

A Resolution of the Clergy of the Chicago-Detroit Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

Assembled at the Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral in Des Plaines, Illinois,
at the annual Diocesan Conference March 23-24, 2000 (n.s.)

After hearing the report of His Eminence Archbishop Alypy concerning his recent examination in February, 2000, of the myrrh-streaming St. Nicholas icon, and having discussed many aspects of the unfortunate controversy that has sprung up as a result of this examination, in order to protect from scandal the faithful of this diocese as a whole and in each of our individual parishes, we have resolved:

1. to affirm most vigorously the full right and duty of the appointed spiritual authority, in this instance the Diocesan bishop, to examine with all diligence any miraculous manifestation of an icon or relic in order to assure the faithful that this manifestation is truly from God and not man-made, and that such an examination or examinations are in complete accordance with the practice of the Church from ancient times; and
2. to affirm that Archbishop Alypy conducted the examination of the myrrh-streaming St. Nicholas icon piously, reverently, and with pure motives, namely, to protect the faithful from deception, for which action he is to be commended and thanked; and
3. to recognize that Archbishop Alypy communicated to Fr. Elias Warnke privately the results of his examination in order to avoid public scandal to Fr. Elias personally, whereas other persons chose to attack the Archbishop publicly for his actions; and
4. to recognize, as has Archbishop Alypy himself, that the results of his examination remain inconclusive at the present time; and
5. to recommend that there be a further and more complete examination of the icon undertaken by the Synod of Bishops, as well as a collecting of documented and signed accounts of miracles that have taken place after prayers before the icon and after anointing with myrrh from the icon; and
6. to call upon the faithful of our diocese to wait patiently and with much prayer until such time as the will of God be revealed in this matter, and to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ did not condemn as blasphemy the doubt of the Apostle Thomas, but turned it to the greater glory and confirmation of the Truth, for all generations.