



**The Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery  
of Sts. Cyprian and Justina  
Phyle, Athens  
October 2, 2014 (Old Style)**

**T**he Patronal Feast of Sts. Cyprian and Justina was celebrated with especial splendor at the Monastery dedicated to these Saints in Phyle, Athens, the headquarters of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle, belonging to the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece.

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**On the afternoon** of Tuesday, October 1/14, 2014, Great Vespers was celebrated, with the Ruling Hierarchy, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, presiding.

**Officiating** together with His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian were Their Eminences, Metropolitan Justin of Euripos and Euboia and Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia; His Eminence, Archbishop Sofroniy of St. Petersburg and Northern Russia, from the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel; Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava and Bishop Dionisie of Galați, from the True Orthodox Church of Romania, under His Eminence, Metropol-



itan Vlasie; and Their Graces, Bishop Photios of Marathon, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, Bishop Michael of Nora (from Sardinia), Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, and Bishop Auxentios of Photike, from Etna, California, Assistant to His Eminence, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Etna.

**Also present** were a large number of clergy, including some from abroad (Romania, Italy, Kenya, the U.S.A., and Brazil), as well as a large multitude of monks, nuns, and pious faithful.

**The monastery** choir, under the direction of Hieromonk Father Dionysios Hagiokyprianites, a musicologist, chanted in a festal style and with Churchly magnificence.



**Before the** Dismissal, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian delivered an edifying homily entitled “Our Dignity in Christ and the Predominance of Vulgarity: The Antidote of Purifying Repentance,” *in which he emphasized his distress at observing the predominance, in our day, of what is sordid and vulgar in practically all aspects of life, and his sorrow at the challenges posed to us by the Saints who were being celebrated, aiming us at avoiding participation in this process of spiritual corrosion, so as to become witnesses of Divine love and compassion to the world by living lives of repentance and by calling the world thereto.*

**The blessing** experienced as a result of the ecclesiastical Union achieved by the Greek Old Calendarists this past March was evident throughout this festal service.

**At a small** gathering which followed in the monastery’s large reception hall, in an atmosphere of Paschal joy and gladness, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian received greetings on the occasion of his Nameday from Their Eminences, Metropolitans Justin and Chrysostomos and Archbishop Sofroniy, and also from Their Graces, Bishops Photios and Auxentios.

**On the morning** of Wednesday, October 2/15, 2014, Matins for the Feast was served, followed by a Festal Divine Liturgy concelebrated by a multitude of Hierarchs.



**The principal** celebrant was His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos, and taking part were Their Eminences, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, His Eminence, Archbishop Sofroniy of St. Petersburg and Northern Russia, Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava, Bishop Dionisie of Galați, from Romania, and Their Graces, Bishop Gregory of Christianoupolis, Bishop Photios of Marathon, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, Bishop Michael of Nora, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, and Bishop Auxentios of Photike.

**Almost fifty** Priests and ten Deacons joined the Hierarchs in celebrating the Liturgy.

**A huge throng** of faithful and many dignitaries were in attendance.





**His Grace**, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion preached a sermon, in which he cited the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina as a place of the perpetual glorification of God and spoke about how the Saints whose Feast was being celebrated were called to the Divine life through the renunciation of sorcery and wantonness; about the correct attitude and pious way of life which the Saints, by their example, enjoin us to exhibit, in order to elicit the Grace of God and to put our invisible foes to flight; and about the good transformation engendered by Grace, which is experienced in the tranquil haven of the Monastery in love and truth. His Grace also offered greetings to the faithful who were celebrating the Feast.

**Many of the** faithful communed, following the requisite preparation, and from three Chalices.

**After the** Dismissal, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian thanked His Beatitude and those participating in the Feast Day, expressing his feeling that he was experiencing the Mystery of Pentecost.

**In addition**, His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus read a communiqué concerning the proclamation by our Holy Synod of the sanctity of the Venerable Elder Hieronymos of Ægina (†1966), which was due to take place the following morning on Ægina.





**There followed** a procession of the Holy Icon and a portion of the Holy Relics of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, along with the Blessing of the Loaves, which was celebrated in front of the Church.



**In a short** address, His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos offered his greetings and blessings, and also expressed his emotion over the fact that he had received the Grace of the Episcopacy at this Holy Monastery thirty-five years ago. He recalled his old bond of friendship with the now Metropolitan of Oropos and Phyle and expressed his respectful wishes for the repose of the ever-memorable Metropolitan Cyprian, the founder of the

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Monastery, emphasizing the foundation of the true Faith in our ecclesiastical Union and the fact that, in spite of our unworthiness, our Lord will not abandon His beleaguered Church or the suffering Greek fatherland.

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**Thereafter**, at a reception in the monastery's large reception hall, Their Graces, Bishop Michael of Nora and Bishop Dionisie of Galați expressed their salutations.

**In the cloistered** confines of the monastery, the customary festal meal was served to the Hierarchs, the clergy, and many of the male pilgrims, while mementos and refreshments were distributed to all who had come to this place of pilgrimage.

**It was truly** a most blessed Feast Day, characterized by inter-Orthodox love and unity in the Truth, an inestimable gift of God!

