



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ At the Offices of our Holy Metropolis

The Small Blessing of the Waters at the Outset of the New Ecclesiastical Year September 2, 2021 (Old Style)



On Tuesday, September 1, 2021 (Old Style), the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle presided at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, the headquarters of our Metropolis. At the conclusion of the Liturgy a special Doxology was chanted for the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year.

On Wednesday, September 2 (Old Style), at the joint Offices of our Holy Metropolis and the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild, Metropolitan Cyprian celebrated the “Service of the Small Blessing of the Waters at the Outset of an Ecclesiastical Ministration.”

In prayerful attendance were the Reverend Father Konstantinos Soteriades, Father Soterios Gioules, Hieromonk Father Dionysios and Hierodeacon Father Gabriel (from the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina), the Reverend Mother Taxiarchia, members of the Board of Directors of the St. Philaret Guild, Mrs. Athena Choriatopoulou-Touda (President), Mrs. Aimilia Goufa-Outou (Treasurer), Mrs. Justina Phokianou-Gliate (Secretary), many of the faithful, and members and supporters of the multifaceted work of our Holy Metropolis.



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After the Service, Metropolitan Cyprian extended his best wishes to the Board of Directors of the Guild and to those who participate in the endeavors of our local Church, exhorting them to perform their work

with love and humility:

“We thank the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, our Most Holy Mother of God, and St. Philaret, for vouchsafing us to begin the new ecclesiastical year with prayer, beseeching that the new cycle of activities of our Holy Metropolis be blessed, despite the difficulties encountered on a social level since last year.

“Every tribulation for us Christians is a blessing, because we are thereby called to repentance, awareness, maturity, and a return to the way of our Lord. We so-called Christians, however, for the most part have proved ourselves unworthy of this trial. We did not progress spiritually, we did not set a good example, and we did not offer a good witness to the world. We became obsessed by strange thoughts and did not exhibit an ecclesiastical mindset.

“With the blessing of the Holy Fathers and the prayers of the Shepherds, the monastics, and the faithful, may we comprehend the message that the present tribulation is sending us for our edification. May God be merciful and bring it to an end, condescending to our weakness. May He give peace to all and wisdom to our political leaders.

“Let us walk together in unity, despite the obstacles, in humility and love, giving thanks to our Lord, Who honors us when He calls us to service.”

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Metropolitan Cyprian then blessed with Holy Water the faithful, the offices, the storage rooms, and the area where goods are distributed.

Glory and thanksgiving to our God, to the Father of Lights, from Whom cometh down every good and perfect gift!

