

The Ordination of a Hieromonk from Kenya

On Sunday, January 14, 2008 (Old Style), in accordance with a long-standing desire of our ailing Father, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, and following a recent decision on the matter by the Standing Holy Synod, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone Ordained Father Theophanes to the Priesthood in the new Cathedral Church of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica. Father Theophanes, a brother of the Monastery who hails from Kenya, had been Ordained to the Diaconate the previous day. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, was the principal celebrant at the Divine Liturgy, with the participation of other clergy. A large crowd of devout worshippers was in attendance.

Hieromonk Theophanes (in the world Thomas Kariuki Mutori), was born in Embu, Kenya, in 1963, where he graduated from high school and zealously served the work of the Orthodox Mission from an early age. He came to the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina to dedicate himself to monasticism at the beginning of 2001, at the exhortation and advice of his spiritual Father, Protopresbyter John Njue Njagi, our Episcopal Representative in the region of Mt. Kenya. In December of the same year, he was tonsured a Rasophore Monk and served with self-denial in many arduous monastic duties. During his stay, he learned Greek, among other things, and, in general, everything necessary for the monastic life.

Within the next few months, Father Theophanes will be leaving for his homeland of Kenya, in order to oversee the organization of the first Orthodox men's monastery in this African country.

The necessary preparations have already been made, and Father Theophanes and at least three young Kenyans will form the initial nucleus for the newly-established monastery.

