# **Cultural Diversity & Hierarchy**

Apostolic Churches: Armenia, Asia Minor, Crimea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Judea, India, Iraq, Italy, Libya, Persia, Romania, Syria, Spain. Hierarchy: Priests, Bishops, Archbishops/Metropolitans, Patriarchs.

First Christian Nations: Armenia (Gregory Illuminator: **Catholicos**-Head), Georgia (Nino).

# **Cornerstone of Orthodox Theology**

Only 3 Theologians hold that title with Orthodox, incorporate prayer & mystical experience in their insights.

Apostle John, Gregory of Nazianzus (329-89): *"Trinitarian Theologian",* Perichoresis, ***Philokalia,*** mercy. Symeon *New Theologian* (949-1022): **Higumen** (Abott), spiritual gifts, Scripturally sculpted deification.

# **Orthodox Beliefs: Philosophical & Spiritual**

7 **Mysterion**: **Chrismation**, **Metanoia** - more that repentance, a change of mind.

**Divine Liturgy**: eternal worship with angels & saints, Churches depict a heavenly realm.

## **Philosophical Theology: Catechetical School of Alexandria (1st C-398)**

Apostle Mark, Clement (155-215), Origen (185-254), Athanasius (296-373), Jerome (340-420).

## **Mystical Theology (Antioch)**

Gregory of Nyssa (335-94) transcendent God cannot be comprehended, Experience & commune with God in his actions. Syriac dialect of Aramaic, *Father of Hymnody,* Ephraim of Syria (306-73) only Deacon *Dr. of Church*. Poet, ‘pure & mystical,’ wrote commentaries & practical instruction with imagery, symbols, & metaphors, chants, hymns, & antiphonal songs. Founded **School of Nisibis**, learning center of Syriac Church.

## **Byzantine Empire: Consonance & Symphonia**

Constantinople: ‘**Second Rome**’ political, philosophical, & artistic center of Empire.

**Consonance** & **Symphonia:** agreement & harmony of Church & State, separation divides values.

## **Monks & Monastics**

**Ascetic:** spiritual athletes forego marriage, pursue heavenly bridegroom. *Father of Monks*, Antony (251-356) **Anchorite** (secluded monk), Pachomius (290-346) **Lavra** (monastery), **Schema Monks** (model), Father of Eastern Monasticism, Basil Great (330-79), monastic rules, Evagrius Ponticus (345-99) **Logismoi** evil thoughts, 7 deadly sins, Spiritual Warfare: prayer, meditation, & work. Dionysius Aeropagite (5th/6th C) classic Christian Mysticism, approach God by **Threefold Way:** purification of asceticism - peace, illumination of contemplation - truth, unification - perfection in love. John Climacus (6th/7th C) 30 steps, logoi, **Ladder of Divine Ascent**.

# **Western Church**

3rd Council of Toledo unilaterally added **filioque** (& Son) to Creed in 589, 655-750: 5/17 popes Roman, Leo crowned Charlemagne Holy Roman Emperor 800, Patriarch Photius (810-95) opposed filioque, western emperor, clerical celibacy, Schism 863 Photius deposed, Eastern Council reinstated 879. Pope Sylvester II (999-1003) educated by Spanish Muslims, founded western higher education. Scholasticism/Aristotelianism 1033-1349: *Father of Scholasticism:* Anselm, Albert Magnus, Bonaventure, Aquinas, Duns Scotus, William of Ockham.

# **Schism**

Diversity is “people of different genders, or social & ethnic backgrounds.”

Sectarianism is “blindly & narrow mindedly devoted; limited; prejudiced.”

## **Arian (325)**

Arius: Jesus was a created being, became God, orthodox Catholic Bishops withstood Arianism for 40 years.

## **Macedonian (381)**

Macedonius: Holy Spirit was created by Son.

## **Nestorian (431)**

Semantic schism: Nestorius (386-450): Christ distinctly God & distinctly man, native language was Syriac.

