

## Ordinations of Italian Orthodox Clergy A Significant Consolidation of Our Mission in Italy

The **mission** of the Holy Synod in Resistance in Italy has existed uninterruptedly for almost two decades, and by the Grace of our Lord has produced significant results, particularly in the last five years.

The progress of this mission was given especial impetus when Archimandrite Silvano (Livi), Abbot of the Holy Monastery of St. Seraphim of Sarov in Pistoia, Italy, and now Synodal representative, aligned himself with the Holy Synod. Father Silvano, who carries out his work in a prudent and sober manner, has garnered the Grace of God in such a way as to accomplish veritable miracles in the blessed endeavor of establishing an authentic and promising Orthodox missionary witness in a country which is the headquarters of Roman Catholicism.

During the past year, 2003, the Italian Exarchate had the blessing and joy of forming new communities and of being joined by new clergy, and at the close of the year this joy culminated in the Ordinations of three Deacons, who have shown self-sacrificing dedication in the arduous ministry of strengthening the Orthodox resistance in Italy.

To be precise, during the month of December, Father Silvano came to Greece, where he was a guest at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, Attika, along with Father Nicola d'Amico, brothers of the Holy Monastery of St. Stephen the Protomartyr in Milan, and several of his lay spiritual children, from among whom the three Deacons were Ordained. The Ordinations were performed at the host monastery by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, who has direct responsibility for the Italian Exarchate.



On Thursday, 12 December 2003 (Old Style), the Feast of St. Spyridon, Bishop of Trimythous, the Wonderworker, Father Silvano (Ricci), a brother of the Monastery of St. Stephen in Abbiategrasso, Milan, sixty-two years of age and a former nurse, was Ordained a Deacon.

On Saturday, 14 December 2003 (Old Style), Stefano Dell' Isola, a married man, forty-nine years of age, was Ordained a Deacon. Father Stefano, a polyglot with an excellent command of Greek and a professional translator, resides in Rome, where a new parish dedicated to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul is now being established—an extremely important fact and one of obvious historical significance.



Finally, on Sunday, 15 December 2003 (Old Style), the Feast of the Holy Forefathers and of the Holy Hieromartyr Elevation, Nicola Ciotta, a married man, forty-three years of age, was Ordained a Deacon. Father Nicola is employed in the Italian Ministry of the Interior.

The new Deacons, who are distinguished for their zeal and enthusiasm, will soon be Ordained Priests, so that they might contribute more effectively to the consolidation of this blessed missionary work, by the Grace and succor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

