

❖ METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

✠ Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

The Annual Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

ON Wednesday, October 2, 2008 (Old Style), the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle (Athens), Greece, celebrated with splendor its annual Feast Day, a throng of pious pilgrims having hastened, for their fortification and consolation, to honor the memory of these wonder-working Saints, so much loved by the faithful People of God.

The festal celebration at this gathering of clergy and faithful had, as always, a pan-Orthodox character. The Feast was attended not only by pilgrims from Athens and other parts of Greece, but also from many parts of the world. In this way, yet again the blessed union of the Anti-Ecumenist Old Calendarists of Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Provisional Supreme Ecclesiastical Authority of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad was clearly made manifest.



At Great Vespers, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, presided, together with the Holy Hierarchs, His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, from our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania, His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, from our Sister Old Calendar Church of Bulgaria, and His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel of Tauris and Odessa, President of the Provisional Supreme Ecclesiastical Authority of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, as well as the following Hierarchs: His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysos-



tomos and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, from California, in the U.S.; Their Graces, Bishops Demosten of Neamț, Flavian of Ilfov, and Glicherie of Iași, from Romania; His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, from Sardinia; His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos

of Sydney and New South Wales, from Petalidi, Greece; His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, from Pistoia, Italy; His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, from Stockholm, Sweden; and Their Graces, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes (Clement) of Gardikion, from Greece.

Many clergy, monks, nuns, and a large crowd of lay people were also in attendance.

The festal sermon at the conclusion of the Service was delivered by His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, who underscored the significance of a decisive “no” to the proposition from Satan that we venerate him in exchange for worldly power (the first “no” having been directed at Satan by Christ on the Mount of Temptation).



Wednesday morning, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, acting in the stead of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, presided at the festal Divine Liturgy with fifteen other Hierarchs (cited previously). Also taking part were thirty-five Priests (from Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, the U.S., Italy, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia), along with four Deacons and numerous Subdeacons.

Among the large number of believers were included representatives from our monastic institutions, parishes, and communities in Greece and abroad.

During the Communion of the Clergy, His Grace, the Right Reverend Acting President of the Synod delivered the Feast Day sermon, the principle theme of which was “The Fading Vision of Holiness,” which Sts. Cyprian and Justina, the protectors of the Monastery in Phyle, have helped us to revive, so as to reveal the true meaning of life. The full text of this homily, slightly emended, will appear on the official website of the Holy Synod.



After the Dismissal at the festal Liturgy, celebrated by such a large number of Hierarchs and chanted so skillfully by the monastery choir (as they also did Great Vespers), brief festal greetings, filled with spiritual content, were offered by His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie from Romania, His Eminence, Bishop Photii from Bulgaria, and His Eminence Bishop Agafangel of Tauris and Odessa, from the Russian Church Abroad.



There followed the majestic procession of the Holy Icon and the Holy Relics of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, preceded by the municipal band of Ano Liosia, at the conclusion of which the Service of the Blessing of the Five Loaves took place, in front of the newly-constructed Cathedral that serves pilgrims to the monastery.

Among the government officials who took part in the this splendid celebration were the following: Mr. Athanasios Xarchas, former



government Minister; Mr. Basileios Oikonomou, Mr. Athanasios Bouras, and Mr. Nicholas Kanteres, Members of Parliament from Attica;

the Prefect of Western Attica, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudares; the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes; the political representatives Mr. Konstantinos Katsikes, Mrs. Konstantina Trilike, and Mrs. Lydia Ioannidou-Mouzaka; the former Mayor of Ano Liosia, Mr.



Evangelos Christophyllakes; the Vice-Prefects Mr. Angelos Lioses and Ms. Stavroula Demou; the Vice-Major of Phyle, Mr. Stamatios Abramis; the Prefectural Advisor, Mrs. Elle Katsanou; the President of the Mayoral Council of Phyle, Mr. Aristeides Brebos; Mayoral Council Members Mr. Anastasios Arampatzides, Mrs. Ioanna Spyridonos, Mr. Georgios Daktylides, and Mr. Basileios Goltzos; the Director of the Ano Liosia Revenue Department, Mrs. Elene Kourkoube; and Mr. Nikolaos Lazarides, representative of the Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Petros Doukas.



We owe glory to the Holy Triune God for the gift of such a beautiful and greatly beneficial Feast of the Wonder-Working Protectors of our Holy Metropolitan Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.

