



“For the Edification of the Church”

- Annals • Pastoral Activities • Presentations •
- Gatherings • Homilies • Sermons • Feasts •
- Pilgrimages • Social Ministry • Publications •

■ A noble vision and an urgent necessity

A First Meeting for the Foundation of Private Orthodox Schools

Phyle, Attica, December 4, 2015 (Old Style)

By the Grace of God, on Thursday, December 4, 2015 (Old Style, commemoration of the Holy Great Martyr Barbara and of St. John of Damascus), with the blessing, presence, and guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, we, a group of clergy and laity, gathered at the offices of the Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle in order to discuss the proposal of our brothers in Christ Nicholas Mannes and Aristeides Arapes to found a private Orthodox primary school, which would impart genuine Christian education and instruction to our children.



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The pastors, teachers, and parents present described their experiences and concerns, likewise expressing, to be sure, those of their own children.

Taking into account the dismal state of education in general (school environment, content of lessons, disparagement of



children's spiritual identity), and also recognizing that we should have taken measures *long ago*, we enthusiastically embraced the vision of the creation of a preschool, kindergarten, and primary school—as an initial

stage—invoking God's help, through the prayers of the original visionary of such an undertaking, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle of blessed memory († May 17, 2013).

We decided to found a Guild that will take action to advance and realize this vision. A committee composed of three members (Hierodeacon Father Gabriel Hagiokyprianites, the teacher Nicholas Mannes, and Photios Athanasopoulos) which will continue to investigate the matter, was designated to that end.

After some discussion, we also decided to work towards the establishment of a Panhellenic Association of Orthodox Scholars, which would be involved in social intervention and also assist in the multifaceted work of our Church.

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We are conscious of the boldness of such an undertaking, given the unpropitious climate of the current spiritual, social, political, and economic crisis.

We thus call upon the prayers of all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and would gladly accept suggestions from any-





one interested in the vision of a genuine Greek Orthodox education, and also their personal participation in the various activities involved therein, in conjunction with the aforementioned committee.

Our second meeting has been set for the end of January of 2016. With this in mind, we will endeavor to organize a presentation on the occasion of the Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs (January 30), with a special speaker. Announcements to that effect will be posted in good time.

Participants:

† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle
Father Angelos Mourlas
Father Jiří Ján
Father Soterios Gioules
Hierodeacon Father Gabriel Hagiokyprianites
Deacon Father Leonidas Pittos
Nun Seraphima Hagioangelitissa
Presbytera Angelike Terzake
Presbytera Evsebia Pittou
Nikolaos Mannes
Aristeides Arapes
Georgios Anastopoulos
Photios Athanasopoulos
Nikephoros Koukobinos
Athena Choriatopoulou-Tounda
Charikleia Routse
Eirene Archontoule
Aikaterine Kostoula
Orsa Papasoteriou
Aimilia Outou