

**The Convent of the Holy Angels:
“Angelic Gatherings” and the
Ordination of a Confessor**

Aphidnai, Attica

December 11-12, 2008 (Old Style)

By the **Grace** of Christ our Savior, Who loves mankind, on Wednesday, December 11, 2008 (Old Style) the second “Angelic Gathering” in Period II of these gatherings (Period I: November 8, 2007 - November 8, 2008) took place at the Convent of the Holy Angels, in Aphidnai, Attica. All of the members of the Sisterhood were present, under the guidance and coördination of His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi and the Convent’s Abbess, the Reverend Mother Taxiarchia.

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A. During these gatherings (which last approximately three hours), a variety of Patristic and contemporary texts regarding *praxis* and *theoria* in Christian life are jointly read, discussed, and analyzed by all of those present, in an atmosphere of prayerful peace and with interludes for psalmody. These texts serve as “Crossings to the opposite bank” (see poster at right), which help us to lead our monastic life with knowledge and with constantly increasing, blameless love for Jesus Christ, our Crucified Love.



Twenty-six such gatherings were held throughout Period I, during which a hundred and thirteen texts were studied. These texts, which are then distributed to the nuns for further study in greater depth, truly constitute a spiritual gold mine and an invaluable treasury of our Orthodox Tradition.

These “Angelic Gatherings,” combined with one-on-one contact with the Sisterhood’s spiritual Father in the form of confession and spiritual counsel, and usually sealed, in the evening, by a Divine Liturgy (at which all of the nuns commune), have become fully established in the life of this holy *cænobion* as a Divine gift and opportunity for spiritual renewal, in conformity with the desire and legacy of our much-revered Elder and Guide, Metropolitan Cyprian, the Convent’s founder (in 1972).



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B. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, celebrated on the eve of the Feast Day of St. Spyridon and of St. Herman of Alaska, Bishop Cyprian, with synodal approval, ordained his concelebrant, Father Jiří Ján, a Confessor, in order that this virtuous Priest might expand his ministry for the consolation of the people of God in Greece and abroad.



The blessing of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit was present and perceptible throughout the entire evening’s proceedings (7 p.m. to 3 a.m.), and the Holy Protection of the Heavenly Hosts gave us great consolation and spiritual repose.

Glory to God for all things!

December 13, 2008 (Old Style)
† Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi