

The following report on a lecture in Phyle, Greece, attended and endorsed by those in our Church in Greece who have actively undertaken charitable, educational, and social activities in Athens and throughout their country, will be of great interest to our faithful in America and to all English-speaking Orthodox Christians.

The Rôle of Women in Contemporary Society: A Lecture in Phyle

Compiled by Mene Pirpinia

With the phrase “Give me good women so that I can give you good families, and give me good families so that I can give you good societies,” Merope Spyropoulou, Professor *Emerita* at the University of Athens, in a lecture delivered in the old town hall of the municipality of Phyle, summarized the important rôle played by women throughout history. This was the third in a series of lectures on the contemporary family.

Professor Spyropoulou spoke about the enormous contribution of women to the culture that any people must have, underscoring the need for modern Greek women to radiate, reflect, and cultivate all that constitutes the meaning of culture. She censured the image that contemporary women present by imitating rôle models which do not befit them, and characterized as sacred the difference between the two sexes, which are equal but not the same.

“The authentic woman must eschew the rôle models provided by contemporary society, shun whatever is deceptive, and seek after the true value of things,” Professor Spyropoulou emphasized, underscoring, by the same token, that men must show their respect for the values professed by proper women.

For their part, both the President of the Municipal Council of Phyle, Ioanna Spyridonos-Pine, and the President of the St. Philaret [Orthodox Women’s] Guild, Eirene Archontoule, adverted to the difficult task that women and mothers are called to perform in the modern world, and also to the stamina and patience that they display. ◻

In the photographs below, Professor Merope Spyropoulou speaks about the rôle of women. In the audience are His Grace, Bishop Cyprian and the Mayor of Phyle.