Eutyches was not: Monophysite, one nature Theology. Nestorian Church founded in Persia in 486.

## **Chalcedonian (451)**

Semantic Schism: **Miaphytism**, Christ fully human & fully divine, 1 nature. **Oriental Orthodox Churches**:

Alexandrian Coptic (+Ethiopian & Eritrean), Antioch Syriac (+Indian Malankara), Armenian Apostolic, Georgian Orthodox, & Indian Malabar Churches. 630-721, >1/2 Christianity under Muslim rule: Syria, Egypt, Persia, India, N Africa, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Spain & Portugal. Christians humiliated, taxed, persecuted. Coptic & Syriac fade liturgical languages. **Nubians** (Sudan & S. Egypt) only ones to resist.

## **Iconoclasm**

7th Great Council (787): “Christ has delivered us from idolatry by his incarnation, his death, & his resurrection.” Iconoclasm continued until 843: **Synodikon** of Orthodoxy, **Sunday of Orthodoxy**.

# **Slavic Eastern Orthodox Churches**

9th C: Cyril translated Greek liturgy into “Church Slavonic,” spreading faith to Slavs. 3 regions: **N-W** Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Wends, Latvians, & Estonians (Catholic-Crusade converts); **E** Russians, Belorussians, & Ukrainians (Scandinavian-Slavs, Ruthenians, Orthodox converts); **S** Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Slovenians, Macedonians, & Montenegrins (east-west contended for conversion through 10th C).

## **Russian Orthodox**

Vladimir of Kyiv (980-1015) Orthodox convert, civil reform, abolished capital punishment, distributed food to poor & ill. Kyiv center of Rus until 1240 Mongol Tartar invasion.

# **The Great Schism (1054): From Catholic to Roman Catholic & Orthodox**

10th & 11th centuries no pope canonized >1/3 murdered. Byzantine Emperor refused support against Normans, Patriarch of Constantinople opposed support, married priests, filioque, giving up title Universal Patriarch. Cardinal issued *1054 Bull of Excommunication;* Patriarch returned favor.

# **Sinkhole (1054-1453)**

Weakened by eastern battles, Byzantines lost last western foothold in Sicily 902. Lost Asia Minor in east in 1071.

### **Lateran Council (1123)**

1st Lateran Council, 1st unilateral ecumenical council, separated Church & State, called for celibate priests.

### **Massacre of Latins (1182)**

Byzantium navy depleted, invited Italian merchants, competed ruthlessly, displaced locals, purchased prime real estate, social & economic turmoil, grew to 60K. French Empress regent for 10 year-old son. Traitor Andronikos encamped barbarian-Muslim army, incited a riot, spread propaganda Latins were preparing to attack. Byzantines overwhelmed Latins, raping women, setting houses & churches on fire, murdering laymen, priests, monks, women, & children, tied Papal Legates severed head to dog’s tail. 4K Latins sold to Turks. Andronikos imprisoned & executed Empress & son, blinded/executed opponents. Deposed, tortured, & executed by Latins.

### **Sack of Constantinople (1204)**

Blinded in Constantinople, 95 year-old Venice governor competed with Orthodox Zara for Muslim trade. Negotiated agreement to transport 4th Crusade, 1/3 of force recruited, insisted on full pay. Waved fee when soldiers agreed to sack Zara. Partnering with would-be Emperor, Crusaders sacked Constantinople, raped & looted gold, silver, fur, & relics, 60 yr. occupation, Pope excommunicated Crusaders but proselytized Byzantines.

### **Russian Crusade (1295-1378)**

Pope ordered crusade against northern Rus, retrenched from Mongol invasion. Attacks repelled.

### **Fall of Constantinople (1453)**

After 800 year battle with Muslims, Constantinople fell to Ottomans. Citizens were raped, executed, & murdered, including priests at altar, Churches became mosques. City renamed Istanbul.

