

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

On Monday, October 2/15, 2012, the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Phyle, Attica (Athens), celebrated its Feast Day in splendid style, with the participation, as always, of a large throng of pious worshippers.

The celebration brought together clergy and laity from the capital and from various regions of Greece, as well as from abroad.

• Since the visiting clergy arrived as early as Saturday, the day before the Eve of the Feast, the Resurrectional Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 1/14, 2012, already took on a festive nature, as a prelude to the Feast proper, in conjunction, as well, with the Feast of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos. His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion liturgized, together with Their Graces, Bishop Antonie of Ploiești and Bishop Dionisie of Galați, representing His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, on behalf of our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania, and also many clergy. Archimandrite Father Glykerios delivered a sermon on Evangelical love.



Present in the Altar in prayerful attendance were His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, Chief Hierarchy of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, His Eminence, Bishop Kirill of Voronezh, from our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad,

under His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel, and also the following Bishops of the Holy Synod in Resistance: Their Eminences, Bishop Michael of Nora, from Cagliari, Sardinia, Bishop Silvano of Luni, from Pistoia, Italy, and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone.

Afterwards, in the reception hall of the monastery, His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, His Eminence, Bishop Kirill of Voronezh, and His Grace, Bishop Dionisie of Galați offered brief festal greetings.



- In the afternoon of the Eve of the Monastery Feast, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion celebrated the customary Blessing of the Waters in honor of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, and the sacred Relics of the Saints were set out for veneration.

Later on, at 7:00 p.m., Great Vespers was celebrated with spiritual magnificence. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi presided, together with Their Eminences and Their Graces, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, Bishop Kirill of Voronezh, Bishop Antonie of Ploiești, Bishop Dionisie of Galați, Bishop Michael of Nora, Bishop Silvano of Luni, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, from Etna, California, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion.

For reasons of ill health, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna (U.S.A.) and His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis (Sweden) could not attend the Feast Day.

Also present were many clergy—in addition to those from our own country—coming from Romania, Bulgaria, Sweden, Italy, and Russia, many monks and nuns, and multitudes of the faithful.

At the end of Vespers, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian delivered a festal homily concerning true repentance as a purification of the heart through

casting out the spirits of hatred and evil from within us and from our households.



• On Monday morning, the principal celebrant at the Festal Divine Liturgy was His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, who was observing his Nameday, as was our ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, whose deputy he is. The ten aforementioned Hierarchs concelebrated with Bishop Cyprian, and dozens of Priests, three Hierodeacons, and many Subdeacons also took part in the service.

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



During the communion of the clergy, His Grace, Bishop Klemes delivered a festal sermon concerning: the repentance of St. Cyprian and his rejection of the darkness of sorcery at the prompting of St. Justina, who lived a life of repentance; the hallmarks of true repentance, namely, attentiveness to one's thoughts, unceasing prayer, and patience in the face of temptations and tribulations; and the miraculous efficacy of St. Cyprian on those who have recourse to him, by recounting a contemporary miracle wrought by the Saint.



After the Dismissal at the Festal Divine Liturgy, celebrated by such a large number of Hierarchs, at which the Choir of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina chanted superbly—as they did also at Great Vespers—His Grace, Bishop Cyprian offered brief festal salutations, His Eminence, Bishop Photii read a message of greetings for the Feast in



Greek, and His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos thanked by name the dignitaries who were present: Mr. Nicholas Kanteres, Member of Parliament for Attica; Ms. Stavroula Demou, Deputy District Administrator of Western Attica; Mr. Angelos Lioses, Director of the Thriasian Hospital and District Councilor; the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes, and the Deputy Mayors, Mr. Stamatios Abrames and Ms. Elle Katsanou; Ms.



Ioanna Spyridonos, the President of the Municipal Community of Phyle; and others.

Thereafter, the customary procession of the Holy Icon and the Holy Relics of Sts. Cyprian and Justina was held, amid an atmosphere of compunction and spiritual gladness, and the Blessing of the Loaves was celebrated in front of the Church.



Refreshments were provided in the monastery's large reception hall, where His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, His Grace, Bishop Antonie of Ploiești, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, and Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes, the Mayor of Phyle, offered greetings on the occasion of the Feast.

At the ensuing meal in the *Trapeza*, the monastery's attorney, Mr. Theodoros Theodoropoulos, delivered a brief message of festal salutations.

- On Monday afternoon, after Vespers, the traditional Memorial Service for the founders of the monastery was celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone preached a homily.

- Glory and thanksgiving are due to our Holy Triune God for the great gift of this blessed Feast of the Wonderworking Saints Cyprian and Justina, which constitutes an event of spiritual and inter-Orthodox importance, and also a witness to anti-ecumenism.

