

“I love, therefore I am human”

Ordination of a Presbyter

Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina
December 22, 2008 (Old Style)

By the Grace of the Divine Founder of our Church, and with the blessing of our ailing Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, on December 22, 2008 (Old Style), the Acting President of the Holy Synod, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, ordained Deacon Soterios Gioules—married, the father of five children, and a graduate in civil law from the School of Law of the University of Athens—to the rank of Presbyter. Father Soterios was ordained to the Diaconate on November 24, 2008.



■ **His Grace, Bishop Cyprian**, in his exhortatory sermon at the Ordination, praised the sacrificial self-denial of the Reverend Father Soterios, who is His Grace’s brother in the flesh and who, though he is sixty-two years of age, has—animated with a true ecclesiastical mind-set—committed himself by Ordination to his neighbor, realizing his personal responsibility before others—his brothers—and dedicating himself to the service of his fellow man, drawing strength from the Eucharistic Community of our Church. “I love,” His Grace underscored, “means that I am human, that I commune with God and with my brother.” A Christian cannot encounter his Lord, or be united to Christ the Savior, save only in his neighbor: his brother. Our turning towards another constitutes a heroic departure from egocentrism and, at the same time, the curing of our self-love, the death of isolated man and a new birth through one’s neighbor.



• **At the moving** Liturgy on this day, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, who delivered the sermon of the day, Hieromonks Father Hilarion, Father Kallistos, and Father Pachomios, Hierodeacons Father Joseph and Father Theochares (brothers of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina), and the Reverend Father Constantine Soteriades concelebrated with His Grace, Bishop Cyprian.



After a small reception for Father Soterios in the Major Guest Hall of the Monastery (the headquarters of the Metropolis), amidst the pious faithful and the newly-ordained Presbyter's relatives, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian, along with about forty of his spiritual children, set out for a visit to the local prison at Amphissa, there to meet Christ in the persons of the some two hundred brothers who are inmates there.