### **Phanariots – Millet-i-Rum**

Phanariots: Greek ghetto in Istanbul suburb. Turks imposed **Millet-i Rum** (legal) system of taxes, military conscription, & humiliations governed by Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, building division.

## Greek Orthodox

### **Hesychasm**

Gregory Palamas (1296-1359): Hesychasm (inner stillness). Viewed grace as divine **Energies** flowing from God’s **Essence.** We experience God, transforming us into His likeness seeking union through **Hesychast**. Jesus Prayer.

### **Renaissance**

Renaissance 14th-17thC, diaspora knowledge created **Patristic** backlash to Scholasticism. Manuel Chrysoloras (Guider): triggered original tongue Bible study, born-again Christianity, Christian humanism in Florence.

# **Syriac Oriental Orthodox Church**

Bar Hebreus (1226-86): Jewish convert. Nestorian **Maphrian** (2nd to Patriarch). Governed Missions, 20 Archbishops, >100 Bishops, protection from Muslims & Mongols. 16th C Portuguese met >100K indigenous Indian Christians, tried to convert, harassed, arrested, & exiled them, Rome supported Chaldean Syriac Catholic.

# **Reunification Attempts**

2nd Council of Lyon (1274) failed, Pope insisted on authority, filioque, unleavened Eucharist. Council of Ferrara-Florence (1439-45) papal supremacy rejected. 1453 Turkish sack of Constantinople doomed reconciliation.

# **Russian Orthodox (14th C-Present)**

Mongols overran Russia 1237 (200 yrs). Builder of Russia, Sergius of Radenezh (1314-92) founded 50 peasant kibbutzim Lavra. Successors founded 100 more, Russia expanded from SW steppes to NE forest. Church owned >25% of cultivated land. Stephen of Perm (1340-96) evangelized Mongols, translating service books into Mongolian. Moscow center of resistance, Metropolitan & autocephalous Church 1488, Russian Higumen: Rome fell to heresy, Constantinople to infidel, ‘**Third Rome’** light world forever 1492.

## **Possessor/Non-Possessor Schism (16th C)**

Schism: **Non-Possessors** no property, prayer, meditation, & labor, opposed forced conversion & capital punishment. **Possessors**,Josephites, social responsibility, & punish ‘heretics’, supported by Tsar Ivan Terrible (1547-84). Financially supported by Tsar, Constantinople elevated Metropolitan to Patriarch of Moscow 1589.

## **Diarchy (1619)**

Boris Godunov regent for Fyodor Romanov (1553-1633) weak from childhood illnesses, Fyodor exiled to monastic life in Poland, took Filaret. Fyodor’s son became Tsar 8 years later, installed him as Patriarch & co-ruler.

## **The Great Russian Schism (1666)**

Nikon (1605-81) Russian Orthodox Patriarch, enforced tithes, reformed clerical orders. Aligned with Tsar, ran country during war. Common people & clergy opposed him & Mohyla, Old Believers, Raskolniks (Dissenters), or **Raskols**, formed Russian Catholic rite. Nikon crushed Raskols, fell out of Tsar’s favor, deposed in 1666.

## **Russian Synodal Church**

When Russian Orthodox Patriarch died in 1700, there would not be another until 1917.

### **Peter Great (1682-1725)**

Tsar & 1st Emperor of all of Russia, abolished Patriarch in 1721, took control of Church under appointed Synod, westernized Ukraine exposed to Augustine & Protestantism, gained control of Church.

### **Catherine Great (1762-96)**

Prussian Lutheran introduced Pietism, Enlightenment, & Freemasonry. Trained preachers, set up Bible societies, Church property confiscated by state, defrocked & imprisoned Metropolitan, resulting in death. Incorporated Georgian Patriarch in Synod. Preserved Jesuits, asylum when Pope disbanded them. Tsar Alexander I (1801-25) removed Georgian autocephalous status, replaced Georgian with Slavonic rite, alienated people, tradition dated to 4th century. Supported missionary efforts Siberia, Urals, Volga, & Japan.

