



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ “All seeds of love that are sown will, sooner or later, blossom forth.”

Third Recognition Dinner for the Volunteers that Serve the Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle Phyle (Athens), November 22, 2016 (Old Style)



On Tuesday, November 22/ December 5, 2017, with the blessing and participation of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, there took place, by the Grace of God, the

third recognition dinner honoring the volunteers that serve our Holy Metropolis with selflessness, self-sacrificial love, and self-denial in its ecclesiastical, charitable, and cultural work.

The recognition dinner once again took place at the “Avrames” restaurant in Phyle, which was graciously put at the disposal of our Metropolis by its owner, in an atmosphere of familial simplicity and joy in Christ.

The St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women’s Guild organized the event, assisted by our Metropolis’ association of volunteers.

The program was presented by Ms. Maria Pietre.

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The President of the Guild, Mrs. Despoina Livizou-Pagkale, greeted everyone with words of love.



A twenty-five minute film was then shown, with video clips of a number of our Holy Metropolis' various activities during the period of 2016-2017, at which our volunteers lent their services.

Aimila Goufa-Outou, the head of the Coordinating Committee of our Holy Metropolis, spoke about "The Benefits of Volunteerism," drawing the attention of the audience to the abundant emotional and, especially, spiritual fruit reaped by those who serve their brothers and sisters as volunteers.

The first part of this "family" gathering concluded with the grateful acknowledgement by name of our new volunteers—the numbers of which grow by the day—as well as of those who are always ready to lend a helping hand in emergencies.



During the fasting meal—prepared, of course, by our volunteers—the "Hellenic Orthodox Heritage" chorus and instrumental ensemble skillfully performed a number of folk songs.

Little Dorotheos Toumba helped draw the winning raffle ticket for an Icon of the Holy Trinity.

At the end of the evening, His Eminence gave thanks to God and those in attendance for the gift of this familial gathering, at which, he pointed out, was spiritually present our ever-memorable Metropolitan Cyprian, the founder of the St. Philaret the Merciful charitable guild.



He then exhorted both those pres-

ent and those absent not to lose heart in the face of the increasingly difficult economic situation, but to dare, inspired by evangelical love, to sacrifice themselves yet more for the sake of helping our brothers and sisters in their needs. He reminded them of the prototype of our service: **Christ our Savior, washing the feet of His Disciples.**

Finally, His Eminence gave everyone his paternal blessing and a memento.

Glory and thanksgiving to our most merciful Lord for this blessed gathering, which cultivated bonds of love between the members of our Metropolis' various organizations, and renewed the vision of ecclesiastical volunteerism, to the glory of God and the salvation of all.

