



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ At the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

The Ordination of Deacon Father Apostolos December 12, 2020 (Old Style)

On Friday, December 12, 2020 (Old Style), the Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, the faithful belonging to our Holy Metropolis, and in particular those attending the Divine Liturgy at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Phyle, Greece, experienced a twofold joy: participation in the festal Orthros and Divine Liturgy [Churches, closed to the faithful during the lockdown, were allowed to open for New Calendar Christmas—*Trans.*], and the Ordination to the Diaconate of our beloved Brother in Christ, Subdeacon Apostolos Phykias, who has served as an acolyte in the Altar from the age of thirteen.



His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle was the principle celebrant, assisted by Their Graces, Bishop Ambrose of Methone and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion.



Many faithful, standing inside and outside of the Church, joined their prayers with those of the monastic Brotherhood, both for the sake of the world and for the divine strengthening of the new Deacon of our Church.

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During the communion of the clergy, Bishop Klemes delivered a festal sermon on the life and miracles of St. Spyridon, including contemporary miracles that demonstrate the pleasure the Saint takes in genuine Orthodox confession and ecclesiastical life.



At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Cyprian spoke about the special message of the Feast of St. Spyridon, which is renewed every year, since our innovator brethren celebrate Christmas on that very day: It is our duty to pray with profound concern for their return to the Tradition of the Church and their renunciation of the panheresy of Ecumenism. "Speaking the truth in love," let us combine our struggle for the confession and practice of genuine Orthodoxy with loving prayer for the restoration of the Church Calendar and the ecclesiological precepts of the Holy Fathers.

His Eminence also said, with regard to the Ordination of Father Apostolos, that the new Deacon and his wife, Diakonissa Angelike, both grew up in the "courtyard" of the monastery, were nurtured on the spiritual legacy our ever-memorable Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory, and accepted with simplicity of heart, humility, and faith in God the invitation of the Church to the ministry of the faithful.

Previously, he recalled, it was reckoned a great blessing for a family to offer one or more of its children to God, either as monastics or clergymen. Parents and young people should not be swayed by the spirit of the world, comfort, and of self-love, but rather should show their gratitude to our Mother Church by their dedication to God and their readiness to accept whatever vocation our Lord offers them.



With that in mind, Metropolitan Cyprian expressed his best wishes and gratitude to the families of Father Apostolos

and Diakonissa Angelike for their spiritual care of their children.

After the Divine Liturgy, the members of the "Agiokyprianites family" hastened to greet and express their heartfelt best wishes to the new Deacon of our Church.



To the Divine Founder of the Church,
our God Who loves mankind,
be glory and thanksgiving.
Amen!