## **Hesychasts & Starets**

*Paissy Velicovsky (1722-94*) translated Church Fathers & Philokalia into Slavonic, renewal around Jesus Prayer & Starets.**Starets/Startsy** premier position (no Patriarch): guidance, direction, & intercession, charismatic gifts, virtue, faith, & peace, ordained or not. *Way of Pilgrim*, 19th century classic: reads *Philokalia*, Starets advises pray Jesus Prayer “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God” breathing in, & “have mercy on me a sinner” exhaling. Starets Monk, Seraphim of Sarov (1759-1833) served 16 yrs in healing & counseling, emanated ‘glow of Divine Light.’

## **Filaret (1782-1867)**

Metropolitan of Moscow (2nd Filaret) oppressed Old Believers, promoting, monastic, & secular academic reform, translation of Church Fathers, & 1st Russian Scriptural translation. Tsar approved his Emancipation of Surfs.

## **Sobornost**

**Sobornost:** cooperative effort over individualism. Tradition “guarded by totality, by whole people of Church, Body of Christ.” Layman, Aleksey Khomiakov (1804-60) 1st original Russian Theologian, promoted piety & Tradition, Only Orthodox faith complete, Catholic unity without freedom, Protestant freedom without unity.

**Russian Sects**

Apocalyptics, Eunuchs, ‘Whips’ free-love Flagellants claiming divinity, ‘Stranglers’ practiced euthanasia, ‘Spirit warriors,’ Siberia’s ‘Quakers,’ ‘Milk drinkers’ mendicant simplicity, & ‘Holers’ prayed through hole in roof.

## **Name Worshiping**

John of Kronstadt (1829-1908) served poor, sick, & children St. Petersburg, prayer, preaching, teaching, & social service ministry, *House of Industry:* school, orphanage, hospital, boarding house, homeless shelter, library, soup-kitchen & workshops. **Name Worshiping** God’s name inseparable from God himself, miraculous.

## **Russian Missionaries**

### **Orthodox Church of America (OCA)**

1794, Russian Orthodox monks established Orthodox Church of America in Alaska. OCA became an autocephalous church in 1970 with approximately 1 M members.

### **The Orthodox Missionary Society**

John Veniaminov, St. Innocent (1797-1879) missionary ‘Apostle’ to Alaskan tundra. Physically strong & intelligent, translated Gospel & liturgy to Aleutian, erected seminaries for native priests, became Patriarch of Moscow at 70, formed Orthodox Missionary Society, extending to China, Japan, Korea, & Persia.

### **Japanese Orthodox Church**

Japanese law forbade proselytizing, Nicolas Kassatkin (1836-1912) founded Japanese Orthodox Church, established one of 1st higher learning institutions for Japanese women. By 1912: 266 Japanese Churches, 33K members, 35 priests, & 22 deacons, autonomous 1970.

## **October Revolution**

1917: Military coup, Patriarch restored. Civil war: Communists persecute/slander Tsarist Church: imprison & execute clergy & laymen, nationalize property, desecrate relics, ban Church marriage & education, suppress publications, exile Bishops. Russian Diaspora: Secular & Faithful: Independents & Constantinople. 1939: no monasteries/seminaries, 4 bishops, 100 churches. Patriarch exiled to Siberia, no cleric civil rights, nationalize 673 Monasteries. 200K Bishops, priests, monks, deacons, & nuns executed. WWII: Metropolitan rallied people, Soviet diplomatic “Living Church.” Grain sold, 14M peasants starved. Solzhenitsyn to Patriarch: “By what reasoning is it possible to convince oneself that planned destruction of spirit & body of Church under guidance of atheists is best way of preserving it?”

