

## The Feast Day of the Life-Giving Spring at the Convent of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*, Aphidnai, Attica

**O**n Friday of Renewal Week, March 27, 2010 (Old Style), the main Church of the Convent of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*, in Aphidnai Attica, celebrated its Feast Day in Christ our Risen Savior.

The six-member Sisterhood under the Rev. Mother Evpraxia had taken great pains, in preparation for the Feast Day of the Life-Giving Spring, to ensure that order and tidiness prevailed everywhere on the sacred grounds.

This small hesychastic convent, which exudes a fragrance of poverty in Christ and of the spirit of the *Philokalia*, was founded in the early 1970s under its ever-memorable first Abbess, Mother Evgenia (†July 20, 2001). The Sisterhood joined the Holy Synod in Resistance on Cheesefare Sunday of 2009.



The large number of pious worshipers participating in this year's Feast Day celebration experienced moments of spiritual exaltation under the protection of the *Theotokos*, drank from the Life-flowing Waters of the Spring of the Mother of God, and took delight in the chanting by the nuns from the nearby Convent of the Holy Angels.

His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, Acting President of the Holy Synod and the convent's spiritual Father, celebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Father Soterios Gioules, Hieromonk Joseph, and Subdeacons Monk Antonios, Demetrios Giatrakos, and Konstantinos Koukovinos.

Before Holy Communion, His Grace spoke about the “message” of the *Theotokos* in our days, describing two revelations that underscore this message: The Lord desires that the faithful be sanctified by means of prayer for the whole world (a revelation to Staretz Parthenios of Kiev), and that they be humble-minded, full of self-reproach, patient, and meek, not judging others, but rather keeping constantly in mind that “all will enter the Kingdom of Heaven for their righteousness, whereas only I will inherit eternal punishment for my sins” (a revelation to a hermit-Elder with regard to a green-grocer living in the world).

Nearly everyone present partook of the Immaculate Mysteries. At the end of the Liturgy, the Holy Icons of the Resurrection and of the Life-Giving Spring were taken in procession around the Church, during which time the faithful chanted “Christ is Risen” at the grave of the ever-memorable Abbess and Foundress, Mother Evgenia. According to monastic custom, a light *agape* meal was served to all present.



On the occasion of this gladsome Feast of the Mother of God, Mother Evpraxia asked Mr. Evangelos Kousiomites, a pious university professor and doctor specializing in angiology, who greatly reveres the *Theotokos*, to say a few words on behalf of the Sisterhood and the convent’s supporters. With eloquence and grace, and in an unaffected manner, Mr. Kousiomites expressed everyone’s feelings of gratitude to Bishop Cyprian for helping to resurrect the convent.

He then offered His Grace a beautiful and symbolic Icon entitled “The Paternal Embrace,” which depicts the Heavenly Father embracing His prodigal son.

His Grace thanked the doctor for his kind words, but reminded the faithful that everything that has taken place over the previous year for the spiritual progress of the convent is due to the blessing of the Mother of



God and the prayers and toils of our much-revered Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian, who is considered a co-founder of the convent. “Others have labored,” he concluded, “and we have entered into their labor” and reap the succulent fruits of their toils.

Glory to God, through the intercessions of the *Theotokos*, for all things!

