

Pastoral Visit to Kenya

By the Grace of our Lord, and with the blessing of our ailing Metropolitan Cyprian, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone made yet another pastoral visit to Kenya, from January 25 to February 1, 2013 (Old Style). He was accompanied by Apostolos Phykiyas, who served as Subdeacon.



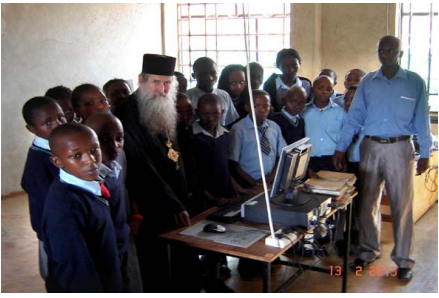
During the course of this visit, Bishop Ambrose liturgized with the local clergy belonging to our Synod at the Churches of the Apostle Paul, in Kaanja, and of the Archangel Michael, in Kathangiriri. On Sunday, January 28 (Old Style), His Grace liturgized at the Convent of St. George, in the region of Mt. Kenya, where he tonsured three of its sisters Rasophore Nuns with the names Makaria, Paisia, and Christonymphe. The Sisterhood, under the direction of its Abbess, the Reverend Mother Christonymphe, numbers nineteen nuns, and is the largest Orthodox monastic community in Africa.



Bishop Ambrose also held gatherings with the local clergy (six Priests and two Deacons), and again with the Diocesan Council, in order to resolve various issues; surveyed the ongoing construction work at two of our Churches, in Makengi and Gatunduri; and gave advice for the better functioning of the local mission.



His Grace performed the Blessing of the Waters for the beginning of classes at the St. Phanourios School in Embu—which school is the property of the pious physician, Dr. John Thiongo—where many of the two hundred registered students are Orthodox.



This six-day pastoral visit was a source of strength for our small Flock in Kenya, which struggles, with God's help, to bear witness to our anti-innovationist Faith in this country of Eastern Africa.

