

The Anniversary of the Consecration of His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion

On Tuesday, October 7, 2009 (Old Style), His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the Church for public worship at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica. Three Priests and one Deacon took part.

This was the second anniversary of his Consecration to the Episcopacy, and at the end of the Divine Liturgy, Bishop Klemes spoke briefly about the event.



He stressed that the Saints honored on this day are the Patron Saints of his Episcopal Ministry. The Holy Great Martyrs Sergios and Bacchos, on the one hand, were distinguished by their martyric perseverance in the Faith and their fearlessness in the face

of death, since they identified their life with Christ and reckoned death to be a “gain” (“to live is Christ, and to die is gain” [Philippians 1:21]). As for the Holy Hieromartyr Polychronios, who was murdered by the heretical Arians during the Divine Liturgy, he is distinguished by his sacrifice unto death for his Confession of the Orthodox Faith. Finally, the Holy ninety-nine ascetic Fathers of Crete, who, according to their desire, all fell asleep in the Lord at the same time, together with their spiritual leader, St. John, who was vouchsafed a martyric death, are distinguished by their bonds of unity and love.

Pastoral ministry in the Church must also be distinguished by a martyric life in Christ and fearlessness in the face of death, by a



sacrificial Confession of the Orthodoxy Faith, and by the unifying power of love.

His Grace besought the faithful in attendance—clergy, monks, nuns, and laypeople alike—to pray that his own ministry might be marked by these holy characteristics, that God might be glorified and that our souls might be adorned with the Grace of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit cleanses, illumines, and sanctifies us

in the Church, according to the measure of our repentance and humility.

Bishops Michael of Nora, Silvano of Luni, Auxentios of Photike, and Ambrose of Methone were in prayerful attendance in the Altar.

Finally, treats were offered to the faithful, best wishes were exchanged, and edifying stories, pieces of news, and other items of interest were discussed in the monastery's reception hall.

