



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

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May 15, 2006

Teleturgical Encyclical 16  
The Priests and Deacons  
the Holy Metropolis of Denver  
Beloved in the Lord,

## CHRIST IS RISEN!

From time to time in our pastoral ministry, individuals who had been Baptized and Chrismated approach us after having not only strayed from the Orthodox faith but who have also joined themselves either to a heterodox Christian denomination or to a non-Christian religion. Such apostasy is, of course, a very grave sin that cuts a person off from the life of the Church.

An Orthodox Christian repenting of his apostasy is received back into the Orthodox Church through the Mysteries of both Holy Repentance (Confession) and Holy Chrismation. It should be understood that the Mystery of Chrismation in this sense can and must be conducted again. Obviously, this Mystery is not repeated in the same sense that others are but in a limited way. It is understood that a returning Orthodox Christian does not leave and return to the Body of the Church repeatedly.

The service to be used for a second Chrismation is the same as the one I specified for you to use in my Teleturgical Encyclical 14, dated October 20, 2004. Prior to making the profession of faith in that service, however, the repentant apostate should profess the appropriate renunciations as contained in the procedures established by the Archdiocese.

When a person is Chrismated for a second time, he must have a sponsor (perhaps his original sponsor), and shall be issued a Chrismation certificate. A notation is to be made in the Parish Register of Baptisms regarding the matter.

A person is considered to have committed the sin of apostasy if he frequently attends, regularly participates in, and/or professes submitting to the authority and/or doctrines of another faith, such as those of the heterodox Christian denominations (Roman Catholicism, Anglicanism, Presbyterianism, Evangelicalism, Pentecostalism, etc.) or of the non-Christian religions (Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Unitarianism, eastern metaphysical religions, etc.).

At the same time an Orthodox Christian who baptizes his children in a heterodox Christian church, or who receives a sacrament in a heterodox church on a one-time basis, or who acts as sponsor or "godparent" in a non-Orthodox Baptismal ceremony, is not necessarily considered to have committed the sin of apostasy. He should, however, not approach the Mystery of Holy Communion until he has confessed this serious sin in the Mystery of Repentance.

With Paternal Blessings,

✠ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver