

**For Immediate Release**  
**Wednesday, August 06, 2003**

For More Information, or to arrange an interview: Archbishop McLaughlin is currently visiting San Diego, CA and Tucson, AZ on Church business through Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. He will return to the Church's headquarters in Lexington, NC on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

In San Diego, the Archbishop can be reached at 619-265-7991, August 6-9

In Tucson, the Archbishop can be reached at St. Jude's Anglican Church 520-296-5570. August 9-11

In Lexington, NC, the Archbishop can be reached at 336-236-9565 or 336-249-0216

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**A Statement by The Most Rev Dr. Scott McLaughlin, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Orthodox Church and Metropolitan of the Orthodox Anglican Communion, in response to the election of Gene Robinson as a Bishop in the Episcopal Church USA:**

"Christians around the world stand aghast. There is anguish among the faithful and amusement among the scoffers at the news that the General Convention of the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) has confirmed the election of Gene Robinson as their first openly gay bishop. This election, together with the approval of the blessing of same-sex unions pending before the Convention, presents the world with the spectacle of a once-orthodox Church in the final throes of institutional self-destruction in its wholehearted commitment to moral and theological deviance. Although we usually refrain from public comment on the latest news of our religious cousins, our own jurisdiction's common history with the Episcopal Church calls for a response, even if only to distinguish ourselves from ECUSA in the minds of most Americans.

Robinson's election means that the Episcopal Church is dead. If it survives in any institutional form at all in the next few years, it will do so only as a pseudo-religious therapeutic way station for gays, lesbians and others seeking acceptance of sexually abnormal lifestyles. Robinson's election as a "Right Reverend Father in God" (the liturgical form of address of a Bishop), proves beyond doubt that the Episcopal Church has abandoned the Christian faith in favor of the secular and political philosophy of feminism, of which gay/lesbianism is the most vociferous front. The death of the Episcopal Church is sad news. Sadder still is the fact that most of American—if not Western—Christendom is infected with the same feminist disease.

All is not lost, however. There are thousands of the faithful, hundreds of parishes and many Orthodox Anglican Bishops in the

USA and around the world, of which our jurisdiction is a part. This little-known separatist movement of Episcopalians that started in the 1960's is alive and growing. We looked for the death knell of ECUSA. We knew this day would come: most of us left the Episcopal Church years ago in order to live and worship in the Faith of our Fathers. We have blazed a trail now open to the few left in ECUSA for whom biblical standards of morality have meaning and weight. We call upon the orthodox remnant left in ECUSA to join us, together with other traditionalist groups, in the formation of a new Orthodox Anglican province in the United States. Unless we act, and act together in the unity of the faith and in the bond of peace, the precious heritage of our Church planted in this land will be seen no more. The choice before every Episcopalian is a choice between the spiritual City of Sodom and the New Jerusalem: the City of God. We plead for you to join us as we seek to glorify God and work and pray and give for the spread of His Kingdom."

Further information: The Episcopal Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of America was incorporated in 1964 for the purposes of providing a liturgically traditional and theologically orthodox safe-haven for Episcopalians disillusioned with the liberal and secular policies and practices of ECUSA. It is in communion with several other similar groups in the United States. It is estimated that at least one-quarter million former Episcopalians have joined such separated groups in the past few years. In 1967, the Episcopal Orthodox Christian Archdiocese authorized the formation of the worldwide Orthodox Anglican Communion: a fellowship of like-minded Bishops and national Churches around the world to serve as an alternative to the Anglican Communion. Ministries associated with the Orthodox Anglican Communion are now found on every continent of the globe.

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