



“For the Edification of the Church”

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

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

Eighteenth Visit to the Detention Center of Amphissa

June 25, 2022 (Old Style)



On Friday, June 25, 2022 (Old Style, commemoration of the Holy Virgin Martyr Febronia), with the blessing, participation, and guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, the St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women’s Guild made its eighteenth visit to the Detention Center of Amphissa.

The members of the Guild had collected and packaged personal care items, which were donated to the Guild by private individuals and stores, or were bought by the Guild, for distribution to 180 of our imprisoned brothers.

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Owing to recent cases of Covid, the facility’s administration had previously informed the Guild that it would still not be possible to arrange for a large group of visitors, nor would it be permitted for them to meet the prisoners personally in the courtyard, as was the custom before the pandemic.

At the Detention Center, the new Director, the Warden, and their colleagues warmly welcomed Metropolitan Cyprian and the small group accompanying him, who handed over the care packages.

Unexpectedly, the Director then invited His Eminence and those with him to enter the facility's courtyard, where they were able to meet with our incarcerated brothers. Many of them were acquainted with the Metropolitan from his previous visits and expressed their joy at this meeting.



There followed a very edifying and warm conversation in the outer courtyard, where the guests were given refreshments, in which the Director and her colleagues once again stressed that greater care needs to be taken for the reintegration of former inmates into society, and that they need to be given support in finding work and lodgings.

Revealingly, she gave examples of people who, in order to secure "lodgings" in prison during the winter months, make sure to commit in time commensurate crimes!

They earnestly implored him to continue his visits and his direct contact with the inmates.

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Following this brief but edifying visit, Metropolitan Cyprian and those accompanying him returned to Athens without any other activities, owing to His Eminence's pastoral obligations.

