the Russian Orthodox Church and the True Orthodox Church, and has established contact with religious organizations abroad which revere the Mother of God. The Old Catholics of Yugoslavia are among the members of the Centre.

The Mother of God Centre formed as a fraternity of priests, monks and laymen who accept the Prophetic Revelations of the Word of the Mother of God in Russia. Since 1984 the Revelation of the Word has been communicated to the Orthodox starets, Father John, a priest of the True Orthodox Church.

The Wise Revelations of the Word of the Mother of God reveal the future of the world after the Last Judgement and the profound spiritual mysteries of the Christian road and the Christian prayer of the heart.

The Queen of Heaven extends Her Protection over all who yearn for peace within Her Pure Bosom and calls on all to go the way of genuine and fruitful repentance under Her Guidance before the Crucifix of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Mother of God Centre is an inter-confessional organization. Some of our priests have been ordained in the True Orthodox Church, but in a social and charity organization like the Mother of God Centre that does not introduce any political extremism, antisemitism or the like. The Mother of God gives Her all-encompassing heart to those who spread the good tidings of Her Revelation. Moreover, the clergy of our brotherhood do not claim to represent any confession, but simply call themselves the priests of the Mother of God Centre.

Our status facilitates cooperation with schools,

universities, institutes, clubs, cultural centres and any other state army or private owned institutions.

Inspired by the universal Wise Revelations of the destiny of Russia and the world, the members of the Mother of God Centre have turned to fulfilling missionary tasks, one of which is to spread the Revelations.

The other task of our organization is to preach active and fruitful penitence as a grace-bestowing and salvational gift of the Holy Trinity (as it is understood in the Revelations and the teaching of the holy fathers); penitence as the renewal of baptism and as the road to the "acquisition" of the Holy Spirit. We are trying to revive the tradition of spiritual Christianity as the right road to saintliness and perfection.

We do not consider any one of the presently functioning confessions to be without grace, and we do not refute the dogmas, Codex and Rules and do not interfere in the internal life of churches, fraternities, believers and private citizens.

We do not strive to seize churches or to increase the membership at the expense of people belonging to other confessions.

Our chief task is to bear the good tidings of the Revelations of the Mother of God which, in our opinion, is now the will of God. In this we appeal for help and cooperation to all people, believers and nonbelievers, especially the clergy and parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church who venerate the miraculous icons of the Most Pure.

The Mother of God Centre calls all Churches to fraternal dialogue and unity on the basis of deep repentance before the Calvary of the still crucified Lord Jesus Christ, where all souls come who thirst for the ultimate truth and are adopted by the Most Pure Virgin Mary. It is the gathering place of all true Christians, the beginning of the transformation of humanity.

Our principles are not ideological, they constitute the

essence of the Revelations of the Mother of God and the will of our souls which is: non-condemnation of others, repentance, comprehension of the will of God, comprehension of the crosses and sorrows of one's neighbour and sincere justification of all the living and the dead, of individuals, churches and all manner of organizations. That is the teaching of the One Whose all-encompassing heart has suffered much, the One Who mourns even the demons.

We are deeply concerned about the spiritual and moral state of the country and we believe that a correct solution to the problem regarding freedom of conscience will help to improve the spiritual climate in Russia which, in turn, will promote the solution of many other problems at different social levels. We are convinced that the external is determined by the internal, that is the reason why we address ourselves to the hearts of men. Comprehending Christianity as the road to universal penitence before the Crucifix of Christ, we put special emphasis on the education of the heart as the fulfilment of Christ's commandments, and on repentance as a way of life and thought. The aim of the education of the heart, as it is understood at the Mother of God Centre, is to return to human souls the image and likeness of God and to endow them with virtues like non-condemnation of others, meekness, charity, compassion, patience, sacrificial and humble love.

We see great danger in the current unhealthy interest in the cult of sex and violence, in the general interest in hypnosis, occultism, UFO, satanism, demonology and black magic which has acquired disastrous proportions, and in the distribution in huge editions of books with definite recipes for conjuring and fortune-telling.

We are striving to introduce into the public consciousness the awareness of the light of virtue, saintliness, purity; to strengthen souls with the gifts of the Holy Virgin and to transform them qualitywise towards righteousness, the striving for perfection and high

spirituality.

We see deep repentance as the key to the salvation of Russia, to man's understanding of himself, of God and the world (that is spoken of in the Word of the Mother of God).

We propose to all who wish to know the truth, to Christians above all, especially Orthodox Christians, to help us publish the Book of Revelations and, if they wish, to discuss it all together. BUT WE MUST READ IT BEFORE THAT. That will create conditions for clarification of the truth and all grounds for condemnation and calumny behind our backs will disappear.

