

19 Οκτωβρίου 2009

“These Truths We Hold” (Part XXX)

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Theotokos the Burning Bush. An icon from the workshop of the Holy and Great Monastery of Vatopedi.

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The Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

In the theology and piety of the Orthodox Church, a special place of honor is given

to the Mother of God — the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who is revered by the Orthodox as being “more honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious, beyond compare, than the Seraphim.” As Orthodox we style her as the most exalted among God’s creatures; but we do not regard her as some sort of goddess, the 4th Person of the Trinity, as some accuse us; nor do we render her the worship due God alone. Just as with the Holy Icons, the veneration due Mary is expressed in quite different words in the Greek writings of the Fathers than that due God.

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