

Department of Translations

Report 2023

The mission of the Department of Translations is to provide carefully researched and prepared translations of ecclesiastical, liturgical, and theological texts from their languages of origin into English in order to enrich our divine services, provide for instruction in our Orthodox Christian faith and support evangelical outreach to all.

In this past two years of the Lord, 2022-2023, we accomplished the following, all without any financial budget:

1. We continued to distribute our first liturgical book for use in our Archdiocese, “Services of Initiation into the Holy Orthodox-Catholic and Apostolic Church.” This was authorized for use in our Archdiocese in August 2016. This comprehensive service book replaces the birthing prayers, churching, and service of holy Baptism as given in the 1956 “Service Book.” Since that time, we have distributed this book throughout our Archdiocese and beyond, with the help of the Antiochian Village Bookstore. Many clergymen and lay-persons also have inquired about various elements of the rites and mysteries of initiation (Naming, Churching, Baptism, Chrismation, and Reception of Converts). We have received many expressions of gratitude for this work. Soon we will have sold out our first printing. Many responses have to do with the physical dimensions and characteristics of the material book, along with

many requests for a simple format for everyday usage. Our agenda for the coming biennium includes a revision and easier to follow layout for that 2nd edition.

2. We have translated, drafted, and reviewed a thoroughly revised and carefully edited text of the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom which we have called The Antiochian Hieratikon. This is a scholarly work, elaborated for the educational needs of our clergy, as well as for the general educated readership. The text of the Divine Liturgy is based upon the existing English usage over the last 120 years, up through the 4th edition of The Liturgikon; however, our work constitutes a thoroughly revised and elaborated text, expressing the consensus of liturgical tradition and scholarship, and consistent with our Antiochian patriarchal tradition. Our work is heavily annotated, offering a substantial introduction into our liturgical history and practice. This text is ready for publication as a scholarly book, once our new Metropolitan Saba gives his blessing and authorization. This text will answer many questions regarding our liturgical history and practice.

3. We have translated, drafted, and reviewed a thoroughly revised and carefully edited text of *THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY*. Our text is based upon ancient manuscripts and research. We are ready to present this work also to Metropolitan Saba for his authorization and blessing.

As for upcoming projects, we propose the Funeral Services (as the current “black-spiral bound” book has several problems),

the Service of Holy Anointing (Prayer-Oil), a general typikon for the church year, Volume two in our series, the liturgical books of the Orthodox Church: the books used in the choir, and other projects as our consultation with Metropolitan Saba may indicate. We are ever ready to follow the archpastoral priorities in this sacred work, as His Eminence gives the blessing.

V. Rev. Fr Michel Najim, Chair

V. Rev. Fr Patrick B. O'Grady, associate

Prof. Tasos Ioannides, associate