

## **B.Savvati's Resignation-Retirement:**

To the Synod of Bishops of the Russian True Orthodox Church from Bishops Savvaty, Vinnitsa and Khmelnytsky.

Petition

Most Eminence Masters!

The state of my health is such that I am forced to ask you for my resignation from my position as Bishop of Vinnitsa and Khmelnytsky and to grant me permission to retire.

Several years ago I received a severe spinal injury, I was scheduled for surgery and was offered to apply for disability, due to the lack of opportunity to go the operation, I suffered from an illness on my legs, did not go to the hospital for treatment, as a result of which I lost sensation in one leg and acquired constant acute pain in the spine. It has become physically impossible to fulfill my duties of constant service in the church and trips to visit parishioners in need, since my diseased spine does not allow me to stand or sit for a long time, all this causes serious pain. After consulting with a professor in medical circles about my illness, it turns out that this problem will remain with me forever, I am prohibited from exerting myself due to prolonged standing on my feet, and I need constant care and attention to this problem.

In this regard, I ask that you relieve me of my duties of governing the Diocese and that I spend the rest of my time serving the Church in solitude and prayer. Since my illness has been going on for many years, I will not change my decision and I am well aware of the necessity of this step, having thought it over and realized the need for retirement due to serious health complications.

06/29/07/12/2024

Holy Chief Apostles Peter and Paul

**RTOC Synod answer:**

11/ December 24, 2024  
Venerable Daniel the Stylite  
To His Grace Savvaty  
Bishop of Vinnitsa and Khmel'nitsky

Christ is in our midst!

The Synod of Bishops has received your letter with a request to retire you for health reasons. Of course, we are concerned about your health and disappointed with your decision. We regret to see that your request to retire is formulated as a demand, not a request. You must understand that demanding such conditions from your fellow bishops of the Synod of Bishops is something unusual. Since we are your fellow bishops, your joys and sorrows are our joys and sorrows, as it should be for each of us.

We inform you that the Synod of Bishops has decided to grant your request to retire.

However, you must first provide the information requested below and then confirm that you accept the conditions that a retired bishop must meet.

Please provide the Synod of Bishops with the following information about your diocese:

1. The number (rank and appointments) of clergy you have (or had) and the dates of their ordination during your tenure as ruling bishop of your diocese;
2. Then the number of clergy (their rank and appointments) who left you during your tenure as ruling bishop of your diocese and the reasons for their departure;
3. The number of parishes and monasteries you have or had, their locations, the number of members, the names of parish/monastery officials (archimandrite, abbot, rector, warden, secretary, treasurer, etc.) and contact information. If specific parishes/monasteries have left or have been closed, please indicate the reasons for such events;
4. Financial report on income and expenses related to the construction of your skete and development of the adjacent territory;
5. Financial report on income and expenses for the last 5 years related to your church in Vinnitsa in honor of the Icon of the Mother of God of All Who Sorrow Joy with.

As for your retirement, we need to inform you of the conditions that you must agree to. These conditions must be responsibly considered by you in order to make an informed decision.

In satisfying your request, we inform you of the following conditions:

1. You can no longer be a voting member of the RTOC Synod of Bishops;
2. The Synod must assign you to the Vinnitsa parish with the possibility of serving as a hieromonk;

3. The Synod must appoint a ruling bishop for your former diocese, to whom you must be subordinate in regard to your ministry, both liturgical and spiritual, and in all other activities in the diocese and RTOC;
4. If you find that your health has improved, you may submit a petition for reinstatement as ruling bishop. Of course, this decision will be made by the Synod of Bishops. It may be rejected or approved.

The Synod of Bishops wishes you to seriously consider the above conditions. If you find that you wish to withdraw your request for retirement, please inform the Synod of Bishops in writing within 5 days. Otherwise, your retirement will take effect after this period. In any case, the Synod of Bishops still expects you to provide the 5 points of information requested above.

Of course, we must all pray for conciliarity and love in our Synod of Bishops in these difficult times. Some days seem darker than others, but we must heed the instruction of our Savior - "Thy will be done."

