

## Benefit Dinner for Missionary Work

**W**ITH God's help, the customary annual celebratory Benefit Dinner for the philanthropic and missionary work of our Holy Synod was held on Sunday, January 21/ February 3, 2008, in the large banquet room of the Novotel Convention Center. Attendance at this event was truly impressive.



The St. Cyprian Association of Athens (Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle), in cooperation with the Brotherhood of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica, (Headquarters of the Synod in Resistance), were once again responsible for the organization and oversight of the event.

His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, blessed the opening of the Benefit Dinner, which began at 7 p.m. Mr. Eustathios Simertziades, President of the St. Cyprian Association, delivered a message of cordial greetings, followed immediately by the splendid celebratory program, which was, as always, fundamentally spiritual in character, but also afforded artistic entertainment.

The Master of Ceremonies, His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, was the animating spirit of the event with the short but inspired texts he had prepared and his spirited comments and exhortations, which held everyone's unwavering attention and lent

a tone of cheerful liveliness to the program.

The “Hellenorthodoxe Kleronomiá” chorus and instrumental ensemble (Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle), with its superb musicians—such as the clarinet virtuoso, Mr. Nikos



Philippides—artistically and masterfully rendered traditional folk songs and instrumental melodies from various regions of Greece. Throughout the evening, they offered an unforgettable artistic program, which filled the large crowd in attendance with genuine enthusiasm. Particularly outstanding were the solo performances by Manos Koutsangelides, Nikolaos Polychros, and Eleutherios Karametses, and also the participation of a chorus of children, following a fine poetic recitation by the charming Miss Justina Phokianos.

At the conclusion of the lengthy musical program, a charity lottery was held with great success—with significant contributions by our brother in Christ, Mr. Paulos Poulakos—, during which abundant gifts were offered to the winners.



Bishop Cyprian brought the evening to a close, conveying the greatly esteemed blessing of the ailing First Hierarch of our Holy Synod, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian. He then spoke, in a brief address replete with spiritual reflections, on the duty of philanthropy and missionary work, at a personal level, in our country and abroad. To be more precise, he said that the soul of each person constitutes a wide field for missionary cultivation, and that the interior of our country is in need of missionary work and guidance, while our extensive foreign missionary work demands everyone’s attention and contribution at a material, prayerful, and spiritual level. The achievement of all of these sacred goals requires a frugal lifestyle and avoidance of wastefulness, so that we might depart from our self-cen-



teredness and acquire a compassionate attitude to our neighbor; for it is through love for our neighbor that we will attain to love of God, which we so desire and for which we yearn.

Also present at this successful Benefit Dinner were His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, a number of clergy belonging to our Holy Synod—including Protopresbyter James Waruinge (from Kenya) and Hieromonks Father Mark (from the Congo) and Father Theophanes (from Kenya), brothers of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina—, as well as many dignitaries, among whom were Members of Parliament for Attica, Messrs. Basileios Oikonomou and Nikolaos Kanteres; runner-up Member of Parliament for Periphereia, Attica, Ms. Konstantina Trilike, the Mayor of Ano Liosia, Mr. Christos Pappous, and others.

