

The Archbishop and Holy Synod of
The Orthodox-Catholic Church of America

10.26.79

Register_____

Document_____

The Most Reverend Robert Clement
348 West 14th Street
New York, New York 10014

My Dear Bishop,

Just recently we came upon a "great find" - two wood-chairs from the old Holy Eucharist Church in Atlanta. Helen and Mary Louise decided finally to clean out 25-years of basement storage and ran across the chairs in a back corner.

These are simple, cheap items...noting distinguishing in design or quality. As I recall, we paid \$1.50 each for them in 1948 (a lot of 36 when we started having Liturgy in the large second floor room which also served as "Via-Center.") When we moved from there and started using the Decatur Theatre, the chairs and other items were stored with Helen and Mary Louise. We haven't the faintest idea of what happened to the other 34..... I suppose, though don't recall, that we probably parceled them out to members who could use them.

At any rate...presently we are in the process of removing later coats of paint and trying to get down to the original finish; then probably a coat of Tung / Lemon oil. Except for the few items used at the first service, I think these (chairs) were the first church-furnishing ever bought for Holy Eucharist. I intend to retain one of them (I'm having a small plate made to affix) and if you think you would like to have the other, we will be more than pleased to save it for you.

And then, while I am in a "mood of the past" we do have here for you (we'll get it to you some day) the original Cross or Crucifix from Holy Eucharist. It is primitive, almost. We were dirt poor, of course, and by the time we got around to actually having our first Liturgy, both of the local church supply houses (Anglican and RC) absolutely refused to sell to us. We had no Crucifix, except for a small 12" wall Cross of the home-type. Mrs. McDonald had a large print of the "Crucifix That Spoke to St. Francis" and donated it. Miller pasted it to a piece of scrap wood...cut around its Cross-outline and created an altar Cross for us. I don't know what happened to its original base. About ten years ago someone made a new base for me, out of a piece of 4 x 4 wood. Finally, I do want to mention the Gospel Book. It was used by Archbishop Clement at Sts. Peter and Paul from about 1951-52, and ~~was~~ the very book on the altar, and which I kissed, the day we celebrated the Liturgy-~~and~~ signed at the altar in its presence -

the documents which opened the doors of the Orthodox Church (under +Clement) to the ECC. Later, the congregation presented this as a personal gift to Fr. Elias and he continued to use it until his death, when it was passed on to me. Interestingly, it has a typewritten text (enlarged), with translation by some Syrian priest. At any rate, I think it would be appropriate that it repose in the archives of ECC, if you wish to have it.

And before I forget. My original ring has been designated for you (documented in church papers and my Will). Again, like the Cross, it is primitive, but oh, so precious to me. The ECC people wanted to do something at the time of my consecration, since only two were able to journey to New York for this. So (again, always poor) they made a ring. Earlier a friend in Los Angeles (a silversmith of local note) had crafted a ring with a crest. But this was not enough for our people. They wanted something with a purple stone. So while I was away (and the ring resting as it usually did on a dresser) they remodeled it. Someone they broke up a silver pin containing a purple stone and somehow they affixed this to the ring to create a bishop's ring. Later I acquired a more "traditional-professional" ring, but never wore it. In fact, I passed that on to +James. This original one has always been a thing of remembered and remembering joy and love. (Helen seems to recall, but is vague about it, that the stone came from a pin given by Mrs. McDonald (who also made the altar cloth.)

Finally, and then I will let your eyes rest from my wanderings, do you know if there are plans to reschedule the ABC program. Locally - and probably in most of the country - that night we got the ball game instead of Close Ups....and what's worse...Howard Cossell (sp?) along with it.

Our Father Alfred from Holy Eucharist Parish in Indianapolis will be in NY the week of Oct 29th.....I've asked him to call and to try to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.