### **Valentine Felixovitch Voino-Yasentsky (1877-1961)**

Crimean surgeon treated infections causing blindness among poor without pay, raised children widower. Under constant surveillance, refused to operate without **Theotokos** icon. Ordained monk, Luke of Crimea, combined practice & pastoral care. Arrested false charges, sentenced labor camp in Siberia, preached, violating government standards. Blind before death, huge crowds gathered for Archbishop Luke's funeral, procession, & burial.

### **Glasnost & Perestroika (1980’s)**

**Glasnost & perestroika** (transparency & restructuring), freedom of conscience & foreign contact. Billy Graham @Church millennial 1988. Communism collapsed 1989, 30 local churches/wk. (1989-92). Universities founded, >600 Monasteries reopened, 160 M in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Baltic States, & Central Asia, 70% of Russian population. Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church restored; 2 autocephalous Churches established

## **Russian Orthodox Diaspora**

### **Diocese of Great Britain & Western Europe**

Diaspora Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) 1920. School of theology in Paris 1925. Synthesized spiritual & philosophical doctrine, advanced study of Fathers, Russian history, literature, culture, & spirituality, revived Russian liturgical tradition. Created ecumenical relationships.

### **Archpriest Sergius Bulgakov (1871-1944)**

Reformed Marxist expert in theology, philosophy, church history & faith, chaired Parisian school of dogmatic theology. **Sophiology:** Wisdom is foundation of world & intermediary between God & man.

### **Nicholas Berdyaev (1874-1948)**

Layman: Catholics centers on authority, Protestants on personal faith, Orthodox on tradition, not dogma or doctrine, but spiritual life. Sobornost. Filioque crux of opposition to filioque, viewed as subordination of Spirit.

### **Archimandrite Sergei Sakarov (1896-1993)**

Diocese of Great Britain & Western Europe concentrated in England, France, & Switzerland. AKA Sophrony took Hesychast theology to England. Left Orthodoxy for Indian Mystical faith & returned.

### **Elizabeth Behr-Sigel (1907-2005)**

1st woman U. Strasbourg master’s theology, 1st Reformed Alsace-Lorraine minister. PHD theology Orthodox School Paris, converted, married Russian engineer, mother of 3. WWII French resistance. After taught Catholic & Orthodox seminaries, joined with Byzantine priest advancing ecumenism. Taught ecumenical institutes Israel, Dominican College of Ottawa, international author & lecturer, Pressed female ordination. 95th birthday Carmelite convent: Byzantine priest, 2 Orthodox bishops, 3 Catholic vicar-generals, & Protestant minister.

# **Eastern Catholic Rites**

Maron (-410) studied with John Chrysostum in Antioch, a priest turned monk. His piety & physical healings developed a following that spread to Lebanon. The West Syriac Maronite Church of Antioch always remained in communion with Rome. 1553-1663: Franciscans led Nestorians to Rome, **Chaldean Catholic Church** & affiliated **Syro-Malabar Church of India**.

With Jesuit support, Polish & Lithuanian invaders establish **Belarus Greek & Ukrainian Greek Catholic Churches** *Council of Brest:* Slavonic Orthodox liturgy, married priests. **Ruthenian Catholic Church** reunited. Carpathian Russia established **Byzantine Catholic Church**; **Slovak Catholic Church** formed. Sorbonne educated Metropolitan of Kyiv; Peter Mogila mocked Byzantine Catholics as **Uniates**.

Hungary converted 997 fearing Catholic Austria. Hungarian controlled **Croatia-Serbia** established Catholic rite 1611. Franciscans reunified **Albanian Catholic Rite** 1628. Jesuit & Capuchin missionaries unified Patriarchal **Antiochian Syrian Church** 1662. Hungarian controlled **Romania** established Catholic Church 1696. **Alexandrian Rite** Coptic, Ethiopian, & Eritrean Catholic Churches 1824. **Bulgaria Catholic Rite** 1861.

