

## Visit to Rochester, New York, Parish

**F**OLLOWING his return from Greece, and having joined Archbishop Chrysostomos in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Bishop Auxentios, accompanied by His Eminence, paid a short visit to the Exarchate parish of the Holy Ascension in Rochester, New York. On the weekend of the Feast of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke (October 17 and 18, 2010 [Old Style]), Bishop Auxentios presided at the evening Vigil Service on Saturday evening and, on Sunday morning, at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. He concelebrated with the parish pastor, Father Nicholas Chernjovsky, and Deacon Father Peter Bushunow. The services were beautifully sung by the parish choir, under the direction of Subdeacon Adam Foley. The Feast Day had special meaning for the parish, since its Deacon, like the Apostle Luke, is a physician. On Sunday, a *Molieben* was also served to Sts. John of Rila and John of Kronstadt, whose Feast was the following day and for whom the parish has a special devotion. His Eminence was in prayerful attendance in the Altar at all of the services, and communed at the Divine Liturgy. (*See, below, some of the faithful gathered after the Divine Liturgy.*)



On Friday, October 16, the visiting Bishops made a short visit to the Convent of St. Nicholas in Cleveland, New York, a newly established monastic community under the jurisdiction of our Sister Church, the Russian Ortho-

dox Church Abroad, and under the supervision of the Reverend Mother Agapia, where they were shown inimitable hospitality. After their Hierarchy's arrival in Rochester, the parish and its sisterhood demonstrated their own wonderful and warm hospitality by hosting a small lunch for them. This magnificent show of graciousness was repeated after the evening Vigil Service and then, once more, after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, when His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos addressed some sober but hopeful words to the parish. He spoke about the state of the Church and the necessity of firmness marked by peace, love, and charity in confronting the ills of ecumenism, religious syncretism, and deviations from the path of traditionalism, on the one hand; and, on the other hand, addressed the dangerous temptations of fanaticism, enmity, and divisive factionalism that are so typical of any resistance movement.

On their return to California, the Bishops also visited several scattered faithful in the Midwest: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ferroni (the biological son of the Reverend Mother Elizabeth, Abbess of the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia in Etna, California), in Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Vanderplaats and Mr. and Mrs. Gaius Douglas, in Indiana, all of whom are attached to the St. John the Baptist parish in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

