



The Consecration of the Church of Sts. Cyprian and Justina at their Monastery in Phyle, Greece July 12, 2021 (Old Style)

On the fifth Sunday of St. Matthew, July 12, 2021 (Old Style, commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilarios) the Grace-filled Consecration of the Metropolitan Cathedral Church of the Holy Martyrs Cyprian and Justina was celebrated with compunction and solemnity at the monastery of the same name in Phyle, Attica.



This magnificent new Church was built over a period of several years by the Fathers of the monastery, assisted by the contributions of the faithful, a number of whom were actively involved in its construction. May the Lord God remember their labors and bestow on them heavenly things in recompense for things earthly!

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On the evening of Saturday, July 11, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle was the principal celebrant at Great Vespers. There followed a service for the preparation of the deposition of the Holy Relics of the Martyrs, which were brought on a covered Diskos from the monastery's small *Katholikon* to the Holy Table of the Church being Consecrated. The Relics consisted of portions of the Holy Martyrs Cyprian, Tryphon, Mamas, Charalambos, Alexander of Centumcellae (Roman Italy) and the monastic Martyrs of the Monastery of Daou, Pentele.

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On the morning of Sunday, July 12, His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos presided at Resurrectional Orthros with the



participation of Their Eminences, Metropolitans Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, Gerontios of Piræus and Salamis, Chrysostomos of Attica and Boiotia, Gregory of Thessalonike, and Photios of Demetrias; His Eminence,

Bishop Auxentios of Etna and Portland; Their Graces, Bishops Sofronie of Suceava and Dionisie of Galați (from the True Orthodox Church of Romania), Ambrose of Methone and Klemes of Gardikion.

Also participating were the Reverend Abbot of the Monastery, Archimandrite Father Theodosios, and clergy from our Holy Synod in Greece and abroad, as well as from our Sister Church of Romania.

Local dignitaries honored the monastery Brotherhood with their presence: the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Pappous; the former Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Bouraïmes; the Deputy Mayor of Phyle, Ms. Liakou; and the President of the Municipality of Phyle, Mr. Vlachos, among others.

A throng of faithful, monastics and laypeople alike, came to receive sanctification and Grace from the sublime Mysteries being celebrated.

The choir, under the direction of the distinguished chanter and music teacher Mr. Nicholas Polychros, sang with compunction, and throughout the lengthy Service of the Consecration and the Divine Liturgy an atmosphere of prayerful stillness and reverence held sway.

During Orthros, lists of names of the living and departed brought by the faithful and clergy were placed in the cavity in the center of the Holy Table. These names will henceforth be commemorated at every service.

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After the Exaposteilaria and before being vested, Archbishop Kallinkos read the two great kneeling prayers of the Service of the Consecration.





At the end of the Great Doxology, everyone exited for the threefold procession around the Church with the Relics, carried in turn by the Hierarchs, accompanied by the chanting of special hymns. Each time the procession reached the closed doors at the front of the Church, the appropriate Epistle and Gospel passages were read.

After the dialogue “Open the gates...” and the Entry into the Church and the Altar, Holy Chrism was poured into the small box containing the Holy Relics, which was then deposited in the cavity of the Holy Table. During this time, the clergy and chanters alternately extolled the Founders of the Church.



As the intercessions and psalmody continued, the cavity was sealed and the Holy Table washed with blessed water, sprinkled with fragrance, and anointed with Holy Chrism. Archbishop Kallinikos, vested in a white garment called a *savanon*, together with the other Hierarchs wearing white aprons, rubbed the Holy Chrism over the entire surface and sides of the Holy Table with the palms of their hands.





Finally, the Holy Table was wiped dry with white cloths and Icons of the Holy Evangelists were fastened onto each of its four corners.

Now sanctified, the Holy Table was covered with a white cloth called the *katasarkion* and then with ornate vestments, upon which were placed the *Antimension* and the Gospel Book.

There followed the sanctification of the Church: Archbishop Kallinikos sealed the four ends of the Church (east, west, north, south) by using a long pole to trace the monogram of Christ (Chi-Rho) on the walls with Holy Chrism.



The Service of the Consecration was completed with the lighting of a perpetual vigil lamp on the Holy Table.



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On the sanctified Holy Table of the newly christmated and glorified Church of the Saints, the first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated with splendor and compunction.

During the Communion of the clergy, Bishop Klemes delivered a brief festal sermon in which he explained the procedure and significance of the ceremony of the Consecration. Many of the faithful partook of Holy Communion.



At the Dismissal, Archbishop Kallinikos extended his best wishes to those in attendance, and in particular to Metropolitan Cyprian. The latter in turn thanked the Archbishop and the other Hierarchs, the representatives of the local government, and all those present.

He also expressed his filial gratitude to the person of our ever-memorable Elder and Founder of the newly-Consecrated Church, Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory († 2013), stressing that we his children are indebted to him for “everything we had, everything we have, and everything we will have...”

All present received mementos of the Consecration and fragments of the sanctified cloths used during the ceremony to wipe dry the Holy Table.

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At the gathering that followed in the monastery’s large reception hall, Archbishop Kallinikos, the current Mayor of Phyle, and the former Mayor of Phyle all expressed brief festal greetings.

Metropolitan Cyprian thanked all those both present and absent, expressing the wish that unity and love in Christ be preserved and strengthened both within our ecclesiastical community and in the local public administration, for the strengthening and support of all before the great challenges facing us at a national, social, and ecclesiastical level.



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Glory and thanksgiving are due to our Lord Who is wondrous in His Saints, and Who yet again bestowed upon us the gifts of His Grace through this sacred ceremony.

The presence of holy Hierarchs, clergy, monastics, and lay-people from abroad (United States, Sweden, Romania, Slovakia, England, and Belgium), who travelled from their distant homelands despite the difficulties arising from the pandemic, confirmed the mission of the Holy Monastery to foster inter-Orthodox unity in truth, confession, and love: a mission inaugurated by its ever-memorable Founder and continued for nearly half a century.

This was truly a preternatural experience and an inestimable gift from Heaven! Glory to the Divine Founder of the Church, Who loves mankind!

*“The Church is shown to be a many-lighted heaven
that doth shine a guiding light upon all the faithful.
Wherein while standing we cry aloud:
Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.”*

