



“For the Edification of the Church”

- Annals • Pastoral Activities • Presentations •
- Gatherings • Homilies • Sermons • Feasts •
- Pilgrimages • Social Ministry • Publications •

The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Angels at their Convent in Aphidnes, Attica

† Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, May 9, 2022 (Old Style)

On the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, May 9, 2022 (Old Style), with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, the spiritual Father of the Sisterhood, the *Katholikon* (main Church) of the Convent of the Holy Angels, in Aphidnes, Attica, was consecrated.



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On Saturday afternoon, May 8, Great Vespers was chanted, at which His Eminence, Metropolitan Ambrose of Methone presided. This was followed by the service for the preparation of the deposition of the Holy Relics of the Martyrs, which were carried, on a covered Diskos, from the *Katholikon* to the Holy Table of the convent’s previously consecrated Church of the Holy Trinity. The Relics consisted of portions of the Holy Martyrs Charalambos, Theodora of Alexandria († April 5), Alexander of Centumcellae, and monastic Martyrs from the Monastery of Daou, Pentele.



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On Sunday morning, May 9, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian presided at Resurrectional Orthros, with the participation of Their Eminences, Metropolitan Gregory of Thessaloniki, Metropolitan Klemes

of Larisa and Platamon, Metropolitan Ambrose of Methone, and His Eminence, Bishop Auxentios of Etna and Portland, as well as Archimandrite Father Theodosios (Abbot of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina), and clergy belonging to our Holy Metropolis.

Also in attendance were the Reverend Mothers Xene (Convent of the Dormition of the Theotokos, in Thrakomakedónes, Attica), Paisia (Convent of St. Irene Chrysovalantou, Lykovrysi), Nikodeme (Hesychasterion of the *Panagia Portaitissa*),



Magdalene (Convent of St. Philothei, Sweden), as well as nuns from the Convent of St. Elizabeth (Etna, California), the Convent of the *Panagia Myrtidiotissa* (Aphidnes), and the Convent of St. Paraskeve (Acharnes).

Local dignitaries also honored the convent's Sisterhood with their presence: the Deputy Prefects of Western Attika, Mr. Evangelos Liakos and Mr. Stamatios Poulis; the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Christos Pappous; the former Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Mr. Bouraïmes; the Deputy Mayor of Phyle, Ms. Eleni Liakou; the Deputy Mayor of Aphidnes, Mr. Ioannes Demas; and the President of the Municipality of Phyle, Mr. Dionysios Vlachos, among others.



A throng of pilgrims came to receive sanctification and Grace from the sublime Mysteries being celebrated.

The choir of nuns chanted with compunction, and the faithful participated prayerfully throughout the Service of the Consecration and the Divine Liturgy.



During Orthros, the 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.

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



At the end of the Great Doxology, everyone exited the Church. The clergy and choir proceeded to the Church of the Holy Trinity to take the Holy Relics for the threefold procession around

the *Katholikon*, to the accompaniment of special hymns and readings.

Following the rite of the Entry into the Church, the Relics of the Martyrs were anointed with Holy Chrism as “Eternal Memory” was sung in honor of the founders of the Church, and then were deposited in the cavity of the Holy Table and sealed.

The Holy Table was then washed, sprinkled with fragrance, and anointed with Holy Chrism, which the Hierarchs, wearing white aprons, rubbed over its entire surface and sides with the palms of their hands. They then wiped The Holy Table dry with white cloths, attached Icons of the Holy Evangelists to its four corners, and covered it with the *katasarkion* (a large





white cloth) and the vestments, upon which were placed the *Antimension* and the Gospel Book.

Finally, Metropolitan Cyprian sanctified the Church by sealing its four ends with Holy Chrism, tracing the monogram of Christ on them using a long pole.

With the lighting of the perpetual vigil lamp on the Holy Table, the Service of the Consecration was completed: the Church of the Holy Angels, entirely covered in iconography, a House of Light, replete with spiritual fragrance, henceforth has its own Angel, Guardian of the Holy Altar....

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The first Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was then celebrated on the sanctified Holy Table. Before Holy Communion, Metropolitan Klimes delivered a festal address, describing the procedure of the Consecration and how the faithful worship God “in spirit and in truth.” Many of the faithful partook of the Immaculate Mysteries.



At the Dismissal, Metropolitan Cyprian thanked the Hierarchs, the representatives of the local government, and all those present. He spoke briefly about the Founders of the Convent and its newly consecrated Church, the ever-memorable Metropolitan Cyprian († 2013) and Eldress Kypriane († 2000) of blessed memory, who also laid the spiritual foundations of the Coenobium of the Holy Angels with patristic counsels and their holy examples.

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At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, everyone received mementos of the Consecration and pieces of the sanctified cloths used during the cer-

emony. The Sisterhood of the Convent, under the direction of the Reverend Mother Taxiarchia, then served an agape meal to those in attendance.