# **Eastern Orthodox (1683-Present)**

## **Greek**

Kosmos Aetolian (1714-79) established charities, churches, & > 200 schools in Greece & Albania, Turks executed for preaching. 1821 Greek independence revolt. Turks executed Ecumenical Patriarch. Russia assimilated Greek Orthodox 30 years. 1894-1924 Greeks attempted to free Anatolia (Asia Minor) Greco-Turkish war. Greek atrocities, Turks persecuted, ‘raped & pillaged’ remnant Church, massacred 1M Greeks. Homes looted & burned; many survivors joined diaspora. Old Calendarists Schism opposed Gregorian calendar kept Julian.

## **Southern Slavic**

1848-1917 Ottoman decline began with Crimean War, Russian-Turkish Wars advanced it. Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Libya, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Sudan, Palestine, Thrace, & Tunisia liberated. Many establish autocephalous Churches. British annexed Cyprus.

## **Post Ottoman Empire**

>WWI. Orthodox repressed under Iron Curtain, then issues over readmission of sympathizers, rebuilding under traditionalism or modernism, & influx western churches proselytizing. Faith formation, social activism, & ecumenism flourished. Split Cyprus suffered Turkish hostilities, 60/80 churches gutted 1955, widespread murder & rape. Independent Greek Church no longer needed western education/influence. Mt. Athos monastics declined to 1,145, most >60, poorly educated 1971, 1,500, most <40, gifted 1990. 17/20 houses Greek.

## **Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of U.S.A. (2010)**

1st continental US Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox, NOLA 1864. Bishop of Alaska moved to SF 1872, NY 1899. 1st seminary, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology founded, Connecticut, 1936. Paris School scholars immigrated to America in 50’s. OCA autocephalous encompassing US, Canada, & Mexico 1970. Standing Conference of Canonical Bishops in Americas, **SCOBA** for unity & evangelization. Ecumenical Patriarch tried to suppress, now Assembly of **Canonical Orthodox Bishops of USA** 2010: Greek Archdiocese; Orthodox Church of America; Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of NA; Albanian Orthodox Diocese; Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church; Carpatho-Russian Diocese USA; Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America & Canada; Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA; & Serbian Orthodox Church USA.

## **Role of Women**

Eastern Church ordained Deaconesses at altar, but never priesthood. Female monastics progress: novice, robe-bearer, & nun. Some monasteries monks & nuns, led by Higumen/**Hieromonk** (priest-monk) assisted by nun/deaconess 2nd in command. Women can attain **Schema-nun**, akin to Schema-monk. Orthodox **Presbytera**, priest’s wife assists husband’s ministry, **Matushka**, in Russia. Deaconess restored in Bulgarian, Coptic, Greek, Romanian, all African, & Russian Churches, Armenian never ceased.

## **Russian Schism**

2007 ROCOR established communion with Russian Orthodox Patriarch, remains semi-autonomous fearing State control. 2018 Patriarch of Constantinople recognized autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Patriarch broke communion with Constantinople.

# **Oriental Orthodox**

1730-1924: Armenian Orthodox Church pawn of Ottoman-Persian & Russo-Persian wars. Russia granted Church limited autonomy, country divided Ottomans west & Persian east. Armenian Patriarch exiled in Constantinople, called for independence from Turks, 1.5M Christians holocaust.

1952 Military overthrew British/Egyptian Monarchy, after 9 C’s of Overlords Patriarchate of Alexandria grew from 100K to > M until Sharia Law adopted. Coptic Pope Cyril VI (P. 1959-71) officiated >12K liturgies. Elevated Ethiopian **Abuna** (Archbishop) to Patriarch, ordained 1st diaspora priests, presided over 1st modern Oriental Orthodox ecumenical gathering 1965. St. Mark’s relics taken to Venice for 11C’s, Cyril secured return, his gifts included healing & prescience: anticipated visitors questions & Lord’s answers. Patriarchate of Antioch grew 350K to 800K, doubled by diaspora. Now under siege by Muslim governments & terrorists.

# **Today’s Worldwide Orthodox Churches**

~220 M Eastern: 110 Russia; 20 Ukraine: 15 Romania; 10 Greece; 7 Belarus; 6 Serbia; 5 Bulgaria; 3 Georgia.

