

Synodal Celebration

The Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika, Celebrates Its Patronal Feast

On Friday, 2 October 2004 (Old Style), the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Fili, Attika, the headquarters of the Metropolis of Oropos and Fili, and also of the Holy Synod in Resistance, celebrated its Patronal Feast with solemnity and splendor.

Because of the Nameday of the monastery's founder and Abbot, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod, dozens of Hierarchs and other clergy from Greece and abroad, as well as monks, nuns, and countless Faithful, come every year to this sacred celebration, in order to honor the wonder-working Saints of God and to offer greetings to His Eminence.



The Holy Martyrs Cyprian and Justina, as fearsome expellers of demons and of the works of black magic, as guarantors of repentance, and as inspirers of Christian life and self-sacrifice, attract all who labor and are heavy laden to their holy House, so as to provide them with comfort and refreshment.

The manner in which the Holy Synod in Resistance deals with issues of Orthodox Truth in opposition to the heresy of ecumenism, in a spirit of love and discretion, draws devotees of genuine piety from many parts of the world and unites them in praise and worship, with one mouth and one heart, to our Triune God.

The festal Divine Liturgy, at which Metropolitan Cyprian was the principal celebrant, was inter-Orthodox in character, with the following Hierarchs concelebrating:

His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, President of our Sister Old Calendar



Orthodox Church of Romania, and the Romanian Bishops Demosten of Neamț, Ghenadie of Bacău, and Pahomie of Vrâncea;

His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, Chief Hierarch of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria;

His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki, from the Exarchate of the Holy Synod in America;

His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, from the Exarchate of the Holy Synod in Cagliari, Sardinia;

His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, from the Exarchate of the Holy Synod in Pistoia and the Exarchate in Italy;

His Grace, Bishop Symeon of Lakedaimonia, from the Exarchate of the Holy Synod in Vienna, Austria;

His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, head of the mission of the Holy Synod in Stockholm, Sweden, and

Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Bishop Ambrose of Methone, Assistant Bishops (to the President of the Holy Synod) in Greece.

Unfortunately, because of serious health problems, His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, Exarch of the Holy





Synod in Australia, who is sojourning at his *Metochion* in Messenia, could not be present.

Also taking part in the Liturgy were many clergy, both from Greece and (primarily) from abroad.

Priests, Deacons, monastics, and pious lay people from Romania, Bulgaria, and the U.S.A., as well as clergy of the Holy Synod from Italy, Sardinia, and Sweden, came in large numbers to participate in this year's festivities, for the additional reason that Metropolitan Cyprian is celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of his Episcopacy (1979-2004).

It is also noteworthy that warm greetings, in a participatory spirit, were sent by Russian clergy from Siberia.





The Divine Liturgy was celebrated in many languages—with Greek, naturally, as the primary language—, in token of the unity of Faith that transcends physical and artificial divisions between human beings. This fact actually constitutes an expression of true and living Orthodox Catholicity, in that a diversity of languages “establishes unanimity of faith.”

The hymns of the Feast Day were superbly rendered by the choirs of chanters, under the direction of the Fathers of the monastery.

Festal messages and speeches were delivered by His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna at Great Vespers, by His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie of Romania at the Divine Liturgy, and also by the principal celebrant, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, after the conclusion of the festal Divine Liturgy.

The city band of Ano Liosia, Attika, added an especially festive note to the splendid procession with the Holy Icon and the Holy Relics of the Saints.

Among the dignitaries present at this great celebration of our Synod of Bishops were Mr. Athanasios Xarchas, a former government Minister; Members of Parliament for Attika, Messrs. Athanasios Bouras, Georgios Vlachos, and Vasileios Oikonomou; the Prefect of Western Attika, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudaris; the Mayor of Fili, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmis, together with the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Stamatios Avramis; the Deputy Mayor of Ano Liosia, Mr. Evangelos Christophyllakis; Ms. Elli Katsanou and Mr. Nikolaos Kanteres, Prefectorial Councilors; the Vice-President of the City Council of



Fili, Mr. Anastasios Arambatzides; Ms. Ioanna Spyridon, a City Councilor, and others; while festal wishes and greetings were sent by, among others, the Minister of Culture, Mr. Petros Tatoulis, the Mayor of Athens, Ms. Dora Bakoyannis, and Mr. Theodoros Pangalos, a Member of Parliament for Attika and a former government Minister. □