

Pastoral Visit to Sicily*

On Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27, 2009 (Old Style), His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni went to the city of Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, in southern Sicily, to perform the service of *Thyranoíxia* (“Opening of the Doors”) for the new Church dedicated to All of the Italo-Greek Saints.

The Rector of the Church, Father Claudio de Pasquale, and his Presbyteria have made great efforts and sacrifices in order to buy the building and transform it into an appropriately adorned and equipped Orthodox Church.

On the Sunday of the Paralytic, April 27, 2009 (Old Style) at the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Father Claudio, Bishop Silvano presided and delivered a homily, in which he underscored the historical continuity of Orthodoxy in this region, which was forcibly wrested from the true Faith by military interventions, such as those of the Normans. The Normans, in exchange for the kingdom, were ordered by the Pope to return the inhabitants of Magna Graecia to subjugation to Rome. Bishop Silvano also mentioned prominent individuals from this era who struggled on behalf of the Orthodox Faith, and stressed the importance of the presence of this Church and the significance of the Saints to whom it is dedicated.



Feast Day of the Holy Martyr Alexander of Kentoukellai*

As is the case every year, the Feast Day of the Holy Martyr Alexander of Kentoukellai, whose fragrant Relics are preserved at the Monastery of St. Seraphim of Sarov, in Pistoia, was celebrated on the last Sunday of May. St. Alexander is commemorated by the Church on May 14.

On the previous afternoon, Saturday, May 17/30, 2009, the Relics were taken to the Cathedral in Pistoia for the festal services of Vespers and Matins. Bishop Silvano then performed the Blessing of the Waters, into which he immersed a portion of the Relics along with the Precious Cross.

On Sunday morning, May 18/30, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated. Many Orthodox faithful from various parts of Italy were in attendance, having come to venerate the Saint whose memory was being



honored and whose fame is becoming more and more widespread on account of the miracles attributed to him.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a procession with the Holy Relics took place in the square situated in front of the Church.

* Source: *Hagios Kyprianos*, No. 350 (May-June 2009), p. 341.