



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ The reestablishment and renewal of an edifying tradition

“Thanksgiving 2016” “Gratitude with Gladsome Voices” October 10, 2016 (Old Style)



On Sunday, October 10, 2016 (Old Style), with the blessing and guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, our Holy Metropolis held, with great success, a special tribute entitled “Grat-

itude with Gladsome Voices,” which drew a large audience.

This event marked the reestablishment and renewal of a very edifying tradition, namely, that of the “Thanksgiving” celebrations, under the aegis of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle.

As the Presenter, Ms. Justina Phokianou, reminded us: “These annual tributes began in 1976, for the purpose of honoring our spiritual Father and Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory, on the occasion of his Nameday.”

In their renewed form, these “Thanksgiving” tributes envisage: ● *the revitalization*



of our hearts with the dew of the **prayers of our reposed Elder**;
• the rekindling of our love with the fresh streams of **gratitude** to his venerable person; and • the quenching of our thirst with the clear waters of his **spiritual legacy**, to the glory of God.



Present at the event, which was held in the auditorium of the Spiritual Center of the Municipality of Phyle, were His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle; Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos *emeritus* of Christianoupolis, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion; the Reverend Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Archimandrite Father Theodosios; many monks and nuns belonging to our Holy Metropolis, and a large number of lay people.



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In the program, which lasted nearly three hours, expressions of gratitude to the person of our Elder and Metropolitan of blessed memory—by means of a short film, an address, psalmody, poems, and the presentation of a special gift—were inter-

persed with ecclesiastical hymns, folk songs and melodies, and an impressive theatrical rendition of the Life of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.

Especially moving were the short film, “Grateful Memories” Part I: 1976-2016; the presence of His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos, who presented the gift (alms for the repose of the soul of our departed Elder) on behalf of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina; and the epilogue by our Most Reverend Metropolitan, which contained excerpts from his address at the original “Thanksgiving” celebration, held in 1976.



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The message of this year’s tribute was clear: as “children of gratitude,” let us become conscious of, and explore in greater depth, the invaluable spiritual legacy passed down to us as a gift by our spiritual Father and Metropolitan of blessed memory. And let us cultivate, with gratitude and a sense of responsibility, the many “talents” bequeathed to us, that we might offer them to Christ and His Church.

It was noteworthy that, though many of those in attendance did not know our ever-memorable Metropolitan personally, they



have already developed a filial spiritual relationship with him, such that they actively and enthusiastically took part in the “Thanksgiving” celebration, which we pray may ever contribute to a spirit of unity, thanksgiving, glorification, renewal, and restoration!

