



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ A special day in the history of our convent

The Sacred Disentombment and Translation of the Remains of the Ever-Memorable Eldress Kypriane

Foundress of the Convent of the Holy Angels

On the Occasion of the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
July 13, 2020 (Old Style)



On Sunday, July 13, 2020 (Old Style), our Church celebrated, together with the commemoration of the Fathers of the Seven Œcumenical Synods, the Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel, that heavenly messenger to man of the salvific and glad tidings of our Most Merciful God.

This day is observed with special honor by the Sisterhood of the Convent of the Holy Angels (Aphidnes, Attica), under the Reverend Mother Taxiarchia, since the Archangel Gabriel has repeatedly manifested his solicitude and protection to the Sisterhood, and, in 1976, wondrously appeared to the foundress of the Convent, Eldress Kypriane of blessed memory, during the Vespers service for the Feast Day of the Archangel in the Convent’s first chapel.

This year, however, the Divine Liturgy was not celebrated in the small chapel, but rather in the Church dedicated to St. John the Wonderworker, located under the *Katholikon*, since the sacred disentombment and translation of the remains of the ev-

er-memorable Eldress († 15.2.2000) would take place there later that day.

Her Elder and spiritual Father, Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory († 2013), recognizing the sanctity of her life, had directed that she be buried within this Church for the consolation of the Sisterhood.

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A. His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle presided at the All-Night Vigil, assisted by the Abbot of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Archimandrite Theodosios, Father Jeremias Cvak (from the Czech Republic), Hierodeacon Gabriel Agiokyprianites, and Subdeacon Christos Katsoudas.

At the conclusion of the Great Doxology, Metropolitan Cyprian, the spiritual Father of the Sisterhood, tonsured Novices Helen, Boryana, and Elena Rasophore Nuns. The sisters, who are of French, Bulgarian, and Russian descent, received the monastic names Anthousa, Justina, and Irene, respectively.



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In his homily, Metropolitan Cyprian gave thanks to God for the gift of the Divine Liturgy on the commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seven Œcumenical Synods, and spoke briefly about these Synods, also making reference to the Eight Œcumenical Synod under St. Photios the Great and the Ninth during the time of St. Gregory Palamas:

We are grateful to these great Fathers, since they preserved for us the Truth of the Faith. Without the Truth of Faith, there can be no healthy phronema (mindset) and healthy practice of this faith in our lives. Life in Christ cleanses the heart and renders it capable of receiving Grace and the illumination of the All-Holy Spirit, through Whom the dogmas of our Faith are set forth. Heresy, conversely, engenders an unhealthy and misguided mindset and expression of our faith.

In this perspective, the Apostle Paul exhorts us not to be unfruitful; we must demonstrate our faith by our works and personal ascesis, but

also by our offerings to others: “And let our people also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful” (Titus 3:14). Let us be eager to assist the needs of our brethren so that we will not be deprived of spiritual fruits. Are we not able to give alms? Let us be merciful; let us take care not to criticize and judge our brother....

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B. That afternoon there took place the disentanglement and translation of the remains of the ever-memorable Eldress. Metropolitan Cyprian presided, assisted by Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, Archimandrite Theodosios, and clergy belonging to our Holy Metropolis.

Many faithful who had personally known the Reverend Mother Kypriane and been edified by her holy example came in order to be present at the ceremony, albeit from a distance, owing to a lack of space within the Church and the government’s restrictive measures.

After Vespers, Bishop Klemes served the Small Blessing of the Waters, which would subsequently be used, mixed with wine, to wash the bones.



A *Trisagion* was then chanted at the grave, after which the translation of the remains began, as the choir of nuns sang the Supplicatory Canon to the Holy Angels.

Metropolitan Cyprian soon came up into the courtyard bearing the blessed skull of the ever-memorable Eldress in a specially prepared case. The faithful hastened to venerate it with compunction and to receive from His Eminence a beautiful book about her life

compiled from various sources, including the spiritual testimony of Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory. The work is entitled: *Eldress Kypriane, Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels: An Earthly Angel*.



Finally, the Reverend Mother Taxiarchia and her Sisterhood treated everyone to a festal meal outdoors, and expressed their gratitude to them for their love and veneration for the person of their much revered and beloved Mother of blessed memory.

This was truly an exceptional gift of God! Everyone in prayerful attendance sensed the abundance of Divine Grace during these holy moments, and glorified our Lord and God, Who is glorified in His Saints.

*by the Sisterhood of the
Convent of the Holy Angels*





To our Venerable Mother († 15.2.2000)

A Springtime Wast Thou

In thy memory we have gathered
blossoms of the almond tree,
coming here to chant
from the depths of the heart....

Thy countenance
the smile of Springtime,
the lily of purity
glistening amidst its light....

Celestial, indefatigable,
angelic in bearing,
inundating thy spiritual scions
with an abundance of benedictions.

In every matter, the personification
of humility and innocence,
a fatherly blessing, beyond all,
thou didst hold in high esteem....

Sweet and noble,
with blessings filled,
like an abiding Springtime,
the psalmody of the forest....

Mother unfading in memory,
attendant of the Angels,
to thy memory we proffer
a teardrop and awe....

Together with the flowers of the field
let them be mingled,
that their fragrance might permeate
thy sacred memory....

*And let come the Angels of God,
with their golden vials,
that they might bear this fragrance there,
into thine embrace maternal.*

*And though Springtime should fade,
we will dwell among the flowers,
for thou wast a Springtime of Christ,
rising above the passions...!*

*In thy memory we have gathered
blossoms of the almond tree,
coming here to chant
from the depths of the heart....*

A humble entreaty from a soul
who was deemed worthy to sense
beneath the shadow of our ever-memorable Mother
the fragrance of that “other” Springtime.
November 30, 2000, † St. Andrew the Apostle

