

## Nameday Tribute of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina “Thanksgiving 2003”



On the evening of Sunday, 6/19 October 2003, the traditional “Thanksgiving” Nameday tribute, organized every year by the monastic Brotherhood of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika, in honor of its spiritual Father and Abbot, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, was covered with great success. As in previous years, the celebration was held in the main auditorium of the Novotel Convention Center in downtown Athens.

The richly varied program for the celebration included Church chants, an address, Nameday greetings, the presentation of a gift, folk songs, instrumental pieces, a recitation, the screening of a video made specially for the occasion, etc., and provided spiritual benefit and delight for the large audience in attendance, which included all of the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod in Resistance who took part in the Feast Day celebration of the monastery, the delegation from the Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, and also many clergy and monastics.

Among the political dignitaries present were Mr. Stephanos Manikas, former government Minister, Mr. Georgios Vlachos, Member of Parliament for Attika, the Deputy Prefect of Eastern Attika, Mr. Nikolaos Kanteres, the Vice President of the City Council of Fili, Mr. Anastasios Arabatzides, and



others. Mr. Theodoros Pangalos, Member of Parliament for Attika, and the Prefect of Eastern Attika, Mr. Leonidas Kouris, both sent festal greetings.

The main theme of “Thanksgiving 2003” was “A Good Word: Its Healing Power,” and its object was the cultivation of an authentic Orthodox ethos.

The program, which consisted of five parts, was introduced with particular eloquence by His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of

Christianoupolis.

- In the first part of the tribute, the monastery’s Byzantine choir chanted the following hymns:

- “Ἄξιόν ἐστιν” (“Meet It Is”) in the First Tone, by Iakovos Navpliotis;



- the *Apolytikion* of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in the Third Tone;

- verses from the Great Doxology in the Grave Tone (*pentaphonos*), by Manuel the Protopsaltis;

- verses from the *Polyeleos* “Λόγον Ἄγαθον” (“The Good Word”) in the Fourth Tone (*legetos*), by Chourmouziotis the Chartophylax, together with a *kratema* from the same *Polyeleos*;

- Two festive *Prosoimoia*, “Ο Brethren and Fathers” and





“Ο Queen of all and Maiden,” in the First Tone.

- The second part consisted of:

—the festal address, entitled “A Good Word: Its Healing Power,” which was delivered by a Hieromonk of the Brotherhood of Sts. Cyprian and Justina;

—a “message of gratitude” to Metropolitan Cyprian from his lay spiritual children, which was read by our brother in Christ, Mr. Nikolaos Konstantopoulos;

- and finally, the presentation of a gift to His Eminence: an Icon of St. Makarios the Great of Egypt, painted at the Icon studio of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.



In this Icon, the portrayal of the Saint is surrounded by four smaller scenes, depicting an instructive incident from his Life, which was cited in the festal address: “An evil word makes even a good man evil, and a good word makes even an evil man good.”

- In the third part, the chorus and instrumental ensemble, “Ελληνορθόδοξη Κληρονομιά” (“Orthodox Heritage”), from the Metropolis of Oropos and Fili, performed the following pieces:

—“Τρία καράβια” [“Three Ships”], an historic folk song from the era of the fall of Constantinople;

—“Τί ἔχεις, καϋμένη πλάτανε;” [“What Is the Matter, Poor Plane-Tree?”], a folk song from the Peloponnesos in the tempo of the *Kalamatianos* [one of the national dances of Greece—Trans.], followed by an instrumental melody from Crete, in the same tempo;



—“Κουκουμάς,” a folk song from the island of Symi.

- The fourth part consisted of a recitation by Mr. Onouphrios Sochos, a teacher of phonetics and elocution, of a folk tale entitled, “The Young Shepherd Boy, or ‘O my God, have no mercy on me.’” This story formed a good introduction to a short videotape which was shown next. This video, entitled, “A Woman’s Journey,” and which conveyed a powerful spiritual message, was produced by the Swedish film director Marjo Marthin, an active member of the Cathedral of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Stockholm. With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, members of the Cathedral congregation played an special rôle in its making.

- The fifth part consisted of the concluding proceedings of this beautiful tribute: treats were blessed by Metropolitan Cyprian, who offered some spiritual counsels, his *Polychronion* was chanted, and the treats and special souvenirs were distributed to all in attendance.

“Thanksgiving 2003” was organized with especial diligence and provision was made for simultaneous translation into six languages, so that the visitors from abroad could follow the proceedings with no difficulty. By the Grace of God, this year’s tribute was truly an important testimony to the Orthodox ethos and way of life.