

Metropolitan Anthony
Diocese of Sourozh
Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland
Exarch of the Moscow Patriarchate
The Russian Orthodox Cathedral
Ennismore Gardens
London, SW7-INH
20th July 1989

Your Holiness Anba Shenoudah the third, Patriarch of the Coptic Church,

I am writing to your holiness concerning Dr. George Bebawi, who has been more than a friend and I have known him since he was a student at Cambridge, back in 1965 when there was no Coptic Church in the UK. George was given the permission by the late and blessed Patriarch Cyril the sixth to attend and to participate in the life of our Church. We were all delighted to have him and to allow him to receive Communion with us.

I have received a month ago a translation of his article, Luther and the Lord's Supper from the Secretariat for Christian Unity of the Roman Catholic Church. It is my conviction that what was stated in this article is Orthodox and is not heretical in any sense.

Also His grace Metropolitan George Khodor of Mount Lebanon, have written to your holiness and to me in the hope that your act of excommunication may be lifted and that George who has devoted his life to serve the Coptic Church may be allowed to continue his work at the Theological Institutes and Seminaries.

I asked him to be ordained and to serve with us as a priest but he declined because he wanted to live and die in Egypt.

I understand that there has been no trial and that George was not allowed to put forward his point of view. This grieves me. If you allow me to advise your holiness, let this matter be settled by love and by what we have received from the Fathers of the Church.

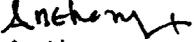
Dr. George Bebawi is working at the moment at St. John's College, Nottingham, as a lecturer. I have given him my blessing so that he may be able to work and support his family.

He is under my care and comes to our Cathedral in London with his wife and children.

The Church of England has been tolerant to many scholars who are not Anglicans and one of our priests is the Tutor and lecturer in Church History and Worship in one of the Anglican Theological colleges in Oxford.

I hope to hear from your holiness encouraging news concerning George.

With my best regards in Christ


Anthony