



Activities of the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild

## Visits to the Prisons of Amphissa

**W**ith the blessing of our Father and Archpastor, His Eminence Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, and the guidance and direct support of the Acting President of the Holy Synod, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, the St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild carried out its scheduled visit to the prisons of Amphissa on December 22, 2007 (Old Style).



Bishop Cyprian led the delegation, which was composed of twenty-three brothers and sisters in Christ. This was a very moving experience for all of us! The prison warden, Mrs. Helen Karanasou, together with the entire prison personnel, received us with great joy and love. Our meeting with our imprisoned brothers, which took place in the prison yard, profoundly touched us. As Bishop Cyprian stressed in the few words that he spoke to them, they gave us far more than what we gave to them!

He exhorted them to endure their tribulation with patience and to know that they were not alone: that we all daily pray for them to the All-Good God. And, having made a full prostration to them,



he begged their forgiveness, telling them that *we* are all to blame for their tribulation, because of our sins.

Deeply touched, our imprisoned brothers asked for Bishop Cyprian's blessing. Having given them his blessing, His Grace embraced them one by one, promising them that we would not forget them and that more such visits would follow.

Finally, when we had handed out the gifts (around 260 packages) that we had prepared for them, we departed, filled with the love of our

imprisoned brothers.

Our beloved brother in Christ, Mr. Georgios Tepetzikotes, then invited us to his house for a few hours. Together with the splendid meal prepared with special care by the female members of our large delegation, we also tasted, by the fireplace, of the rich spiritual nourishment afforded by the very edifying stories and discussions led by our spiritual Father, Bishop Cyprian.

We had departed at 7 a.m. from the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina and returned to it at 7 p.m., full of spiritual consolation and with the resolution that our Guild should make such a blessed "outing" every month.

December 30, 2007 (Old Style)

† Holy Martyr Anysia

Mrs. Irene Archontoule,

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

