



“For the Edification of the Church”

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“When saw we Thee...in prison and came unto Thee?” (St. Matthew 25:39)

Pilgrimage and Visit to the Detention Center of Amphissa September 4, 2021 (Old Style)



On Friday, September 4, 2021 (Old Style, commemoration of the Holy Prophet Moses the God-Seer), with the blessing, participation, and guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, the St. Philaret

the Merciful Guild made its seventeenth visit to the Detention Center of Amphissa.

As usual, the members of the Guild had collected and packaged personal care items, donated to the Guild by private individuals and stores, for distribution to 180 of our imprisoned brothers.

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Owing to the restrictive measures still in effect, it was not possible for the customary large group of lay people and monastics to visit the Detention Center, nor was it permitted to meet the prisoners personally in the facility’s courtyard, as was the custom during previous visits.

At the Detention Center, the Director, the Warden, and their coworkers cordially greeted our Most Reverend Shepherd and the small group with him, who delivered the care packages.





Everyone expressed the wish that God grant an end to the tribulation of the pandemic, which has created particularly difficult challenges in the management of correctional facilities.

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After this brief but blessed visit, the group made a stop on their return journey at the legendary Gravia Inn. At this place on May 8, 1821, a group of 120 Greek revolutionaries, led by Odysseas Androutsos, repulsed an Ottoman army of 8,000 men under the command of Omer Vrioni.

This battle is considered important to the outcome of the Greek War of Independence, since it forced Turkish commander Omer Vrioni to retreat to Euboea, leaving the Greeks to consolidate their gains in the Peloponnese and capture the Ottoman capital of the Peloponnese, Tripoli.

The local authorities have created a replica of the historical inn, which includes an audio-visual reenactment of the battle. After exploring the grounds, the group went to the nearby Odysseas Androutsos monument, where they prayed for the repose of souls of the heroes of Gravia.



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The group of pilgrims returned home with feelings of joy in Christ and thanksgiving to our Lord for the blessing of these two visits, with the wish that it will soon be possible once again to organize collective pilgrimages, both to our incarcerated brethren and to monuments of the Greek Revolution of 1821.

