

The Posting on "Orthodox Tradition" from Bishop Tikhon dated July 23, 2004

"I feel that all possible comments have been made, including details to satisfy the most lascivious researcher, in the matter of the past behavior of prominent leaders and spiritual guides of HOCNA, and I am not the Synod of ROCOR, but it must be said that grand juries are grand juries, they do not decide guilt or innocence.

What may be said with certainty however, is this: HOCNA has been remarkably willing for some time now, to leave without comment anything at all that is alleged against them: in this, showing a truly remarkable restraint, almost unheard-of, especially among other True and Traditionalist groups. They don't have any subdeacons a la Kirill Bart, subdeacon; nor do they have Priests a la Father Daniel, or Readers a la Constantine Wright, or Vladimir Moss et al to "carry the flag" or just for self defense (Father Daniel), nor do they have shock troops, like Al Green or Priest Athanasios or Peter Andreev or Lamberes & co., to go on the attack at any hint of negativity in their direction. They are not always stirring the pot and do not make a career of "dusting off their heels", as for example, Archbishop Gregory of Buena Vista has been wont to do.

No, I'm afraid that if one wants to examine their works, they are remarkably free of polemic and disparagement, but remarkable for producing truly excellent liturgical books, that are excellent even from just a book-lovers point of view: paper, print, binding, editing, and beauty. It seems to me this will account for something, but, then, I am not the Judge, and make no declaration of innocence or guilt.

For what it's worth, too, I think that it is hard to imagine that any hint of immoral activity could have come into being in all these succeeding years, now, since they have been "on their own," without a deafening outcry. And, I must also add, one may not say that about many of those that have left their fellowship and have been loud in their denunciations of them. Not that any of the fathers of HOCNA would take any credit or vaunt their morals. They are much too traditionally monastic in this. But there a side of monasticism, too, that is always tempted to be prophetic and not only seek the salvation of the brethren: prophetic, not as uttering the inspired Words of God, but in just judging the world."

Love,

+B.T.