

Request for Return:

From: Joseph Sunderland
To: Bishop Stefan Sabelnik
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2017 10:34 PM
Subject: Antimins

The Right Reverend Bishop Stefan
789 Shady Lane
Trenton, NJ 08619-2756

24 September/7 October 2017
Equal to the Apostles Thecla

Your Grace,

Pursuant to the enclosed Ukaz from Archbishop Tikhon of Omsk and Siberia, dated 12/25 July 2017, ordering me to retrieve all of the Antimins and Holy Myron issued to you in 2008, with this letter I request that you return to me the Antimins and Holy Myron you received from Archbishop Tikhon. I have already retrieved those given to Fr. Oleg Gritsenko. I will also make separate arrangements to retrieve those given to the St. John parish in San Francisco.

Please let me know a convenient time and place where I may collect them from you. You may also call me at 503-860-8349 to arrange by phone to complete the transfer.

Mitred Archpriest Joseph Sunderland
Dean of North America
Russian True Orthodox Church

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Bishop Stefan's reply is an attached PDF.

Archpriest Joseph Sunderland
PO Box 1011
Oregon City, OR 97045-0063

October 7/20, 2017

Dear Father Joseph,

Concerning your request that I return the antimins and the Holy Myrrh given to me by Archbishop Tikhon, I do not recognize Archbishop Tikhon as a legitimate Chairman of the Synod of the RTOC. Ever since he signed the false UKAZ of November 2, 2016, he can no longer be considered an honest and honorable hierarch, but a liar and a thief, along with the other bishops & Mr. V. Melehov, their secretary who signed the shameful UKAZ. Using a fabricated accusation that I took the Omsk priests under my omophor, they attempted to take possession of all the Parishes of my diocese, along with their finances, and strip me of my right to serve. Knowing that I never - to this very day, took any priest or parish located in Russia or the Ukraine under my omophor, they thwarted my attempt at a hearing - as required by Church Law. Not only is their ukaz null & void, but their legitimacy as truthful hierarchs is now void. Sadly, since you joined them, you also became a part of their practice of lying & kleвета within their leadership. How ironic... Truth & honesty are questionable in the *one and only* Russian **True** Orthodox Church - in fact you are all now Sergianists who lied for decades to the world that there was no religious persecution in Russia while MILLIONS died. In the 'Holy' documents signed by your hierarchs, truth has been and most likely **continues** to be replaced by lies. "*Once a liar, always a liar*" I cannot understand why this does not bother nice people such as yourself. Is there such a thing as building up an immunity towards lies?? I suppose I will never know, because such a person will never fess up to it.

On June 29, 2016, at my last conference with him, Archbishop Tikhon attempted to take away all the antiminses of the Omsk priests - to which I proved to him that he has no right to take them away. They are NOT his property. Once given, they are the property of the consecrated church. He did not want to suspend the priests- to which he had the right, but to punish the faithful by attempting to close down all the churches that he never established - forcing the faithful to scatter. (a sad reminder of the Soviet's method.) The only thing his signature on the antiminse attests to is when, where, and who blessed the antimins. An antiminse is not given out 'on loan' - and a bishop cannot arbitrarily take it back; not even from a priest. The only time an antiminse is removed, is if the church permanently closes down. At all other times, say it is torn, the antiminse is **replaced**.

The UKAZ states that an Antimins is the property of a ruling bishop. For the record, Archbishop Tikhon did not give me the antiminses & Holy Myrrh while I was a priest (nice try Archbishop...) You, yourself write that I was issued the antiminses and Holy Myrrh in 2008. Well, for your information, I was ordained a bishop {a RULING bishop} December 18, 2007!) He should likewise remember that he did not give them to me. He left everything at Father Anatoly's Church in Virginia when he went back to Omsk - or wherever... After my ordination, I made 'my rounds' as bishop, which included the Assumption church in Stafford, Virginia, and I was then handed all the antiminses & Holy Myrrh. There is a great saying: ***If you plan to lie, you'd better have a good memory.***

Archbishop Tikhon & his Synod states at the very end of their Ukaz that if I don't comply, I will face God's judgement. I would like to remind them that so will they.

Wishing you the best - in spite of everything.
Have a nice day.



+Bishop Stefan
of Trenton & North America

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From: Joseph Sunderland
To: Bishop Stefan Sabelnik
Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2017 10:33 PM
Subject: An Appeal

Oct 22/Nov 4, 2017

Your Grace,

Your reply to my request that you return the Antimins and Holy Chrism of the Russian True Orthodox Church grieved me as I once had great respect for your sober-minded, principled stand for the Truth. You may recall my encouragement and support of your leaving the ROCOR and my joy at being received under your omophor in 2008. You may also recall I did everything I could to support you as Dean of Western America.

Unfortunately, now I see only a petty, bitter and spiteful man who has turned his back of his confession of Faith and who now is in real danger for his soul. Specifically, you are guilty of 5 grievous sins against God and His Church:

1. Guilty of the very abuses you accuse Abp Tikhon and the Holy Synod of committing by receiving the Omsk clergy without a release.
2. Guilty of breaking the third oath you took at your episcopal ordination to remain in obedience to the Holy Synod that ordained you.
3. Guilty of schism in that you broke unity over matters of administration with the Holy Synod of which you were a member. Even worse, you led the clergy and faithful into this schism and fanned the flames of hatred against your former brethren.
4. Guilty of becoming a vagante refusing to accept any canonical authority over yourself, joining in communion with another vagante "bishop" but without accepting any Higher Church Authority over either of you, and participating in the ordination of third vagante "bishop".
5. Guilty of theft of the Holy Things of God in your refusal to return the Antimins and Chrism that do not belong to you.

I urge you to let go of your bitterness, seek reconciliation with the Holy Synod of the Russian True Orthodox Church and repent of these sins before you must face the Judgment of God.

With Love in Christ,
Archpriest Joseph