

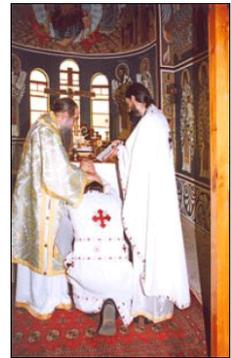
## Missionary Visit to South Africa

**W**ith the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methoni accomplished another pastoral visit to the missionary communities of the Orthodox Resistance in South Africa, accompanied by our brother in Christ, Mr. Anastasios Vasilopoulos.

• **Bishop** Ambrose departed by air on Friday, 21 October 2006 (Old Style) and arrived in Johannesburg, where he was welcomed by Hieromonk Elias (Palmos) and Brother Frumentius, who directs the mission's orphanage.

From there, they headed for the mission headquarters, located at the men's Monastery of the Holy Spirit, near Pretoria. Here, they met with the monastery's Elder, Archimandrite Nazarios, and the first two native seminarians (from Uganda), who are already studying at the Seminary that has begun functioning at the Monastery under the direction of Fr. Nazarios, for the preparation of future clergy for our mission in Africa.

• **On Saturday**, 22 October 2006 (Old Style), during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated at the monastery Church of St. Demetrios, Bishop Ambrose Ordained Paul Vermaak, a married man, forty-nine years of age, and a convert to Orthodox, to the Diaconate.



A visit then followed to the mission orphanage in Atteridgeville, where thirteen orphaned children are already living under the supervision of Brother Frumentius and his family, and where construction work has already begun on the Church of the Holy Archangels. The orphanage is supported by the cultivation of 55,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land, in which natives of the nearby squatter camp (shanty town) take part.





- **On Sunday**, 23 October 2006 (Old Style), a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Church of St. Seraphim of Sarov, in the mission's Greek Community in Johannesburg. Bishop Ambrose liturgized with its rector, Fr. Panagiotis Marino,

and Hieromonk Elias.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Fr. Panagiotis, the Church has been impressively expanded in the last few years with the construction, among other things, of a beautiful Baptismal font for infants and adults.

- **On Monday**, 24 October 2006 (Old Style), during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Church of St. Demetrios, Bishop Ambrose Ordained Deacon Fr. Paul to the Priesthood, and the director of the orphanage, Brother Frumentius Tuabata, who is married, forty-eight years old, and a convert to Orthodoxy, to the Diaconate.

- **On Tuesday**, 25 October 2006 (Old Style), Bishop Ambrose Ordained Deacon Fr. Frumentius to the Priesthood. Fr. Frumentius will serve as rector of the Church of the Holy Archangels.

The same day, the leaders of the native Community of Port Elizabeth arrived from that distant city. This Community is in possession of a Church dedicated to St. Moses the Ethiopian and has recently joined our Holy Synod, from the Monophysite Copts of Egypt, in the manner provided for by the Canonical Tradition of our Church. Its leaders are the community's former Priest, Fr. Angelos Ntamo—married, twenty-eight years of age, and an enterprising person with organizational capabilities—and his father, Simon Ntamo.

- **On Wednesday**, 26 October 2006 (Old Style), the Feast Day of the Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-Gusher and of the monastery Church dedicated to him, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated, during which Bishop Ambrose



Ordained Fr. Angelos to the rank of Deacon.



Three days followed of visits to various sites in this country distinguished for its natural beauty.

• **On Saturday**, 29 October 2006 (Old Style), during the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the monastery Church of St. Demetrios, Bishop Ambrose Ordained Deacon Fr. Angelos to the rank of Presbyter, and his father, Simon, sixty-two years of age, to the rank of Deacon.

Discussions were then conducted with the clergy of the Community from Port Elizabeth concerning the prospects for the expansion of the Orthodox missionary witness in their region.

• **On Sunday**, 30 October 2006 (Old Style), the final Hierarchical Divine Liturgy of this pastoral visit was celebrated at the Church of St. Demetrios, with the participation of the clergy and over one-hundred Faithful of various nationalities (Greek, Cypriote, Serb, Russian, Romanian, and local native tribes). During the Liturgy, Bishop Ambrose Ordained Euty chius Cilibe, a married man, fifty-three years of age, to the Diaconate, in order that he may also serve the Community of Port Elizabeth, with the prospect of working towards the foundation of a new Community in the region.



After the multi-ethnic Liturgy—that supreme Mystery of unity among men in the communion of God—, a festal *agape* luncheon was served for around seventy people, during which speeches were made, greetings were addressed, and traditional songs and dances were performed, in an atmosphere of spiritual joy.

That same evening, Bishop Ambrose and his travelling companion, brother Anastasios, returned by air to Greece, where they arrived on Monday morning, 31 October 2006 (Old Style).

- **The Synod** in Resistance's mission in South Africa has, by the Grace of God, received significant consolidation and shows hopeful signs of more extensive missionary development in this country and, more generally, in the vast African Continent.