We, who have been indifferent to all except ourselves and a few people close to us, have had our hearts softened through the will of the Holy Virgin so now they take in the pain of all suffering hearts and hear the groans of the fallen who "hope to hear the revelations of the sons of God"...

Dedicating themselves wholly to the Mother of God, the priests of the Centre are striving to live in keeping with the ultimate truth of the heart. They teach and they call for penitence and believe that through the tidings of the Word of the Mother of God are communicated special means for opening the eyes of the soul, the road to salvation and improvement.

The Mother of God Centre has a staff of several score people but there are thousands all over Russia who feel the nearness of the Mother of God. The Centre invites all those who venerate the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, regardless of their confessions, finds a common language and actively cooperates with all penitents and all who appeal for repentance.

To date we envisage the following forms of activity: first of all, the dissemination of the Revelations of the Word of the Mother of God and work to publish them; lectures and series of talks in higher educational establishments and cultural centres; lessons in piety in a number of schools and preaching of the Word of the Mother of God in hospitals and prisons.

We welcome one and all to cooperate with us, all honest people, those who love truth and who are not indifferent to the fate of our longsuffering Motherland.

Our goal and treasured hope is to bring down the miraculous grace of the Mother of God on our country, to awaken all sleeping souls to the covenant with the Holy Virgin and bring them the warmth of Her consolation.

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THE REVELATIONS OF THE HOLY VIRGIN HODIGITRIA
IN SMOLENSK

Go out and tell the whole world that the TIME HAS COME and IF ALL WILL NOT PRAY AND FAST, THEY WILL PERISH. The one who will be saved is already awakening, the one that will not awaken (now) will perish before birth, like an infant crushed in the womb.

You cannot fast because you have no Spirit. The one who eats much, brings sacrifice to the demons.

Your sins do not let you fast. When the Spirit enters, the offering of sacrifice stops and sorrow set in.

The saints did not eat for weeks. How can you eat before the crucifix?! The one who is not mentally with the Crucified Lord, is excommunicated. Feel the blame for consuming earthly nourishment and not being able to find nourishment in the Spirit.

Death has been taken away from you, hence your sorrows have been multiplied. You have to pay for the great gift. How can you fear death if you believe?

When there is no fast, there is no prayer. A prayerful state (spiritual meditation) is prepared by fasting.

(How is one to learn to fast?)

Most people cannot fast because they feel no repentance.

Your end will be tranquil, do not fear. But the one who will not give up sin will suffer greatly. The soul of the pious man will remain in pure slumber till the Second Coming.

Do not seek one another, seek Me, and you shall find. Strive for the big in the little, and not for the little in the big (as in the world). The one who seeks for much, does not receive even the little. The Lord is revealed in the little.

Your time has come. Pray and gain strength, and multiply your zeal, because you still have little strength for what awaits you.

EVERY MAN SHOULD BE BORN IN THE LORD, for that He must be born in your heart from Him. Holy and easy is such childbirth but it is prepared by sorrows and illness.

Your days are numbered. You will soon receive My Son and here is My Protecting Veil to ease your suffering.

(How is one to pray?)

The spirit teaches one to pray. Keep your heart united with the icons and holy relics and do not let strangers into the shrine either in the day or the night. The spirit resides even in an abandoned shrine: the altar gates open, the slabs of floor arise and the service begins, with the angels and the saints...

Enter the shrine of your heart, close the door, kneel down, close your eyes and pray.

Prayer is difficult on account of sin. Here is the chalice and the Blood of Christ. So much of His Pure Blood has been spilled to teach us to pray to Him and in so doing place oneself in a state of virtue to be worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven!

The spirit leads the pure heart. The one who lives in sin is deprived of the guidance of the Spirit and walks in the dark, led by demons.

(What is one to do when prayer evades one and there is no strength?)

Assert in your heart the stern countenance of the Archangel and strike down the enemy with his help.

Faith means entrusting oneself to the holy Will of God.

Be truly humble. A quiet heartfelt prayer is dearer to Me than the ringing of bells.

Wander about the world and keep the Lord in your mind - that is the way a Christian should live. Many hearts have grown benumbed on account of living long in cosy homes.

Wandering, remember the next world, the real world...

Seek and feel God in every breath you take. Otherwise how am I to pray and beseech merciful God and my Beloved Son for your salvation?

Those who place hope in Me and love Me, I will pay back plentifully and that will be only the smallest part of My grace. You can be saved only through My Intercession. There is no need to fear the enemy under My protection.

