

Benefit Dinner for Missionary Work



BY THE Grace of God, the customary annual celebratory Benefit Dinner for the philanthropic and missionary work of our Holy Synod was held on Sunday, January 26/ February 8, 2009, in the large banquet room of the Novotel Convention Center in downtown Athens, with a very large crowd of supporters and friends of our endeavors in attendance.

The St. Cyprian Association and the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild (Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle), in coöperation with the brotherhood of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica (Headquarters of the Holy Synod in Resistance), were responsible for the organization and oversight of the event.

His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, blessed the opening of the Benefit Dinner on behalf of our ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, who pioneered and inspired our philanthropic and missionary endeavors, as well as the Benefit Dinners that support them. Mr. Eustathios Simertziades, President of the St. Cyprian Association, delivered a message of greetings, followed directly by the program, which was, yet again, fundamentally spiritual in character, but also afforded artistic entertainment.

The Master of Ceremonies, His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, read spiritual and humorous texts appropriate to the event, and, in general, lent a tone of liveliness and charm to the entire program.

The “Hellenorthodoxe Kleronomiá” chorus and instrumental en-

semble (Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle), sang beautiful and expressive folk songs, and well-known musicians (such as N. Philippides on the clarinet, K. Philippides on the lute, and M. Koutsangelides on the kanonaki [a stringed instrument thought to be a successor of the psaltery widely used in Old Testament worship])—played instrumental melodies from various regions of Greece, offering a splendid artistic program throughout the evening.



A charity lottery was also held with great success—with significant contributions by our brother in Christ, Mr. Paulos Poulakos—, during which abundant gifts were offered to the winners.

Bishop Cyprian brought the evening to a close, briefly speaking about our duty, as Christians, to cultivate a spirit of poverty in Christ, philanthropy and compassion.

Also present at this successful Benefit Dinner were His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, a number of clergy belonging to our Holy Synod, and many dignitaries, among whom were Mr. Basileios Oikonomou, Member of Parliament for Attica, political representatives Ms. Konstantina Trilike and Mr. Konstantinos Katsikes, the municipal councillor of Phyle, Mr. Anastasios Arambatzides, and others.

