

❖ METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND FILI  
✦ Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

The Annual Nameday Tribute of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

## “Thanksgiving 2005”

### *Genuine Nobility: Monasticism and Sociability*

The “Thanksgiving” celebrations are the Nameday tributes organized every year by the Brotherhood of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika, in honor of its spiritual Father and Abbot, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian.

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**AS ALWAYS**, and so this year as well, a great throng of the spiritual children of Metropolitan Cyprian—clergy, monastics, brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, and supporters of our monastery—

assembled at this so very significant tribute, which took place on Sunday, 3/16 October 2005, at the Novotel Convention Center in downtown Athens.



Present were all of the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod in Resistance, the delegation from Romania, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, and also the delegation from Bulgaria, under His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza.



The program of the “Thanksgiving 2005” celebration was comprised of five parts with His Grace, Bishop

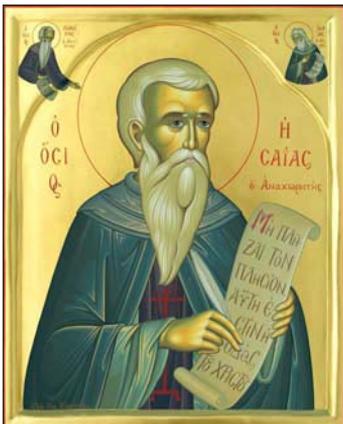
Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis as master of ceremonies. A special team translated all of the audio content of the program into five languages for the sake of the visitors from many countries abroad.

**Part I (twenty-one minutes).** The Byzantine Choir of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina chanted the following hymns: • “We Shall Joyfully Meet,” a hymn of welcome in the Second Tone; • the *Apolytikion* of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in the Third Tone; • verses from the Great Doxology in the Plagal of the Second Tone, by Hieromonk Gabriel Kountiadou; • “I Shall Love Thee, O Lord,” in the Second Tone, by Iakovos the Protopsaltis, arranged by Iakovos Navpliotis; • “Meet It Is,” in the Grave Tone (*eptaphonos*), by Panagiotis the Prussian; • three festive *Prosomoi*a in the First Tone: “O Brethren and Fathers,” “Come Eagerly, Fathers,” and “O Queen of All and Maiden,” (composed as a gift to Metropolitan Cyprian by the monastery Brotherhood).



**Part II (forty minutes).** • Hieromonk Klemes Agiokyprianites delivered the traditional festal address, entitled: “Genuine Nobility: Monasticism and Sociability” (twenty-three minutes), in which he stressed—in addition to other things—the Eucharistic and Ascetic vision of the community of the Church’s members

and of Its ethos, from which emanate nobility in Christ and the sociability of Christians. “Monasticism,” the speaker emphasized, “is precisely a model society, with social members, where love reigns as a Divine gift and a binding tie.” “Thus, the Monastic is a social being *par excellence*.” • Mr. Stavros Konstantopoulos, a veteran member of the lay community attached to the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justi-



na, addressed a “Message of Gratitude” to His Eminence on behalf of his lay spiritual children in Christ, which was fragrant with deep love and respect and truly noble. • Fr. Klemes presented the Brotherhood’s gift to His Eminence on the occasion of his Name-day, which was, once again, a magnificent Icon from the monastery’s Icon Studio: “St. Isaiah the Anchorite.” In the two upper corners are depicted Abba Makarios of Egypt and Abba Isaac the Syrian, the three of them being genuine teachers of courtesy in Christ, as is accentuated in the relative texts of their scrolls. • The master of ceremonies pointed out the second gift: a work offered by the Convent



of the Holy Angels in Aphidnai, Attika. This gift—a precious gold-embroidered banner of Sts. Cyprian and Justina with rich symbolic elements—already adorned the hall at the evening’s tribute, together with the banner of the Holy Synod, last year’s gift from the same convent.



**Part III (twenty-four minutes).** • Mr. Nicholas Polychros, a music teacher and Protopsaltis (First Chanter) at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Kymi-

na, Thessaloniki, opened the third part of the program with a charming “Poetic Welcome,” composed by the same. • The chorus and orchestra ensemble “Orthodox Heritage” performed the following folk songs and instrumental mel-



odies: • “High on the Mountain, Yonder,” in the Forth Tone, set to a traditional melody with verses by Angelos Vlachos. • An instrumental folk dance, *Kavondoritiko*. • “My Tilled Garden,” in the First Tone: a folk song from the Aetolia-Acarnanian region, written by Andreas Dakoulas. • Another instrumental folk dance, *Genovepha*. • “Little Apple Tree on the Bluff,” in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone (*tetraphonos*): a folk dance from Asia Minor, written by Simonos Kara. • An instrumental folk dance, *Rodinos*.

**Part IV (forty-six minutes).** Professor Onouphrios Sochos superbly recited a most compunctious “monastery chronicle” entitled: “The Novice Patapios, the Apples of St. Evphrosynos, and the Oranges of the *Panagia*” (nineteen minutes). • The film “Spiritual Filial Piety” was shown: an original and splendid work with many



powerful spiritual messages. • Mr. Nicholas Polychros, with a great deal of charm, read the astonishing narrative, “The Grateful Stork”: the recounting of an incident which took place in our own day, as briefly related to him by Mrs. Evangelia Smoukly, a resident of Chalastra, Thessaloniki, who at one point gave hospitality to a stork!

**Part V (twelve minutes).** This most edifying Nameday tribute concluded with an • expression of gratitude to all in attendance, • the blessing of treats by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, who also gave some • closing remarks, • the *Polychronion*, and the • distribution of treats and special mementoes as a blessing.

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**“THANKSGIVING 2005”** was truly a divine gift. With “Genuine Nobility”—as it is experienced within the boundaries of Orthodox Monasticism—as its central theme, everyone had an opportunity to express gratitude to our Most Reverend Metropolitan and Abbot Cyprian on the occasion of his Nameday: he who has always been a genuine initiator of his flock into genuine evangelical nobility!

■ To God, the Giver of all that is good and Lover of mankind, be glory, thanksgiving, and worship!