Russia is a devastated country, temporarily abandoned to the enemy. But despair not if you have faith.

(About the Church in Russia.)

The Church grieves and I grieve with it. The Church is crucified and I stand at its feet as I did then at the foot of my Crucified Son. The Church sheds tears and so do I. My ADVICE TO YOU is: remain in the holy House of God where to the end of time will shine the light everlasting.

My blessing and grace is with the Orthodox Church. Orthodoxy is My beloved home; the cemetery chapel which I frequent to pray for the healing of the living and the assuagement of the dead.

(A Parable.)

There were a hundred righteous men in the church. Now they come out of the church but the prayer does not stop - they pray outside the church walls (not on earth)...

Great is the assemblage of the Russian Church in the Heavens. RUSSIA IS SAVED FOR THE CENTURIES.

Many times have I saved Russia. You do not know a fraction of the number... Even now you will be saved through My intercession.

(Is it necessary to extend holiday greetings to brother Christians daily (as the Orthodox do), when the Church is in such a troubled state?)

My sorrow and My uninterrupted joy. The same to you: grieve some days, and rejoice on bright feastdays. REJOICE AND GRIEVE IN SPIRIT and not in word.

Your family will be saved through you, and you will be saved through them. He who has not the strength to wander, he will suffer from his family. Bring them together through humility and strength of spirit.

If you only knew how joyful is suffering in the name of the Lord!

I BLESS THE RISING CHURCH. Everything will pass and turn to dust - as for you, you will receive eternal crowns for your short suffering.

The priesthood has fallen and there is no salvation for it. I shall raise you higher and you shall rest under My Protection in the Eternal Bosom.

The one who is holy is priest. Liturgy performed with a heart of awe and purity is prized highest of all in the Heavens.

There is no old or new Orthodoxy. There is one true Orthodoxy for all eternity. Venerate the Image of God in the churches, in others and in yourselves, and may the Lord join your hearts in love with His Blood.

(Is there any spiritual meaning in monasteries today?)

MONASTERIES ARE MY SECRET WOUNDS. Those who come in touch with them will have a special destiny and My special blessing.

(Should one live among people or seek seclusion?)

Seek the Kingdom of God and it will open to you in the secular world, in the desert, regardless of place.

Seraphim Sarovsky was the greatest orison-maker in the land of Russia. He was a holy visionary equal to St. John, the beloved pupil of God.

(Mother of God, what should we hope for?)

For the blind to see because once they see the Light of God's Glory, they shall be blinded forever.

(What is the fate of the unbaptized dead?)

The unbaptized are already now being baptized by the blood of the innocent martyrs of the faith. That is one of the mysteries of redemption.

(What are the most grievous sins?)

Falsehood, treachery, fornication and the desecration of holy relics.

(About the Pharisees.)

I cannot bear to hear their name. Their shame will never be washed away. They have defiled the Church and desecrated the wounds of the Lord. The blood of many righteous men pleasing to My eyes is on their heads.

(What is to be done about Pharisaical priests?)

A sinful heart is cleansed by fasting, penitence, prayer and suffering. Let them accept the crosses that they have rejected. Their crosses will mark them out at the Hour of Judgement and they shall be doomed to torments eternal.

(How is one to escape Pharisaism?)

By dedication of the spirit. If there is no dedication of the spirit that means you are traversing the wrong road. Falsehood in the heart hampers spiritual progress.

FALSEHOOD IS THE MOST GRIEVOUS SIN. Penitence - the greatest of virtues.

(Will there be war?)

The man who is no warrior fears war. Many dark forces will have to be repulsed before peace reigns - in the soul and in the Heavens. To the one who conducts increasing struggle will be revealed the mysteries of heavenly wars.

For the soldier of Christ the world is a battlefield, no more.

You may evade war, but something else awaits you. You will fall asleep and not wake up - the earth will change in an instant.

The sermon is not preached in words, but in deeds. The Lord speaks in humility, hence you will preach His Word with humility.

(How is one to profess humility now?)

By not murmuring in one's sorrow and gaining strength in struggle. One must love one's enemies, for salvation comes through them.

I shall strengthen you and you will be saved by your

zeal. I shall multiply your faith in the Lord God and in My Protection, so you should not murmur and not grieve, but be vigorous in spirit.

Reject pride and you will be invulnerable to evil.

Exaltation of self is the same as hatred of fellow men. When you believe that you are better than the lowest (in your opinion) of men, you turn away from God. The Lord spurns the proud as haters of their fellow men.

The meaning of the earthly road lies in repentance and humility. You are placed in difficult circumstances so you should better realize your sins.

