

## Celebration of Holy Theophany



On Monday, 6/19 January 2003, the Holy Synod in Resistance of the Orthodox Church of Greece yet again celebrated Holy Theophany with particular solemnity and splendor.

The Blessing of the Waters, at the pier of Oropos, was performed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod, who delivered a suitably festal homily that was both concise and replete with points of significance.

A large crowd of Faithful from Athens, Attika, and other regions of Greece took part in this event. Metropolitan Cyprian was joined by seven other Hierarchs, who lent a festive and more inclusive, inter-Orthodox character to the ceremony: from Sardinia, Italy, Bishop Michael of Nora; from Romania, Bishops Sofronie of Suceava and Teodosie of Brasov, from our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church in that country; from our own country, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Ambrose of Methoni; from Vienna, Austria, Bishop Symeon of Lakedaimonia; and from Stockholm, Sweden, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis. Also taking part were clergy and delegations from the parishes and monasteries of our Synod and a large number of monks and nuns.

The customary procession through the streets of Oropos down to the sea was led by dozens of young men and women in traditional folk costumes, with banners and flags, and by the city band. By the kind assistance that they provided, the traffic police, the local constabulary, and the port police also contributed to



the success of the parade.

The following dignitaries, among others, were given a place of honor on the platform where the Blessing of the Waters was held:

The Prefect of Eastern Attika, Mr. Leonidas Kouris; the Prefect of Western Attika, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudaris; the President of the L.A.O.S. and Member of Parliament for Athens, Mr. Georgios Karatzaferis; Members of Parliament for



Attika, Messrs. Athanasios Bouras and Georgios Vlachos; the former Member of Parliament, Mr. Georgios Karatasos; the Mayor of Fili, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmis, along with the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Stamatios Avramis; the President and Vice-President of the City Council of Fili; Parliamentary candidate, Mr. Georgios Phteinopoulos; and the President of the commune of Sykaminon, Mr. Thomas Roussis, prefectural and town councilors, as well as representatives of political, social, and regional organizations.



