

## The Feast Day of the Transfiguration in Sykaminon, Attica

**O**n Thursday, August 6/19, 2010, the Feast Day of the Transfiguration, the newly-built *Hesychasterion* of the Transfiguration, in Sykaminon, Oropos, Attica, with its four-member Sisterhood under the Rev. Mother Hilaria, celebrated its Patronal Feast.

Fathers Konstantinos Terzakes and Konstantinos Soteriades officiated at Vespers the previous day, during which a procession with the Holy Icon was made through the streets of Sykaminon, with the participation of a large number of faithful.

On Thursday morning, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy together with Father Jiří Ján and Hierodeacon Theochares Hagiokyprianites. The chanting was provided by nuns from the Convent of the Holy Angels, Aphidnai, Attica. Before the Dismissal, the Five Loaves and grapes were blessed in the *Hesychasterion's* courtyard, in accordance with the customary tradition of this great Feast of the Lord.



In his homily, Bishop Klemes spoke about God's original creation of mankind, when man was clothed in Divine Light and remained in this blessed condition as long as he obeyed the Divine Commandment. By his subsequent disobedience, he was deprived of Divine illumination and his mind and heart were darkened.

The Son of God brought about our regeneration by assuming human nature, which He filled with Divine Light. He hid His Glory, however, under a humble human form, though everything He did and taught was Light-filled. Before His saving Passion, Christ revealed on Mount Tabor

His hidden Divinity, which shone forth through His humanity, in order to show and bear witness to Who He truly is, but also to what Glory humans originally possessed and what Glory awaits them. Since Judas was unworthy of this Divine vision, Christ took only the three chief Disciples to the Mount, in silence and prayer, as symbols of purity, zeal, and love. The Lord there revealed His preternatural Divine radiance—the Uncreated Light—with the God-seers of the Old Testament, Sts. Moses and Elias, as His witnesses.

During the Divine Liturgy, in the new Paradise of the Church, just as on Mount Tabor, the Divine Light shines forth through the word of God and the illuminating Holy Mysteries. The Glory of the Godhead is hidden in the humble forms of bread and wine, which, after their consecration, are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

In order for us to receive Divine illumination, the same precondition is again required as in the Paradise of Eden, which the Heavenly Father reveals to us through the cloud: “This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased: *Hear ye Him*”! Obedience to Christ ensures our spiritual transfiguration, and preserves us from falling into sinful disfiguration. By extension, obedience to the true disciples of Christ, our spiritual Fathers and guides, keeps us in Divine Life. Whoever defies them, defies Him Who has sent them, and such a one is deprived of Divine Glory and Gifts.

His Grace’s homily was followed by a splendid festal meal, which served as an opportunity for further spiritual discussions, with examples taken from the Saints of our Church, for the edification of the faithful present at this sacred and blessed Feast and celebration.

