



Teleturgical Encyclical 19

The Priests, Deacons, and Monastics of
the Holy Metropolis of Denver

Beloved in the Lord,

During our recent Clergy-Laity Assembly held in Oklahoma City on May 4 and 5, 2007 we were honored by the presence of the Reverend Bill Bartz who is a chaplain in the United States Navy with the rank of captain.

Because the military chaplains have no "diocese" and because I am assigned as their "military ordinary" or overseeing hierarch, they have attended and participated in our Clergy-Laity Assemblies. This is the principal avenue through which they can submit matters that they feel are of concern to the national church. If approved at our plenary sessions, their motions can be forwarded for consideration at the biennial Clergy-Laity Congresses.

As you are aware, Father Bartz submitted a motion that, in part, stated, "*We humbly recommend the perpetuation of the petition in the Great Litany of the Divine Services which references the President as well as the civil authorities and the Armed Forces.*"

I fully support this motion, not simply out of patriotism but because it is in keeping with our sacred tradition and ancient liturgical practice. It is, moreover, a Scriptural injunction, as Saint Paul spoke to Timothy: "*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Including the petition referred to in the Great Litany, there are three specific places during the Divine Liturgy in which we pray for our civil authorities. I ask that you take note of the following, and annotate your service books accordingly.

1. At the Great Litany (Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy, and other Sacraments and services):

Υπὲρ τοῦ Προέδρου τῆς χώρας ἡμῶν, πάσης ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐξουσίας ἐν αὐτῇ, καὶ τοῦ κατὰ ξηράν, θάλασσαν καὶ ἀέρα ἡμῶν Στρατοῦ, τοῦ Κυρίου δεηθῶμεν.

For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

2. During the singing of the Megalynarion following the Epiklesis:

Τοῦ ἁγίου Ἰωάννου, προφήτου, Προδρόμου καὶ βαπτιστοῦ· τῶν ἁγίων, ἐνδόξων καὶ πανευφήμων Ἀποστόλων· τοῦ ἁγίου (τῆς ἡμέρας), οὗ καὶ τὴν μνήμην ἐπιτελοῦμεν, καὶ πάντων σου τῶν Ἁγίων, ὧν ταῖς ἰκεσίαις ἐπίσκεψαι ἡμᾶς, ὁ Θεός.

For Saint John, the prophet, forerunner, and baptist; for the holy, glorious, and all-honorable Apostles; for (*Saints of the day*), whose memories we commemorate; and for all Your saints through whose supplications, O God, visit us.

Καὶ μνήσθητι πάντων τῶν κεκοιμημένων ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ἀναστάσεως, ζωῆς αἰωνίου (καὶ μνημονεῦει ἐνταῦθα, ὁ ἱερούργων, ὀνομαστῶν ἂν βούλεται τεθνεώτων) καὶ ἀνάπαυσον αὐτοὺς, ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, ὅπου ἐπισκοπεῖ τὸ φῶς τοῦ προσώπου σου.

Remember also all who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection to eternal life, (*he remembers those whom he wishes among those fallen asleep*); and grant them rest, our God, where the light of Your countenance watches over them.

Ἔτι παρακαλοῦμέν σε· μνήσθητι, Κύριε, πάσης ἐπισκοπῆς Ὁρθοδόξων, τῶν ὀρθοτομούντων τὸν λόγον τῆς σῆς ἀληθείας, παντὸς τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου, τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ διακονίας, καὶ παντὸς ἱερατικοῦ καὶ μοναχικοῦ τάγματος.

Ἔτι προσφερόμέν σοι τὴν λογικὴν ταύτην λατρείαν ὑπὲρ τῆς οἰκουμένης· ὑπὲρ τῆς ἀγίας, καθολικῆς, καὶ ἀποστολικῆς Ἐκκλησίας· ὑπὲρ τῶν ἐν ἀγνείᾳ καὶ σεμνῇ πολιτεῖᾳ διαγόντων· ὑπὲρ τῶν ἀρχόντων ἡμῶν, καὶ τοῦ στρατοπέδου. Δὸς αὐτοῖς Κύριε, εἰρηνικὴν τὴν διακυβέρνησιν, ἵνα καὶ ἡμεῖς, ἐν τῇ γαλήνῃ αὐτῶν, ἡρεμον καὶ ἡσύχιον βίον διαγάωμεν, ἐν πάσῃ εὐσεβείᾳ καὶ σεμνότητι.

3. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, during the Prayer

Ὁ εὐλογῶν τοὺς εὐλογοῦντάς σε Κύριε, καὶ ἀγιάζων τοὺς ἐπὶ σοὶ πεποιθότας, σώσον τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου. Τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Σου φύλαξον· ἀγιάσον τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας τὴν εὐπρέπειαν τοῦ οἴκου σου· Σὺ αὐτοὺς ἀντιδόξασον τῇ θεϊκῇ σου δυνάμει, καὶ μὴ ἐγκαταλίπῃς ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἐλπίζοντας ἐπὶ σέ. Εἰρήνην τῷ κόσμῳ σου δώρησαι, ταῖς Ἐκκλησίαις σου, τοῖς ἱερέυσιν, τοῖς ἀρχουσι ἡμῶν, τῷ στρατῷ καὶ παντὶ τῷ λαῷ Σου.

Ὅτι πᾶσα δόσις ἀγαθὴ καὶ πᾶν δῶρημα τέλειον ἄνωθεν ἐστὶ καταβαίνον ἐκ σοῦ τοῦ Πατρὸς τῶν φώτων· καὶ σοὶ τὴν δόξαν καὶ εὐχαριστίαν καὶ προσκύνησιν ἀναπέμπομεν, τῷ ✠ Πατρὶ καὶ τῷ Υἱῷ καὶ τῷ Ἁγίῳ Πνεύματι, νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ, καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων.

Again we ask You: remember, Lord, every Orthodox episcopate, those who rightly teach the word of Your truth, all the presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and every priestly and monastic order.

Again we offer to You this rational worship for the world; for the holy, catholic, and apostolic Church; for those who live in purity and lead a reverent life; and for our civil authorities, and the armed forces. Grant to them, Lord, peaceful rule that in their tranquillity we may lead a peaceful and serene life in all holiness and piety.

You Who bless those who bless You, Lord, and Who sanctify those who put their trust in You, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Preserve the fullness of Your Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; glorify them in return by Your divine power, and do not forsake us who hope in You. Grant peace to Your world, to Your churches, to Your clergy, to our civil authorities, to the armed forces, and to all Your people.

For every good giving and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from You the Father of Lights; and to You we send up glory, and thanksgiving, and worship: to the ✠ Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Please do not omit these commemorations. Now, more than ever, we must beseech our merciful Lord to guide our public authorities, to protect our armed forces, and to allow us to live and worship in peace.

May our merciful Lord, Who called each of you to serve at His Holy Altar as a Presbyter, grant to you strength and wisdom to faithfully and properly discharge the fearsome duties of the priestly office.

With Paternal Blessings,



✠ Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver