

❖ METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

✘ Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

## The Annual Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina



**O**n Saturday, October 2/15, 2011, the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica, celebrated its Feast Day with splendor, by the Grace of God. As always, a large throng of pious pilgrims was in attendance, despite the unstable weather. The celebrations brought together clergy and laity from Athens and various parts of Greece, as well as from abroad.

On the afternoon of the eve of the Feast, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion performed the customary Blessing of the Waters in honor of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, whose Holy Relics were also displayed for veneration.



Later on, at 7:00 p.m., Great Vespers was celebrated with spiritual beauty, with His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, presiding, together with His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, from our Sister Old Calendar Church of Bulgaria; Their Graces, Bishops Glicherie of Iași and Dionisie of Galați, from Romania, representing His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie (who was unable to attend, contrary to his wishes); and also the following Hierarchy from the Holy Synod in Resistance: His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, from Cagliari, Sardinia; His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, from Pistoia, Italy; and Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos

of Christianoupolis, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, from Etna, California, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardiki-on.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, First Hierarch of our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, was also unable to attend, owing to circumstances beyond his control, and two of our own Hierarchs, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, were absent on account of health problems.

Also in attendance were many clergy from Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Sweden, Italy, and Russia, monks, nuns, and throngs of faithful. His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion delivered a festal sermon at the end of Vespers.



On Saturday morning, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian presided at the festal Divine Liturgy as proxy for the ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, with the nine aforementioned Hierarchs concelebrating, and dozens of Priests, three Deacons, and many Subdeacons also taking part.



Among the innumerable faithful were representatives from our monastic institutions, parishes, and communities in Greece and abroad.

During the Communion



of the Clergy, Bishop Photii of Triaditza read a panegyric which he had prepared and written in Greek for this great occasion.



After the Dismissal of the festal Liturgy, which was superbly chanted by the monastery's choir of monastics and laypeople (just as at Great Vespers), His Grace, Bishop Cyprian offered brief festal greetings, and His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos thanked by name the dignitaries in attendance, among whom were Messrs. Athanasios Bouras and Nikolaos Kanteres, Members of Parliament for Attica, and the Mayor of Phyle, Demetrios Bouraïmes.



An unexpected improvement in the weather facilitated the customary procession of the Holy Icon and Relics of the Saints, in an atmosphere of compunction and spiritual gladness. The Blessing of the Loaves



(*Artoklasia*) then took place in front of the Church.

Refreshments were served in the monastery's large reception hall, where festal greetings were offered by Bishops Photii of Triaditza, Michael of Nora, Silvano of Luni, and Dionisie of Galați (on behalf of the delegation of our Romanian brethren), Mayor Demetrios Bouraïmes, and our legal counsel, Mr. Theodoros Theodoropoulos. At the meal that followed, Bishop Auxentios also delivered a festal salutation.



On Saturday afternoon, after the reading of the Ninth Hour, Bishop Klemes served the traditional memorial service in honor of the monastery's founders, and then officiated at Resurrectional Vespers. Before the conclusion thereof, Bishop Ambrose spoke about the history of the monastery.

Glory and thanksgiving are due to the Holy Triune God for the great

gift of this blessed celebration of our wonder-working Saints Cyprian and Justina, which is an event of spiritual and inter-Orthodox significance, and also of anti-ecumenist witness.

