

The Enthronement of an Abbess at the *Hesychasterion* of the Transfiguration of our Lord, in Sykaminon, Oropos

On Bright Wednesday, March 25, 2010 (Old Style), the Feast of the Annunciation of the *Theotokos*, the Holy *Hesychasterion* of the Transfiguration of our Lord, in Sykaminon, Oropos, experienced moments of especial joy and emotion.

At the end of Vespers that afternoon, with the blessing of our ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, performed the Enthronement of the *Hesychasterion's* first Abbess, the Rev. Mother Hilaria.

Participating in this splendid ceremony were Hieromonk Hilarion, Hierodeacon Joseph, and Subdeacon Antonios, all from the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina. The Rev. Mother Taxiarchia, Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels, whose nuns provided the chanting, as well as many faithful—relatives of Mother Hilaria, residents of Oropos, and supporters of the *Hesychasterion*—were in attendance. The president of the Community of Sykaminon, Mr. Thomas Rousses, also honored us with his presence at the ceremony.

In his brief homily, Bishop Cyprian spoke about the three Paschal Feasts celebrated by our Church on this day: the Resurrection of Christ, the Resurrection of our fallen nature through the Incarnation of the Word (the Annunciation of the *Theotokos*), and the Resurrection of our nation by means of the Revolution of 1821, “for Christ, the Holy Faith, and the freedom of our Homeland.”

It was indeed fitting that the gladsome event of the Enthronement of the Rev. Mother Hilaria should take place in the midst of such Resurrectional



joy. For Mother Hilaria and Mother Mariam, her co-foundress, have together proven the magnitude of their fidelity and love in Christ for their spiritual Father, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, having endured a multitude of trials and tribulations since 2003, when they were expelled from the monastery of their repentance because of their loyalty to His Eminence. Now, under the direction of Abbess Hilaria, the small Sisterhood is called upon to offer a great witness to the Faith and the ethos of Orthodoxy.



As a commemorative gift, Bishop Cyprian offered the new Abbess a beautiful Icon of the *Panagia Gerontissa* (“Eldress”), and distributed small Icons of the Annunciation of the *Theotokos* to the faithful. An *agape* meal was served at the end of the ceremony.

May our Transfigured and Resurrected Lord grant many years to Abbess Hilaria and her Sisterhood, and may He abundantly bless their work, through the intercessions of His All-Immaculate Mother and the prayers of our much-revered Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian.

Nun S.

