

The Annual Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina

On Friday, October 2/15, 2010, with the help of God, the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle, Attica, yet again celebrated its Feast Day, with the participation, as always, of a large crowd of pious pilgrims, who came to venerate its wonder-working Patron Saints, the Holy Martyrs Cyprian and Justina.

This festal celebration was the occasion for a gathering of clergy and laity not only from Athens and various regions of Greece, but also from many other parts of the world in which our Holy Synod maintains dioceses and missions or in which our Sister Churches have their headquarters.

- On the afternoon of the eve of the Feast, His Grace, Bishop Klimes of Gardikion officiated at the customary Blessing of the Waters in honor of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, whose Holy Relics were set out for veneration.



Later on, at 7:00 p.m., Great Vespers was celebrated with spiritual splendor. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, presided, together with His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, First Hierarchy of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, and the following Bishops: His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, from Cagliari, Sardinia; His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, from Pistoia, Italy; Their Graces, Bishops Antonie of Ploiești

and Dionisie of Galați, from Romania, representing His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie (who is ailing), First Hierarch of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania; and Their Graces, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, from Etna, California, U.S.A., and Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Ambrose of Methone, and Klemes of Gardikion, from Greece.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, First Hierarch of our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, was unable to come, contrary to his wishes, since the requisite visa was not issued in time, but sent festal greetings. Owing to ill health, the following Hierarchs from our Holy Synod were unable to attend: His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania, and His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis.

Also present were many clergy, who came not only from Greece, but also from Romania, Bulgaria, Sweden, Italy, Russia, and the U.S.A., along with many monastics and throngs of the faithful.

His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone delivered a festal sermon at the end of Vespers, in which he reminded everyone of the miraculous foundation of the monastery and its Divinely guided development.



- On Friday morning, at the Festal Divine Liturgy, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, proxy for the ailing President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, was the principal celebrant. The aforementioned nine Hierarchs concelebrated with him, with dozens of Priests, three Deacons, and many Subdeacons also taking part.

Among the innumerable faithful there were delegations from our monasteries, parishes, and communities in Greece and abroad.



During Holy Communion, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion delivered a panegyric on this great Feast Day.

After the Dismissal of the Festal Divine Liturgy, celebrated by such a large number of Hierarchs, at which the monastery choir chanted so impressively (as they also did at Great Vespers), His Grace, Bishop Cyprian offered brief festal greetings, and His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos thanked by name the dignitaries in attendance: the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes; the Mayor of Zephyrio, Ms. Photine Giannopoulou; the Vice-Prefect of Western Attica, Ms. Stavroula Demou; the Vice-Prefect of Eastern Attica, Mr. Charis Damaskos; the President of the Mayoral Council of Phyle, Mr. Aristeidis Brebos; Mayoral Council Members Messrs. Anastasios Arampatzides, Konstantinos Katsilas, and Basileios Goltsios, as well as prospective mayors and municipal councilors and representatives of local organizations.

The fine weather, a veritable Divine blessing, made it possible to



hold the customary procession of the Holy Icon and the Holy Relics of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, which took place in an atmosphere of compunction and spiritual joy.

Refreshments were provided in the monastery's reception hall, where festal greetings were offered by His Eminence, Bishop Photii of



Triaditza, from Sofia, Bulgaria, who speaks Greek, His Grace, Bishop Antonie of Ploiești, on behalf of the delegation of our Romanian brethren, and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, from the U.S.A.

At the conclusion of the celebratory meal which followed, our legal counsel, Mr. Theodoros Theodoropoulos, delivered an inspiring festal salutation.

- Glory and thanksgiving are due to our Holy Triune God for the great gift of this blessed solemnity of our wonder-working Saints



Cyprian and Justina, which is an event of spiritual and inter-Orthodox significance, and also of anti-ecumenist witness.