The Lord is present in two shrines: in the shrine of the heart and in church. If the heart does not partake of the sacraments, the church sacraments are fruitless.

I shall always be living in the icons...

Children are now answerable for their sins from the age of one year.

About the Church.)

You 1/ are the Church of the future. Then will come in the flesh many of My saints... But do not ask about it because that is still a secret...

1/ The truly devout Orthodox.

THE WORD OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERNAL ARK

Hark you, universal calamities are in the offing. And they will take their start in Russia. Everyone who wants to be saved should built an Ark within his soul. I, THE MOTHER OF GOD AM THE ARK OF SALVATION, THE LIVING MOTHER OF GOD IS THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN.

So build internally, not externally. It is the mission of the Church to assist in the building of an eternal home which will be a shelter in the hour of universal trial, temptation and calamity.

How is one to build the Ark? It will take in all those who have adopted the holy faith and together with it a pious way of life without vice. Come to My children and they will teach you how to save yourselves from the coming calamities, epidemics, hurricanes and winds and the agonizing torment of the body and soul, the universal forging of bodies and their forcible transformation, to which the avenging Sword of God will subject the world for its deviation from the rightful road.

The hour of retribution is nigh and only those who have built an Ark shall be saved. There is still enough time, but weep of your sins, confess and receive communion, and make sacrifices. Build in your heart, OPEN IT TO ME AND MY SON. Build in your souls a Laura of the Mother of God with paradisean plants. Build a shrine of the Holy Virgin in your innermost souls. There will then grow a Free of Life that will wholly embrace the renewed man - I call that the building of the Ark.

So little time remains till the oncoming calamities that I fear to name the day so that universal panic should not sweep everything living off the face of the earth before the

time comes. Russia has very little time left. Poor souls! Look around you, come to your senses while I am still with you, do not lose a second, DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO MY SERVICE, THE SERVICE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD!

No one should partake of meat under pain of death. Prepare for trials. Do not grow attached to anything. Long and agonizing separations, as though forever, are in store for many of you.

Now is not the time for books. Mend the road to Christ, mend your hearts - that is where you should cast your glance today.

I have a special message for the women of Russia. They should be profoundly humble and repentant. Much depends on them. Let them accept faith in the Mother of God and be humble before My Mournful Heart. Let them come to me and implore relief from suffering in the hour of calamity. Repeat "THE MOTHER OF GOD IS NOW IN RUSSIA!"

I HAVE EMBRACED THE WHOLE COUNTRY WITH MY HEART, THE AIR IS PERMEATED WITH MY BREATH. SUBMIT TO ME, REFORM AND BUILD THE ARK!

Is it necessary to spread good tidings? - With the heart and with suffering. The times of the great effusion of the Holy Spirit is drawing near, the time when the LIVING GOD WILL REVEAL HIMSELF TO ADAM.

My words are engraved in the hearts of men. Sing the glory of the Mother of God!

The great Angel has been sent to protect and assist you. Repent to your dying day entrusting yourself to My guidance. Those who obey my bidding will be saved, and so will the righteous around them.

Despite any and all circumstances, I say to you, build the holy Ark of Salvation in your hearts and My angels will assist you.

The hour will come when, brought to their senses by calamities and losses, thousands will go down on their knees and repeat words of repentant prayer after the Angel of the church who will accept their confession. Believe Me, this hour is near. Those who will have built the Ark, the eternal abode of truth, will safely evade it.

Sing the glory of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, sing My glory throughout the world! Sing My glory, everywhere, in all hearts! Spread the LIGHT OF THE REVELATIONS OF THE MOST PURE VIRGIN far and wide to pacify and comfort all souls.

O poor, unfortunate, doomed race! Come to your senses and repent before the great trials that are coming. Then there will not be a single sacrifice! The veil will fall from your eyes and you will see your sins on the eve of the great trial that comes, and you will accept with gratitude the punishment for the insubordination of your souls to your Father.

I have brought you consolation. Accept that treasure! May the pearls from My crown shine in the hearts of the faithful!

Those who see another future for Russia, and not a future filled with calamity, are deceiving themselves and leading others into temptation. Come to your senses and look with sober eyes at what is happening to you and about you. The Holy Spirit, if you turn to It, will help you see the light, It will lift the veil from the eyes of your soul and your wounded soul will mourn for the Divine Heavenly Groom.

O My poor orphans. Life is full of trial. But if you only knew what the Most Pure Virgin had to go through! No one but the Lord and I can have compassion for all suffering souls. Come to Me, my orphans, Come to Me, take shelter under MY fragrant wings, board my Boat!