

## The Feast Day of the Holy Trinity at the Convent of the Holy Angels

**O**n the **Monday** of the Holy Spirit, May 26, 2009 (Old Style), the Church of the Holy Trinity at the Convent of the Holy Angels (Aphidnai, Attica) celebrated its Feast Day, with the blessing and spiritual protection of the Convent's ailing Elder, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian.



His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, was the principal celebrant at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. He was assisted by His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora—who had come from Cagliari, Sardinia, in spite of his fragile health—His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, nine Priests, one Hierodeacon, and six Subdeacons. Bishop Ambrose of Methone was in prayerful attendance.



Abbesses and nuns from other convents, as well as a large crowd of faithful from Athens, Attica, and other regions of Greece, were also present at the festal services, which were accompanied by the compunctious chanting of the Convent's choir.

Before Holy Communion, Bishop Klemes delivered a festal homily, in which he spoke about the *revelation of the Mystery of the Holy*

*Trinity—a Mystery of the unity and Divine Love amongst the Three Hypostases of the One Godhead. We receive this Mystery only to the extent that we experience it in our lives, through our unity in God within the Church, through the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments), and through the holy virtues. In order for us to receive the gift of communion with God and of genuine communion with mankind, and in order that we might be given a spirit of communion of hearts in Faith and Truth, we must first receive the gift of holy humility, through patience and obedience. Likewise, we must demolish the Tower of Babel—the tower of confusion, pride, and self-aggrandizement which we have erected in our minds and which is reinforced by our contemporary civilization—that we might follow in the footsteps of our Savior the God-Man, Who ministers to us, by utilizing the charisms that God has granted to us in sacrificial service to our brethren.*

*One who ministers to others in humility and self-sacrifice “lives” the Law of the Spirit and receives the gift of the Divine Comforter, the Treasury of good things—consolation, joy, and gladness—to which the Most Holy Theotokos bears witness: “My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.”*

*The sinner, on the other hand, banishes the Holy Spirit, suffers the loss of the “Soul of his soul,” and experiences the misery of Divine abandonment, as expressed in the Psalm of David: “I have roared from the groaning of my heart.” Through repentance and humility, however, he calls upon the aid of the Divine Comforter (“Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy princely Spirit”), Who strengthens us in our battle with the passions and the cultivation of bonds of unity and love, that we might be vouchsafed the grace of the Royal Wedding, wherein shines the Light of the Uncreated Holy Trinity, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

Served from two chalices, many of the faithful partook of the Holy Mysteries. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the customary pro-



cession with the festal Icon and the rite of the Blessing of Loaves took place.

Following this bountiful Mysteriological and spiritual “hospitality” of the Holy Trinity, Shepherds and flock sat down to an outdoor *agape* meal. We were also honored by the presence of a number of local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes.



During the meal, young members of the “Hellenorthodoxe Kleronomía” chorus enchanted us with their refreshing folk songs.

Thus, we yet again enjoyed the experience of a genuine Christian festivity, where the sheep of Christ, Shepherds and flock, join together and rejoice in the great blessing of “companionship” in the Holy Spirit, granted to us by the love of God.

†Nun S.