9 Patriarchs: Constantinople; Alexandria; Antioch; Jerusalem; Georgia; Serbia; Bulgaria; Russia; Romania.

~80 M Oriental: 55 Ethiopia; 10 Egypt; 5 each Armenia, Eritrea & India.

6 Patriarchs: Alexandria; Jerusalem-Armenian; Antioch; Constantinople-Armenian; Ethiopia; Eritrea.

Eastern Rites:

* Autocephalous: Albanian, Antioch, Bulgarian, Croatian, Cyprus, Czech lands, Slovak, Georgian, Greece, Polish, Romanian\*, Serbian, Ukrainian, Jerusalem: Mt. Sinai
* Constantinople: Canada, Crete, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Korea, Mt. Athos, Philippines, USA
* Russian: Belarus, China, Japan, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine, USA

Oriental Rites:

* Alexandrian–Coptic, Eritrean, & Ethiopian
* Antiochian – Syriac, Malankara
* Armenian Apostolic
* Independent Oriental Orthodox – Malabar

Schismatics: Belorussia, France, Indonesian, Macedonia, Montenegro, Old Believers, Old Calendarists, Turkish, Ukrainian Canonical

\*Romania is only Latin Orthodox culture.

Orthodox Cross(Symbolism: Sinners come to the Tree of Life, the footrest slants up toward the repentant, down toward the unrepentant thief; x cross of St. Andrew: founded Byzantium Church.)

# **Ecumenism:**

## **World Council of Churches**

Orthodox key role World Council of Churches (1948), “Christian United Nations.” 350 churches/100 countries (1991). All major Christian denominations except Catholic, Missouri Synod Lutheran, S. Baptist. Catholics sends delegates, engage @national/regional level. Ecumenical dialogue centers on relationships, ministry, social justice, human rights, environment. Share human/spiritual resources Theology, liturgy, spirituality.

## **Vatican II**

Pope John XXIII invited Eastern Orthodox participants to Vatican II, refused except Russian. Succeeded with Oriental Orthodox, Nestorians, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Methodists, Quakers, & Disciples of Christ, >100 Churches. Created Secretariat for Christian Unity, now a **Dicastery** (Department). John asked bishops to “leave behind attitude of passivity... after definitions of primacy & infallibility of pope.” Pope John Paul advanced idea Papal Infallibility open for discussion. John used 2 key words: **Aggiornamento** (update: to “refresh” a self-centered, stonewalled Church, unify Christians, and spread the Gospel); and **Ressourcement** (return to the sources: Scriptures and the Church Fathers, a major shift toward the Orthodox Church position.) Aggiornamento Ressourcement: “Back to the Future.” Pope Paul VI joined with Patriarch Athenagoras rescinding excommunications 1965. Vatican II Decrees:

* 1. Ecumenism: Body of Christ includes separated Christian communities, all sides bear responsibility. Hierarchy of truth. (Dialogue: Catholic & Orthodox agree most breaches are semantic.)
	2. E. Rite Churches: maintain liturgy, spirituality, & discipline, bridge to Orthodox, no Filioque.

John Paul II worked to improve relations with Orthodox, Anglicans, Copts, Jews, & Muslims. Pope Francis met with Russian Patriarch Kirill in Cuba & issued 30 point declaration including shared Traditions. 2023, Pope Francis canonized Coptic martyrs killed by ISIS.

# **Roman Catholic versus Orthodox Divisions**

Unresolved issues: 21 v. 7 Ecumenical Councils (Papal Infallibility, Filioque, celibate priests).

**Division, Toleration, or Appreciation**

Associating with like people is conformity. Learning from different people is unity! Many Christians hold an either or mentality. We are not spiritual or intellectual, we are both! We are set apart from world, united in Christ. Vast majority of Christian differences are cultural. Extremists raise the devil in less substantial details.