



Holy Theophany 2008

By the Grace of our Savior, Who was Baptized in the Jordan, on Saturday, January 6, 2008 (Old Style), the Orthodox Church of Greece, Holy Synod in Resistance, celebrated Holy Theophany with splendor and solemnity in Oropos, Attica.



The Great Blessing of the Waters, at the pier of Oropos, was performed by His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi—proxy for the ailing President of the Holy Synod, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle—, who also delivered a brief festal [Message](#).



As always, a large crowd of faithful from Athens, Attica, and other regions of our homeland took part, as well as groups of clergy and lay-people from Romania, Sweden, and the United States.

Taking part in this impressive celebration were seven other Hierarchs:

from our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church in Romania, Their Graces, Bishops Sophronie of Suceava and Antonie of Ploesti;

from our own country, His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, who is sojourning in his *Metochion* in Petalidion, Messenia, and the Vicar Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion;

and from Stockholm, Sweden, His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis.

Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, California, represented our American Exarchate.



Clergy from the parishes and monasteries of our Holy Synod and a large number of monks and nuns also took part.

Dozens of young men and women in traditional folk costumes with banners and flags, and also the municipal band of Ano Liosia, led the customary festal procession from the Cathedral Church of St. Xenia to the pier of Oropos and back.

During the threefold chanting of the *Apolytikion* of the Feast, “When Thou wast Baptized in the Jordan, O Lord,” when the Precious Cross was submerged in the waters, according to custom three doves were released into the air by Deputy Minister of Development, Mr. Georgios Blachos, the Prefect of Eastern Attica, Mr. Leonidas Koures, and the Mayor of Oropos, Mr. Georgios Gabriel, respectively. The following, among others, were given a place of honor on the dais for dignitaries:

Members of Parliament for Attica, Messrs. Athanasios Bouras and Basileios Oikonomou; district politicians, Ms. Konstantina Trilike and



Ms. Lydia Ioannidou; the Deputy Prefect of Western Attica, Mr. Angelos Lioses; the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes; the President of the commune of Sykaminon, Mr. Thomas Rousses; Prefectorial and Municipal Councilors, and representatives of regional organizations.



* * *

On the following day, Sunday, January 7, 2008 (Old Style), in continuation of the festivities, a Hierarchical Concelebration of our Holy Synod with the Holy Synod of the Old Calendar Church of Romania took place at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle.



His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, was the principal celebrant, with the participation of Their Graces, Bishops Sophronie of Suceava and Antonie of Ploești, from Romania, Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion, and other clergy, with a large crowd of devout Orthodox in prayerful attendance.

This fraternal communion of Greek and Romanian anti-ecumenists in the Faith and the Holy Mysteries was truly a gift of the unifying and peace-bestowing Divine Comforter, to Whom are due glory and thanksgiving!

