

Pastoral Visit to Kenya

The day after Holy Theophany, Friday, January 7/20, 2012, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone embarked on a week-long pastoral visit to the missionary communities belonging to the Holy Synod in Resistance in Kenya. Accompanying him were visitors from Romania who had come to Greece to participate in the celebration of Theophany—Their Graces, Bishops Sofronie of Suceava and Dionisie of Galați, Protopresbyter Pavel Onofrei and his Presbyteria, and two other laypeople—and also our brother in Christ, Mr. Taxiarches Kokores.



On Sunday, January 9/22, the three Bishops concelebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Protopresbyters Father John Njue Njagi and Father James Waruinge, Hieromonk Theophanes (Kariuki) (who received his monastic training at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle), and the rest of our local clergy, at the Church of the Holy Apostle Paul in Kaanja, Embu, with a large throng of faithful in attendance.

On Monday, January 10/23, another Concelebration took place at the





Convent of St. George the Trophy-bearer, in the region of Mt. Kenya. The fifteen-member Sisterhood, under the direction of its Abbess, the Reverend Mother Christonymphe, constitutes a model monastic *cœnobion* in Africa, and also a center of exemplary missionary activity.

During the visit, gatherings and discussions took place with the mission's clergy and faithful, to whom a quantity of English-language ecclesiastical books were donated for the library of the Center for Study and Theological Training that is being founded. The visitors from Romania marveled at the manifest piety, love, and hospitality of the native Orthodox.

The delegation also visited our mission's parishes in Kathangiriri, Makengi, and Gantunduri, as well as the building, now completed, which will shelter, God willing, the monastic Brotherhood of the Dormition of the Theotokos.

The delegation returned at noon on Friday, January 14/27 to Athens, whence our Romanian brethren continued on their return trip to their homeland.

