



The St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild Inaugurates a New Period of Activity

WITH THE BLESSING of our Father and Archpastor, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, and at the exhortation of the Acting President of the Holy Synod (the Metropolitan's proxy), His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, who has lent us his guidance and support, the St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild has established monthly plenary meetings for the purpose of drawing up new schedules of activities and of reviewing its endeavors. These meetings will conclude with a celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

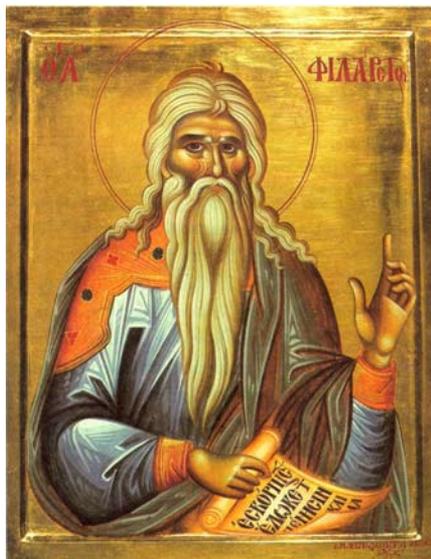
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AT THE first meetings, held on Sunday, November 19, 2007 (Old Style [commemoration of the Holy Prophet Obadiah and the Holy Martyr Barlaam]), at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, following a review of our Guild's endeavors from the time of its foundation, in 2004, to the present day, we drew up a schedule of activities for the month leading up to our next meeting.

We decided to establish ties with the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, the Onesimos Guild, the Society of Large Families, the Society for the Protection of Minors (Piraeus), and the St. Barnabas Guild, in order to assist them in their work.

We also resolved to improve the organization of:

- 1) the free distribution of clothing to our brothers and sisters in need from the already-existing space provided by the *Metochion* of St. Joseph, in Phyle, Attica;
- 2) visits to the homes of the elderly, the ailing, and people in need of help; and
- 3) our visits to prisons, psychiatric institutions, hospitals, and other such institutions.



In brief, the plenary session decided that our Guild should expand its philanthropic activities, for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of our needy brothers and sisters.

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AT OUR second meeting, held on December 12, 2007 (Old Style [commemoration of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker]), at 9 p.m., at the “Annunciation of the *Theotokos*” Spiritual Center (Patron 12, Kolonos, Athens), during the review of the activities

of the preceding month, we addressed the following matters:

1) Our Guild formed a liaison with the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, and during a private meeting with its President, Presbytera Barbara Metallinos, our Guild offered its assistance by contributing to the provision of essential items for children, in the form of milk and diapers.

Furthermore, in order to make the work of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child better known, we have arranged for a lecture by its President, Presbytera Barbara Metallinos, on Sunday, January 27, 2008 (New Style), at 6 p.m. at the “Annunciation of the *Theotokos*” Spiritual Center, on the subject: “**The Rights of the Unborn Child and Maternal Love.**”

2) We made preliminary contacts with the Onesimos Guild and the Society for the Protection of Minors.

3) After we sent letters to food companies asking them to make donations of their products, a few companies responded by sending us various supplies, which we have allocated to our brothers and sisters in need.

4) We decided to hold a charity lottery for the support of our philanthropic aims.

5) We have created small groups for “front line” work in order to enable our Guild to function more effectively.

• We resolved upon carrying out the following by the time of our next meeting:

1) the organization of the lecture by Presbytera Barbara Metalinos and the immediate dispatch of the supplies of milk and diapers for children;

2) the timely arrangement of meetings with the Onesimos Guild, the Society of Large Families, the Society for the Protection of Minors, and the St. Barnabas Guild;

3) the planning of visits to the prisons in Amphissa on December 22, 2007 (Old Style);

4) the organization of two pilgrimages that our Guild is going to make: to the Lavra of the Kiev Caves, in May, and to Romania, in August;

5) the provision of systematic material aid and morale support to families and persons in need of assistance.

• **We** will hold our next meeting on Monday, January 29, 2008 (February 11, 2008 by the New Calendar), at 9 p.m. at the Convent of the Holy Angels, in Aphidnai, Attica.

We concluded our meeting with a contrition-evoking Divine Liturgy, celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, and also with an unexpected and joyful visit to the YGEIA Hospital, in order to receive the blessing of our beloved and much-revered Father and Archpastor, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, at 2 a.m.!

Our Guild's monthly plenary meetings aim at the constant furtherance of our philanthropic work and the spiritual unity of our members.

December 29, 2007 (Old Style)

† Holy Infants slain by Herod

Mrs. Irene Archontoule,

President of the St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild

