

Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton

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Decree of Promulgation

of the

Pastoral Typikon

for the Eparchy of St. George in Canton

This seventh year of my episcopate has been an occasion of profound and long reflection and consultation as I prepare to follow the Lord, who is guiding the Eparchy into a new and fruitful direction. While I am grateful to God, as well as to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, for having given me this duty, my gratitude is tempered by my very human concern that my personal shortcomings might somehow frustrate the design God or not reflect the mind of the Church in this place and time.

However, while my gratitude may be somewhat tempered, my faith is not, for I understand that when the Lord said to St. Paul, "My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection," (2 Cor. 12:9) he was teaching not only him, but all the apostles and their successors. Likewise, Christ's pledge of divine power to perfect human weakness has not been withdrawn from the Church.

Therefore, in taking this step of issuing the first installment of the *Pastoral Typikon for the Eparchy of St. George in Canton*, I am not only setting forth policies and regulations to be followed in all the parishes of the Eparchy, I am taking a step in faith together with you, with the hope that this legislation will be of some assistance on our walk together with the Master, Jesus Christ, the only and true Lord of the Church. While these regulations are necessary to bring the particular law of our Eparchy into conformity with the common law of the Eastern Catholic Churches, as codified in the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, promulgated by His Holiness on October 18, 1990, as well as civil law in some cases, the guiding principle has always been that maxim of canon law, *salus animarum suprema lex*: the salvation of souls is the supreme law.

It is also with this in mind that these regulations are published *ad experimentum*, i.e., with the understanding that, while they have the force of law, they are meant to be studied over time and ultimately re-written on the basis of our experience with them. The program of legislation for the Eparchy, then, will include much consultation at all levels for several years in anticipation of an Eparchial Assembly, or "Diocesan Synod," which, with both clerical and lay voice, will put together a collection of statutes to be submitted to the Holy See for approval.

Nevertheless, it is incumbent upon us to start somewhere, and I have chosen to start with a group of statutes that govern the life and duties of the priests of the Eparchy, as well as some aspects of parish administration. Further sections will have to do with the structure of the parish as articulated in various committees and councils, their rights and their responsibilities, the theological and pastoral basis for our particular law, the formation of core ministries in our

parishes, catechesis of the young (and the not-so-young), the administration of the sacraments, Christian stewardship, and so forth. All of these issues will be considered in due course, and other sections of the *Pastoral Typikon* will then be added until it is complete.

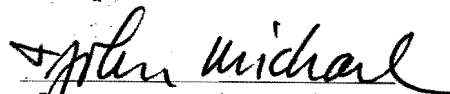
I pray that this Typikon will be a useful and welcome guide through the difficult transition to a new era, a transition which, like it or not, history has forced upon us. Whether this effort will succeed, however, is not for you or me to judge. It is Christ who will judge our efforts as well as our lack of effort, our successes as well as our failures, and it is He, and only He, who will declare the worth of what we do in this life.

In publishing and promulgating this Typikon, I wish to express my indebtedness to my honored predecessor, Bishop Louis Puscas, and to those bishops and eparchies who have assisted me in this task: Bishop Robert Moskal of the Ukrainian Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Bishop Nicholas Samra, Auxiliary Bishop of the Melkite Diocese of Newton, and Archbishop Francis M. Zayek, emeritus of the Maronite Eparchy of St. Maron in Brooklyn. Most especially, I would like to thank the Reverend Francis J. Marini, JD, JCOD, Chancellor of the Eparchy of St. Maron, whose professional guidance and support have made this work, and many others of this nature, possible.

Thus, consistent with and in response to my duties as chief shepherd of the Eparchy of St. George, and having taken counsel with the Board of Consultors and the Presbyteral Council, I hereby promulgate this *Pastoral Typikon for the Eparchy of St. George in Canton*, directing that it obtain the force of law on and from October 1, 2003. This decree is to be published as soon as possible in *Unirea*, as well as at the beginning of every copy of the Typikon. All prior law and every conflicting custom is, with the promulgation of this decree, hereby abrogated, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Placing this Typikon and the entire Eparchy under the protection of the Mother of God, and asking the intercession of the Holy Great-Martyr George, our patron, I ask each member of the Eparchy to receive this instrument in the same spirit of love and trust as it is proffered. I especially call upon all our people to reflect upon and recognize that a thorough introduction of Catholic discipline in the care of souls is necessary for the fulfillment of our mission and for the sanctification of our lives.

GIVEN at the See of our Eparchy in Canton, Ohio, this twenty-fourth day of September, on the commemoration of the Holy Great-Martyr Thecla, Equal-to-the-Apostles, in the year of Our Lord the Two Thousand and Third (AD 2003).


✠ JOHN MICHAEL (BOTEAN)

BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON


VERY REVEREND FATHER EMMANUEL G. SAMAYOA

A SECRETIS