



- The ripe fruits of our Union

An Auspicious Experience of Unity Acharnai, Athens, March 16/29, 2014

With the accomplishment, by the Grace of the Lord, of **Union** with our brethren under Archbishop Kallinikos (Tuesday, March 5/18, 2014), this ecclesiastical relationship has at once begun to yield ripe spiritual fruits.

As a now-unified **Synod**, the holy Hierarchs, along with our lay brothers and sisters, as a unified body of the faithful, are developing an affinity in Christ, which reinforces this **Union**, endowing it with quality and depth.

In this climate, the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle, Athens, hosted His Eminence, Metropolitan Demetrios of America and the four persons accompanying him (two Deacons and two laymen) for several days, which afforded an opportunity for mutual spiritual enrichment.

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In particular, Metropolitan Demetrios and those with him were present and prayed with us at the customary **Vigil of repentance**, which is celebrated every Friday, into the early hours of Saturday (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.), at the Convent of St. Paraskeve in Acharnai (Athens), Greece.

Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle liturgized, together with a Priest (Father Konstantinos Soteriades), a Hierodeacon (Father Joseph Hagiokyprianites), and a Subdeacon (Apostolos Phykiyas), with the par-



ticipation of many faithful (monks, nuns, and laypeople), almost all of whom communed of the Immaculate Mysteries.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Demetrios offered words of edification to the faithful attending the Vigil and gave them his blessing. He remained inside the Altar in prayer, communing of the Holy Mysteries, as did all of those accompanying him, and impressed us by his humble and dignified bearing.

Following the compunction-evoking Vigil, the Abbess of the Convent, the Venerable Mother Justina, provided a meal, in honor of all those in attendance—Hierarchs, Priests, monks, nuns, *and* laypeople—in the convent’s large reception hall, where four of our spiritual children were given leave to express their feelings and thoughts, both about the Union and about the presence of His Eminence, Metropolitan Demetrios in our midst.

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It was truly a very **auspicious experience of unity**, which increased the rich fruits of our Union from the perspective of our unified Body of True Orthodox, for the sake of offering a witness to life and truth, “that the world might believe.”

Glory to God for all things!

† *Metropolitan Cyprian*
March 16/29, 2014