



## The Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Athens October 2, 2016 (Old Style)



**T**he Patronal Feast of the Holy and glorious Martyrs Cyprian and Justina was yet again this year an exceptional benefaction of our Lord to the monastery dedicated to these Saints in Phyle, Athens.

Founded fifty-five years ago, the monastery has, since 1979, served as the Headquarters of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle, belonging to the Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece.

The pleasantly warm weather that prevailed during the two-day festivities contributed to the spiritual beauty of the Feast as a true gift of God.

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**O**n the afternoon of Friday, October 1/14, 2016, Great Vespers was celebrated, with His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis presiding, at the invitation of the Ruling Hierarch, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, whose Nameday it was. Officiating together with them were His Eminence, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava, Bishop Iosif of Botoșani, and Bishop Dionisie of Galați (from the True Orthodox Church of Romania, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie); His Grace, Bishop Anthim of Cimișlia





[Moldova](from the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, under His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel); and Their Graces, Bishop Ambrose of Methone and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion.

Also participating were the Abbot of the Monastery, Archimandrite Father Theodosios, a large number of Priests and Deacons from our Metropolis and from our Sister Churches of Romania and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, 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, yet compunction-evoking, style.

Before the Dismissal, His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis delivered a festal homily regarding the Life of the Saints being honored, and conveyed greetings to Metropolitan Cyprian and the monastery Fathers.

Throughout Vespers, and again the following day, the faithful had the opportunity to venerate the Grace-filled Relics of the Saints being honored, which were brought from the monastery cloister for the occasion.



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**O**n the morning of Saturday, October 2/15, 2016, Matins for the Feast was served, followed by a festal Divine Liturgy concelebrated by a multitude of Hierarchs.

The principal celebrant was the Ruling Hierarch, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, as His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos was unable to attend.

Also taking part were Their Eminences, Metropolitan Geronotios of Piræus and Salamis, Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, and Metropolitan Photios of Demetrias, Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava, Bishop Iosif of Botoșani, and Bishop Dionisie of Galați (from Romania), His Grace, Anthim of Cimișlia (from Moldova), Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, as well as dozens of Priests and Deacons.



A large throng of faithful and many dignitaries filled the large Church, spilling out into the courtyard and praying with stillness and reverence.

At the end of Matins, Bishop Ambrose tonsured our Brother in Christ, Apostolos Phykias, a Reader. Metropolitan Cyprian then ordained him a Subdeacon. A married man, Subdeacon Apostolos was one of the most beloved spiritual children of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle of blessed memory, and also of our current Metropolitan. Now thirty-one



years old, he served as an acolyte in the Altar from the age of thirteen!

Before Holy Communion, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion delivered the festal homily.

With exemplary order and compunction, very many of the faithful communed, following the preparation set forth by the Tradition of our Church and in accordance with the exhortation of our Metropolitan.



After the Dismissal, Metropolitan Cyprian thanked the Hierarchs representing the Church of Romania and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, the Hierarchs of our Holy Synod, the clergy, those who toiled in the preparations for this splendid Feast Day—and first and foremost the Abbot of the Monastery, Archimandrite—the representatives of the local government and of the Greek Parliament, as well as all of the pious worship-

ers who came from various regions of our homeland to render honor to the Saints.

Metropolitan Cyprian also prayed for the repose of the ever-memorable Founder and first Abbot of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle of blessed memory, who remains, from the heavenly abodes, the true guide and visionary of the spiritual



work not only of our Monastery, but also of our Holy Metropolis.



There followed the customary 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.

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**Thereafter**, at a reception in the monastery's large reception hall, Their Graces, Bishop Dionisie of Galați (on behalf of the Romanians) and Bishop Anthim of Cimișlia (on behalf of ROCA), and His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis (on behalf of the Holy Synod), as well as the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Pappous, Parliament Member Mr. Bouras, and the former Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Bouraïmes, all expressed their salutations.

In the monastery cloister, the customary festal meal was served to the Hierarchs, the clergy, and many of the male pilgrims.

The Fathers took care to distribute mementos and refreshments to all who had come to this place of pilgrimage.

Throughout the course of the day, until late in the evening, and again the following day—a Sunday—a stream of pilgrims came to the monastery to render honor and thanksgiving to our Saints.

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**This** was indeed yet another very blessed Feast Day, characterized by inter-Orthodox love and unity, to the glory of God and our Holy Protectors, Sts. Cyprian and Justina, and also for the benefit of the innumerable pious pilgrims.

Glory to God for all things! Holy Trinity, glory to Thee!

