

❖ METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

✠ Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

The Thirty-Second Annual Nameday Tribute by our Brotherhood is very successful

## “Thanksgiving 2008”

### Eldress Kypriane, Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels: An Earthly Angel

**T**his year’s traditional annual Nameday tribute, by the monastic family of Sts. Cyprian and Justina and the extended family of the lay community attached to the Monastery—our thirty-second “Thanksgiving” celebration—, held on Sunday, October 6/19, in Athens, had one very striking peculiarity: Our much-revered Elder and Guide, Metropolitan Cyprian, in whose honor these tributes are held, was absent for the first time, on account of his serious illness of many months. Likewise, the Reverend Mother Kypriane, the central figure of this year’s tribute, was also absent (having reposed in the Lord in February of 2000).



Yet, glory to God and thanksgiving to the Immaculate *Theotokos*: The joy in Christ and the *presence* in the Holy Spirit of these two great absentees overshadowed the sorrow generated by this twofold absence, while the “Thanksgiving” tribute’s powerful messages profoundly edified

and moved the audience, who gathered in unprecedented numbers at the Novotel Convention Center, for nearly two hours (7-9 p.m.).



**Present** were all of the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod in Resistance and the Romanian Hierarchs under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, as well as many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, friends, and supporters of our ecclesiastical ministry, among whom were Mr. Nicholas Kanteres, Member of Parliament from Attica; the political representatives Mrs. Konstantina Trilike and Mr. Nikolaos Giannes; the Municipal Councillor for Phyle, Mr. Anastasios Arampatzides; the President of the nongovernmental “Theophilos” Society for Social Welfare, Mr. Navpliotēs; representatives from local Guilds, *et al.*



The tribute’s five-part program, enhanced by several new features, was, as always, a carefully prepared expression of the wealth of our Greek Orthodox tradition.

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**Part I:** The Byzantine Choir of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina chanted the following hymns: • the *Apolytikion* of Sts.

Cyprian and Justina, in the Third Tone. • Verses from the Great Doxology, in the First Tone, by Iakovos *Protopsaltes*. • Verses from the Polyeleos “*O ye servants, praise the Lord...*” in the First Tone, by Balasios the Priest. • “*Praise the Lord, all ye His Angels,*” in





the Third Tone, by Iakovos *Protopsaltes*. • Festal Encomia in the First Tone, “O Brothers and Fathers...,” composed by our Brotherhood.



**Part II:** His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, delivered the festal address, entitled: “Eldress Kypriane, Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels: An Earthly Angel (b. 1908).” • Mother Seraphima, on behalf of the Sisterhood of the Convent of the Holy Angels, address a “Message of Gratitude” to Metropolitan Cyprian. • His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion presented the traditional gift: a superb portrait of the ever-memorable Eldress Kypriane, from the Icon Studio of the Convent of the Holy Angels, working in coöperation with our Brotherhood.



**Part III:** The “Hellenorthódoxe Kleronomiá” Chorus and Instrumental Ensemble, augmented for the occasion with small children brightly dressed in traditional folk costumes, presented, as always, songs and in-



strumental melodies: “I wish to ascend to the heights,” a dance melody from Mytilene. • “My red rose bush,” a song from Aitolia-Acarmania. • “A small, little boat,” “In your deep-blue waters,” folk melodies. • Instrumental melody from Lesbos. • “The nightin-

gale,” a song from Amorgos, in the Cyclades.



**Part IV:** Our beloved Professor Onouphrios Sochos beautifully narrated a representative chapter from the second part of the Life of the Holy Eldress Kypriane, entitled: “The Cross of Obedience.” • A ten-minute film, produced by our Monastery, was then shown, entitled: “Eldress Kypriane, Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels: An Earthly Angel.”

**Part V:** The master of ceremonies, His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, offered words of thanks, greetings, and best wishes; • Bishop Cyprian brought this historic tribute to a conclusion with a brief and compunction-evoking epilogue; • and, finally, treats and small mementoes were distributed.

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The Thirty-second “Thanksgiving” tribute afforded our Brotherhood the opportunity to highlight, for the first time, the charismatic personality of the

venerable Eldress Kypriane (1908-2000), who learned at the feet of our Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian and was his most faithful and genuine spiritual daughter.

**By** the Grace of God, through an impressive harmony of texts, words,

psalmody, music, and images, this tribute showed forth sanctity as poetry, spiritual beauty as a hymn to the Beloved One, and our union with God as a nuptial communion of love, amidst the ineffable illumination of the Holy Trinity.

**Glory** to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the only true and living God, the Giver of every blessing and salvific gift.