With love in Christ,

+ Archbishop Tikhon  
Omsk and Siberia,

+ Archbishop Veniamin  
Black Sea and Kuban,

+ Bishop Germogen of Gomel and Bryansk

+ Bishop Philaret of Pallini  
and Western Europe

Protopresbyter Victor Melehov  
Secretary of the Synod of Bishops

## **B Savvati's Response to Synod's Retirement Decision:**

To the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church

APPEAL

Your Eminence For almost 3 years now, the full-scale, bloody war of the Russian Federation in Ukraine has been going on, which has resulted in more than a million innocent victims. The initiator and conductor of this madness is the satanic power, which occupied more than 100 years ago the once desecrated by God's permission of Holy Rus'. This power and all those communicating with it were anathematized by the legitimate church authority at the very beginning of this feast of Satan, which has not ceased to this day and in recent years has played out on an incredible scale. Although the majority, including the church, almost do not notice and do not detect this due to the gradual habituation of the people to evil and zombification by the media. This satanic power did not hide its godless essence before, and now, in essence, remaining the same, having transformed into an "angel of light", crosses itself in a cell, is present in ancient temples during services, shows candles, and loudly announces that denazification and demilitarization are taking place in a neighboring country. At the same time, cities are being wiped off the face of the earth, thousands of innocent people are dying: old people, women, children. The Holy Church has always been unjustly oppressed, has always been against evil, has defended its children. The Soviet false church, as we know, in favor of the godless, renounced the New Martyrs and Confessors and called their work politics. The True Church, especially in its lyceums of saints such as the Holy Martyr Philip of Moscow, St. Patriarch Tikhon, St. John of Shanghai and many others, has always grieved for its suffering, offended children. The Synod of the Russian True Orthodox Church, unfortunately, takes other measures: not a critical threat, did not support either the word or the deed protecting the flock in Ukraine, and forbade any assistance, does not forbid its children to participate directly or in the regime of military actions in the government, says that Ukrainian incomes are declining in the "problem territory", does not want to excuse themselves from the words that "at present, the goals of Russian Orthodox people and the Putin regime have developed." How can the goals of the Holy Church, the immaculate Bride of Christ, coincide with the representatives of the God-fighters and Satanists? Never, not in one moment, can they touch or intersect. This is the same as saying that the goals of Judas, the Sanhedrin, Herod, the devil coincided with the Goal of the Messiah, who came to destroy the works of the devil. The Holy Church is a lamp that should not be under a bushel or bed, illuminating "with the rays of the Gospel truth all the events that occur in life, including political ones, without interfering in "them directly" (Saint Philaret of New York). Our Synod did not do this, and even forbade its flock any political disputes under the pretext of maintaining some illusory peace in the parishes. For three years, the Synod wrote, asked questions to many clergy and laity of our church, but all this was ignored. Although in 2004, the Synod of the RTOC in its District Letter gave a very truthful assessment of the authorities and the state of the Russian Federation, calling it "anti-Christian". Now, in the same regime, its virus has worsened many times, but the Synod is silent and forbids raising these issues, including with me. And those who touch on this topic are called Russophobes. This is a very memorable, negative symptom, which the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia at the beginning of the last century defined as Sergianism. Fortunately, they remained with our rich spiritual heritage, their hard-won spiritual experience and holy example.

Although the Synod declares its non-involvement in sergiantism, in fact it is in many ways similar to the MP:

