

The Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

ON SATURDAY, 2 October 2005 (Old Style), the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, the headquarters of the Metropolis of Oropos and Fili and also of the Holy Synod in Resistance, celebrated, by the Grace of God, its Patronal Feast.



Observable once again, as is the case every year, was an influx of countless pilgrims coming from many parts of our country and abroad in order to honor the wonder-working and celebrated Patron Saints of the Monastery of Cyprian and Justina, to offer Nameday greetings to its founder and Abbot, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, and, in general, to be confirmed in the Faith and to sense



the joy and Grace of communion and unity in the confession of our immaculate and most-honored Orthodoxy.

Notable visitors from abroad included Hierarchs and clergy of the Holy Synod in Resistance and of its Sister Churches of Romania and Bulgaria.

A large delegation came from Romania, consisting of His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, President of the Holy Synod; Their Graces, Bishops Demosten of Neamț, Ghenadie of Bacău, Pahomie of Vrancea, Teodosie of Brașov, and Flavian of Ilfov; three Priests, one Hierodeacon, and laypeople.

His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza came from Bulgaria together with his Secretary, the venerable Monk Euthymius; Mr. Tondoroff, his spiritual child and a former high-ranking political official of the country; and also a fairly large group of pilgrims, along with two Priests and a Deacon.



The Hierarchs and clergy of the Holy Synod in Resistance who participated in this year's Patronal Feast were the following:

His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki, from California, USA;

His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, from his *Metochion* in Petalidi, Messenia, Greece, the *Panagia Gorgoypekoos*;

His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora with Archimandrite Mariano, from Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy;

His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni with Hierodeacon Fr. Silvano, from Pistoia and Milan, respectively, Italy;

His Grace, Bishop Symeon of Lakedaimonia, from Vienna, Austria;

His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, with two laypeople, from Stockholm, Sweden;

Protopresbyter Joachim Kiyimba from Kampala, Uganda, and the Russian Hieromonk Arseny, who has just recently placed himself under our Church's jurisdiction.

And, of course, Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Ambrose of Methoni, as well as clergy from our country, participated in the Feast Day.

Present among the countless pilgrims were Monks, Nuns, and pious believers from our monasteries and parishes in various regions of our homeland (Athens, Attika, Evia, Patras, Pyrgos, Agrinion, Thessaloniki, Ptolemais, Drama, etc.).



His Grace, Bishop Flavian of Ilfov, from Bucharest and His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian gave timely homilies at Great Vespers, as did His Grace, Bishop Demosten of Neamț at the Divine Liturgy. His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie and His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza also addressed brief messages of greetings.

The participation of the municipal band of Ano Liosia in the procession with the Holy Relics and the Icon of the Saints whose memory was being honored particularly underscored the festal character of this splendid day.

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 and Georgios Vlachos; the former Member of Parliament, Mr. Epameinondas Zapheirooulos; the prefect of Western Attika, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudaris; the Deputy Prefects, Ms. Stavroula Dimou and Mr. Angelos Liosis; Mr. Nikolaos Kanteres, Prefecto-

rial Councilor of Eastern Attika; the Mayor of Fili, Mr. Demetrios Bouraimis, together with the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Stamatios Avramis; and members of the City Council, the representative of the General Secretary of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Soterios Masouris, and others.



The Feast Day of Sts. Cyprian and Justina was truly a wondrous witness of Faith, Community, and Love in the Holy Spirit.

