

❖ METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND PHYLE

✠ Convent of the Holy Angels, Aphidnai

Festal Agrypnia **in Honor of the Holy Bodiless Powers**

“There opens a crevice, which leads us to a new dimension of life:
the dimension of eternity”

On **Thursday**, November 8/21, 2013, the Convent of the Holy Angels, near Athens, Greece, celebrated its Patronal Feast with solemnity.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance and the spiritual Father of the Sisterhood, presided at the festal All-Night Vigil (7:30 p.m. to 3 a.m.) in honor of the Bodiless Powers, the Patrons of the convent, assisted by the convent’s serving Priest, Father Angelos Mourlas (whose Nameday it was), Father Soterios Gioules, Hierodeacon Joseph Hagiokyprianites, and Subdeacons Demetrios Giatrakos and Apostolos Phykias.

The Reverend Mother Eupraxia, Abbess of the nearby Convent of the Panagia Myrtidiotissa, with members of her Sisterhood, as well as sisters from the Convent of St. Paraskeve (Acharnai, near Athens), and a large throng of pious faithful were in prayerful attendance.

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The service in honor of the Bodiless Powers was enriched by the chanting of a *Polyeleos*, *Encomia*, and *Evlogetaria* specially written for the convent’s Feast Day.

As His Eminence noted, “it is worth sacrificing a bit of our rest.... It is needful that we also sacrifice something, because Someone two thousand years ago sacrificed Himself for us.”

Before Holy Communion, Metropolitan Cyprian spoke about the ministry—unknown to most—of the Holy Angels: our initiation into the Mystery of the Name of God, that we might bear the Name of God.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the





majority of the faithful having communed, there was a procession with the Holy Icon of the Patrons of the convent around the *Katholikon* (main Church).

Our Chief Shepherd then distributed to the faithful, along with the *Antidoron*, an instructive leaflet relating the spiritual experience of a small girl who, in her Christian purity and simplicity, once met her Guardian Angel.

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In the afternoon of the same day, His Eminence celebrated a full Memorial Service for the departed founders of our convent: our Father, Metropolitan Cyprian, of blessed memory (†May 17, 2013) and our Mother Kypriane, of blessed memory (†February 15, 2000), the convent’s first Abbess.

We were then vouchsafed to inaugurate Period VII of our edifying “Angelic Gatherings” with a special blessing, chanting the “Supplicatory Canon for the Repose of our Father and Hierarch Cyprian, of blessed memory,” to whose prayers, as Metropolitan Cyprian the Younger is wont to say “we owe everything we had, everything we have, and everything we will have.”

The Sisterhood expressed profound feelings of gratitude and Christian devotion to the person of its spiritual Father, who, “though having submitted to being burdened with the very weighty cross of his new ministry, yet is once again together with us in our midst as our Father and Guardian Angel.”



At this first Gathering of the new period, two main subjects were discussed, with the help of nine texts from our Patristic and contemporary tradition: a) “recovering” the “Soul of our soul”—to wit, the acquisition of the Grace of the All-Holy Spirit;

and b) Christology and Divine Providence: the Dogma of the Incarnation of the Divine Word, the culmination of which is Pentecost, i.e. the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the People of God.

In conclusion, the Sisterhood chanted, with great gratitude for the profusion of such Heavenly gifts, the Resurrectional *Sticheron*, “What shall we render unto the Lord,” unto Whom are due all glory, praise, and thanksgiving!

Mother Seraphima