

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give OCL a Chance?

Dear Editor,

It was with dissapointment that I read about the ban on clergy from participating in the Orthodox Christian Laity 1991 National Conference in Baltimore. I attended the conference and found many concerned Orthodox Christians discussing issues in a responsible manner. No radical or heretical positions were taken. They were a wonderful, talented, professional and friendly group.

Is it wrong for us to discuss the language issue? Is it wrong to research the process of selecting hierarchy? Does our religion forbid us to question the role of Archbishop Iakovos as a political leader? Is it forbidden for us to look into the role that deaconesses had in the early church and to look into the possibility of restoring their ministry? Why can't we as Orthodox try to come up with ways to reach the unchurched and to try to bring them back? Can't we express concern over the lack of

spirituality in our parishes and to try to come up with ways and means to make our parishes more spiritual?

Why can't we try to help implement the desire of the late Patriarch Dimitrios I that we have one Orthodox Church in America? Is it taboo to look into doing missionary work not only in Africa but also in the United States? Why can't we try to stop our children from leaving the Church? Why is it necessary for the OCL to have leaders appointed by the Archbishop to be sanctioned? Wouldn't appointed leaders soften the constructive criticism? Why can't the Archdiocese work together with the OCL in harmony? If the OCL does not have the blessing of God won't it dissolve? If the OCL has the Blessing of God won't it's fruits be the evidence? Why not give OCL a chance?

Sincerely,
Harry Katopodis
Livonia, MI

A Unique Experience

Dear Editor,

The last few days I had the unique experience of participating in the coming together of three cultures. The Greek, the Japanese and the American. All these three elements were present at the performance of "Achilles" of the People's Light and Theater Co of Malvern. The text coming from the core fo Homer's Iliad, from those storms of passion that swept the half-man half-god Greek hero of the Trojan War when anger overtook him in his rift with Agamemnon with repercussions going all the way down.

Playwright Karen Sunde who made a masterly adaptation of the original text considers Iliad with all those life and death questions asked as the greatest work of Western Civilization.

The Director and Designer of the production, the Kabuki master Shozo Sato, who had already interpreted Shakespeare's Macbeth and Othello and Euripides Medea believes in the possibilities of revitalization in this

melding of cultures. Kabuki, literally meaning Music, Dance, Acting proves really an ideal style closest may be to what theater was like in Ancient Greece. This note correct to my mind was made by the Producing Director of the Company Danny Fruchter, whose "brainchild" is the entire Iliad project.

The fact that the Iliad project started in Cyprus and that the world Premiere of "Achilles" was given in September in the island's ancient 2,300 years old amphitheater of Kourion obliges me, I think, to express publicly my deep appreciation of the great work done by the American Theater of Malvern. I wish its group with its many talented actors to continue their daring explorations in the beauty of world cultures and civilizations.

Yours faithfully,
Panicos Peonides
Adviser

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to the United Nations