1. No denunciation of the vicious deeds occurring in the world in the evil of the Congress, complete loyalty to the policies of the authorities, including war.
2. Violation of the 34 Rules of the Holy Apostles. Vertical authority, lack of conciliarity, ignoring criticism from believers, lack of any reaction to election letters with reason to explain the actions of the synod. This is exactly how they live in the MP, this is the way of life of Kirill Gundyayev gives the command from above and does not accept criticism. Conciliarity implies unity and attention to the consideration of criticism and opinions of the entire Church.
3. The synod does not have an adequate eschatological awareness that we have already entered the era of the apocalypse. Lulling the vigilance of believers regarding the events taking place in the world: globalization, digitalization, the transfer of almost all spheres of life under the control of artificial intelligence, total digital control, coercion to participate in destructive operations imposed by the authorities. Complete oblivion of who controls the modern world.
4. Modern Russia is following the path of aggression, Nazism and fascism, repeating the path of previous dictators-conquerors. The pro-war and pro-imperial policy of the MP and the government of the Russian Federation fundamentally contradicts the Gospel teaching, Christian worldview and Orthodox theology and is an outright apology for anti-Gospel ideas: violence, xenophobia and genocide. In the spring of 2024, the 25th World Russian Council was held in Moscow under the chairmanship of Kirill Gundyayev with the participation of the president, most members of the MP synod and representatives of all branches of government and social groups of Russian society, a total of about 500 participants. A number of documents were adopted, including those concerning the war in Ukraine. In particular, the document "The Present and Future of the Russian World" states the following: "Upon completion of the SVO, the entire territory of modern Ukraine should enter the zone of exclusive influence of Russia. The possibility of the existence of an independent Ukrainian state on this territory should be completely excluded." Therefore, what our synod considers positive ideas for Russia is an approval of crimes. The special military operation against Ukraine was called by Patriarch Kirill a "holy war" to protect Holy Rus' and fulfill the mission of the restrainer, who protects the world from the onslaught of globalism and the West that has fallen into Satanism." In particular, the statement of the MP about the spiritual and civilizational exclusivity of Russians and the "Russian world" falls under the anathema of the heresy of ethnophyletism proclaimed at the local Council of Constantinople in 1872. Russia has long ceased to be an Orthodox country that brings an example of virtue and Christianity to the world. Under specious slogans, Russia brings outright Satanism to the world, accusing the West and its long-suffering neighbors of its own actions.
5. Various heresies and delusions are circulating in the parishes and among the church people of the RTOC: chiliasm, the veneration of Rasputin and Ivan the Terrible, the name-worshipping heresy, maintaining the cult of war ("sacred war"), the expectation of the flourishing of Russia and the Orthodox Tsar, neo-fascism and nationalism.

I, not wanting to participate in these lawlessness and this theater of the absurd, feeling my spiritual loneliness, filed a petition six months ago to be retired, but seeing that nothing is changing in the synod and realizing that even being retired I will be in

prayerful and Eucharistic communion with the synod and therefore an accomplice to its sins, I break this communion and remain with my flock in an autonomous position on the basis of the 15th rule of the Two-Session Council of Constantinople, protecting myself and the flock from complicity in Sergianism.

+ Unworthy Savvaty, Bishop of Vinnitsa and Khmel'nitsky  
December 15/28, 2024 Holy Martyr Eleutherius.

## **B Savvati's Suspension:**

*16/29 December 2024  
27th week after Pentecost.*

*Holy Forefathers.  
To His Grace Savvaty  
Bishop of Vinnytsia and Khmelnytsky*

### **DECREE**

*In your letter of 15/28 December 2024, you accused the Synod of Bishops of the heresy of Sergianism and declared the interruption of Eucharistic communion on the basis of the 15th Canon of the Second Council of Constantinople (861). You did not provide evidence of open preaching from the pulpit of the heresy of Sergianism by the bishops of the RTOC or in the synodal documents of the Synod of Bishops of the RTOC. Thus, you have raised false accusations against the Synod of Bishops and have fallen under the Church sanctions mentioned in the first part of the 15th rule of the Second Council of Constantinople, which provides for the deprivation of the priestly rank for causing a church schism.*

*The Synod of Bishops of the RTOC has reviewed your letter of December 15/28, 2024 and has decided: based on the 15th rule of the Second Council of Constantinople, taking into account your request for retirement from June 26/July 12, 2024, to retire you and prohibit you from any form of sacred service until your repentance and further notification from the Synod of Bishops.*

*If you continue to serve during this period, the Synod of Bishops will take further action.*

*+ Archbishop Tikhon  
Omsk and Siberia,*

*+ Archbishop Benjamin  
Black Sea and Kuban,*

*+ Bishop Hermogenes of Gomel and Bryansk*

*+ Bishop Philaret of Pallini  
and Western Europe*

*Protopresbyter Victor Melekhov  
Secretary of the Synod of Bishops*