

The Feast Day and Celebration of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

This year, by the Grace of God, the men's coenobitic Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika (a short distance from Athens) completes its forty-fifth year of existence. Consequently, the event of the radiant Feast Day of its Patron Saints, on 2 October, constitutes a veritable landmark of joyful doxology to God, Who erected the monastery for His Saints to be honored and for people to turn to it as to a Throne of profusely-bestowing Grace, that they might receive abundant mercy and timely help.



Indeed, God's mercy was richly diffused during the monastery's Patronal Feast, and the attendance of Faithful from Greece and abroad was, as always, large and impressive.

As much in the main part of the monastery, the cloister, as in the area for visitors, the festal embellishments invited one to the prayerful expectation of a worthy reception, in fear and love, of the Grace-imbued and sanctifying Presence and Blessing of the wondrous Saints, Cyprian and Justina.

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DURING the festal services of Great Vespers on Saturday afternoon, 1 October 2006 (Old Style), and Orthros and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, 2 October 2006 (Old Style), clergy from many parts of the world and pious worshippers from many regions of our homeland and abroad united their voices and hearts in a communion of prayer and praise of the majesty of God and of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, those





fearsome expellers of darkness.

Our venerable Chief Shepherd, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance and founder and Abbot of the monastery, whose Nameday it was, presided, manifestly clothed in heavenly Grace, while spreading Divine peace to the Faithful, who rejoiced exceedingly over the active participation of their spiritual Father in the Feast. It was truly a great gift of the Saints!

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CONCELEBRATING were the Presidents of our Sister Old Calendar Churches in Romania and Bulgaria: Their Eminences, Metropolitan Vlasie and Metropolitan Photii of Triaditza.

Four other Hierarchs from Romania also participated: Their Graces, Bishops Demosten of Neamț, Ghenadie of Bacău, Teodosie of Brașov, and Flavian of Ilfov, together with three Priests, and a group of Faithful. From Bulgaria, a Deacon and a large group of Faithful were also in attendance.



That bond of perfection, genuine love, prevailed among the fellow strugglers for the Faith of holy and anti-innovationist Orthodoxy, in these evil days of the expansion of ecumenical apostasy, for the support, consolation, and refuge of the pious.



Also participating in this festal Supper of the Lord's Table were all of the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod in Resistance, excepting His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania, on account of ill-health:

His Eminence, Archbishop

Chrysostomos of Etna with his Assistant, Bishop Auxentios of Photiki and Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of St. Gregory Palamas in Etna, California; His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, Australia;



His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora with his monk in obedience, Archimandrite Mariano, from Cagliari, Sardinia; His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni from Pistoia, Italy, with his Hierodeacon Fr. Silvano from Milan; His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis from Sweden; Their Graces, Assistant Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Ambrose of Methoni, as well as many clergy, Hieromonks, Priests, and Deacons.

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THE CHOIRS of chanters, directed by the monastery Fathers, marvelously rendered the hymns of the service in a compunctious and solemn manner, leading those in prayer to spiritual exaltation.

Present, also, were a large number of nuns from the Convents belonging to the Synod in Resistance—including, indeed, a delegation from the Convent of the Holy New Martyr Elizabeth in Etna, California under Mother Elizabeth—lending virginal grace and calling one to remembrance of the need for the timely filling of the lamps of our souls with “oil,” in view of the coming Bridegroom of the Church.

Also in attendance were pious Faithful from the monastery’s parishes and *metochia*, who await with great longing for this opportunity for their spiritual rebirth in the Divine Waters of our monastery’s feast.



In the litany with the Icon and the Relics of the Saints, during which the municipal band of Ano Liosia festively played, a large and impressive procession formed, in which all of the celebrants took part

in good order, as if in a course of passage from earth to Heaven...

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DESPITE the difficulty caused by the municipal and prefectural elections being held that day, many of our political leaders were also present. We mention the following, for the record:

Former government minister, Mr. Athanasios Xarchas; Members of Parliament for Attika, Messrs. Georgios Vlachos and Vasileios Oikonomou; the Prefect of Western Attika, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudaris with the Deputy Prefect, Mr. Angelos Lioses; the Mayor of Ano Liosia, Mr. Evangelos Christophyllakes; the Mayor of Fili, Demetrios Bouraimis, together with the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Stamatios Avramis, and the President and Vice-President of the City Council; the Deputy Mayor of Athens, Mr. Athanasios Spyrakos; the candidate for Head-Prefect of Athens and Piraeos, Mr. Evangelos Papadopoulos; the candidate for Prefect of Western Attika, Mr. Georgios Liakos; the Deputy Mayor of Aspropyrgos, Mr. Iordanes Kamenides; the candidate for Mayor of Fili, Mr. Vasileios Goltsios; the Police Commissioner of Aigaleos; the manager of the police station of Ano Liosia, and other representatives of local organizations.

It is also worth noting the significant help of the police of Nea Ionia in the smooth direction of traffic for the sake of the pilgrims.



- Strengthened, the Monastery continues its hopeful journey from death to life, as well as its daily salvatory witness and ministry for the Truth of the Faith, the sanctification of man, the honor of its glorious and wonderworking Saints, Cyprian and Justina, and the glory of God!

