

06/06

May 2006 (2) / Articles

17.05.2006

 Версия для печати**About faithfulness to "surozh tradition" - by word of mouth and in deed**

Canonical aspects of the events in Surozh eparchy of Russian Orthodox Church will be considered by special committee formed in accordance with respective order from the Patriarch. The committee has already started the procedure. We would like to note some, so to say, "informal" slants of the event.

Much had been said about faithfulness to "surozh tradition", "principles of metropolitan Antony". It is a good thing – adhering to a tradition. But what kind of tradition are initiators of the distemper are talking about? Vladika (member of higher orders of clergy) Antony had never wished to break with Moscow Patriarchy. His idea of "missionary eparchy" of Russian Church in England was based on the necessity to witness the Truth (kept by Russian Orthodoxy) in a country that diverged from the Truth. Be evidence of Christ in the place where the "last battle" for Narnia had already been lost. Under "openness to the West" the hollower understood not openness to the spirit of decay, which seems to embrace finally all western Christianity, but readiness to open faith sanctuary to all of those who are still able to conceive sanctuary speech.

Metropolitan Antony did not long to gradually accommodate Church to liberal spirit of the century when the main problem of church life of modern "Church of England" serves as questions and debates on why a lesbian can not become a bishop (the question is not in allowance itself but in the matter "why is not allowed?"). Vladika Antony was abide by Russian Church and its tradition. Among these traditions – understanding of bishop's service – exactly like service which we see in words of Apostle: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock" (1Pet. 5, 2). Do the deeds of bishop Vasilij (Ozbourne) comply with this tradition? That's the main thing.

Some statements, already spreaded by mass media, unfortunately, are evidence of totally other matters.

First bishop Vasilij writes to Holy Patriarch Alexy with thanksgiving for blessing the project of erection of a temple specially for Russian parish in Surozh eparchy in London. And in two-three weeks publishes "open letter" claiming that "the conflict like here can be witnessed at any place where many of lately arrived Russians are". And this frankly russophobic statement was made by the bishop of Russian Orthodox Church! He says, you having come in large numbers, can't stand you...

And right after these words the bishop makes insulting to Mother-Church – he says, not only people flooded, but also "Patriarch Church has legal proceedings with other jurisdictions both in France and in other places". Vladika Vasilij "wisely" avoided in specifying what particularly kind of jurisdiction those were. That was the jurisdiction, whose hierarch a week ago received flattering message from Vladika Vasilij (Ozbourne): "You, as Ecumenical Patriarch, have particular care of welfare for all Orthodox Church". Really – "particular care, can't be said better... By the way this gives grounds for applying of ancient principle "search whom it is profitable...". No matter what the result will be the whole story with "lifting" of eparchy of Russian Church was planned specially for Constantinople to express this kind of particular care.

And the last which is worth mentioning is the chosen moment. Bishop Vasilij (Ozbourne) announced his willing to convert to Constantinople Patriarchy rightly on the eve of The All-foreign Russian Orthodox Church Abroad synod. Of course, it is not a coincidence. Quite unfriendly interests of overseas state-department sponsors of Constantinople Patriarchy to the affairs of Russian Church are well-known. And in particular these interests lie in the sphere of aligning of broken in the 20th century pieces of Church. And now, seemingly, they decided to make demonstrative distemper in Russian eparchy abroad – and suppose they would somehow damage the process of uniting.

All together this exposes extremely churchless, conditioned both by personal and political ambitions, manner of the distemper producers in activity of Surozh eparchy of Russian Orthodox Church.

commentary by Radio "Radonezh"