



■ From the missionary field in Germany and Austria

Thyranoixia and First Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of St. Robert

Enlightener of Bavaria

November 11-13, 2018 (Old Style)



After the pastoral visit to southern Germany and Austria made this summer (14-18 July, 2018 [Old Style]) by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle and Father Angelos Mourlas, the latter concluded his report of the visit as follows:

“We returned to Greece...with the joyful conviction that the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria will not abandon our small flock, but will consolidate our humble missionary efforts, such that, after approximately twelve centuries, they will once again be commemorated in an Orthodox manner in the place where they first sowed the word of Christ.”

By the Grace of our Lord and the blessing of His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos, the Saints have already fulfilled the expectations of our Shepherds, and our Most Reverend Metropolitan, together with Father Angelos Mourlas and a small delegation from Greece, made a third pastoral visit, from 11 to 13 November (Old Style),





to Bavaria and Austria, in order to celebrate the *Thyranoixia* (“Opening of the Doors” ceremony) and first Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of St. Robert, which is located in Köstendorf, Salzburg, Austria.

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Upon landing Saturday morning at the Munich airport, Metropolitan Cyprian and his travelling companions drove directly to Seekirchen, Austria, where they were met by Father Angelos, who had arrived previously, and Mr. Kyriakos Kyriakides, the warden of the Chapel of St. Robert, and his charming family, who offered everyone hospitality at his home.

- **A**round 6 p.m. that afternoon, Metropolitan Cyprian celebrated the *Thyranoixia* of the Chapel, assisted by Father Angelos, in an atmosphere of compunction and resurrectional joy.

There followed Great Vespers, at which time the Service to St. Robert, composed by our Most Reverend Metropolitan, was chanted for the first time.

- **O**n Sunday, November 12 (Old Style), around fifty of the faithful came from Austria and Germany, some of them traveling up to eight hours in order to participate in the joy of this first Divine Liturgy in the humble, but beautiful, Chapel of St. Robert, and to pray together and receive the Immaculate Mysteries.

Following Matins, our Most Reverend Shepherd celebrated the Divine Liturgy together with Father Angelos. The small chapel of the Holy Enlightener of Bavaria “expanded” in order to contain the multitudes of Holy Angels, who celebrated together with the prayerful congregation the opening of this first Genuine Orthodox Church in Austria.

Metropolitan Cyprian spoke about this miracle in his brief sermon, mentioning that such an undertaking had been characterized by some as an “intangible dream” just one year ago. His Eminence gave thanks to God, our Most Holy Theotokos, and the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria, and also all those who had contributed





in one way or another to the actualization of this miracle.

He expressed special gratitude to Father Angelos, who is greatly loved by the faithful, for his zeal and self-sacrificial love in his missionary ministry, and wished him health and length of days for the benefit of our small flock in Germany and Austria. In conclusion, he expressed the wish that in the near future we will experience a second miracle of the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria: the opening of a second Church, in Munich.

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During the Agape meal that followed this spiritual banquet, His Eminence encouraged the faithful to remain firm in their Genuine Confession, despite the various difficulties and the clamor of the so-called official jurisdictions, who have lost their dogmatic conscience.

Finally, Metropolitan Cyprian exhorted the faithful to strive diligently to combine dogmatic exactitude with the ethos of the Gospel, and in particular with humility and love in Christ towards all, without exception. Such conduct will lead them to their personal union with Christ, and render them shining examples to their well-disposed fellow men.

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That afternoon, Metropolitan Cyprian and those with him returned to Munich, where they once again ate at the house of our hospitable faithful.

They made a quick visit to the Church of the Transfiguration of our Savior (Salvatorkirche), built in 1493 and given by King Ludwig I of Bavaria (1786-1868, reigned: 1825-1848), father of King Otto of Greece, to the Greek Orthodox community of Munich in 1828. They also visited the Königsplatz ("King's Square"), with its neoclassical buildings that are modeled on the architecture of ancient Greece. The Propylaea, the city



gate, evokes the monumental entrance of the Propylaea for the Athenian Acropolis. Ludwig I financed the building from his private funds as a symbol of the friendship between Greece and Bavaria, as well as a monument to the Greek War of Independence.



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On Monday, November 13 (Old Style), the delegation from Greece left for their homeland, moved and gladdened by the creation of a new Church of God, for the consolidation, strengthening, and spiritual consolation of our small but vibrant community in Bavaria and Austria.



To our God,
the Giver of all good things,
be glory and thanksgiving!

