

❖ METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND FILI

✠ Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

Baptism of a Former Heterodox from Sweden



On Saturday, 12/25 October 2003, Mr. Gunnar Bostrom of Sweden, a former Lutheran, aged sixty-five, was Baptized at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika. Mr. Bostrom, who resides in Stockholm, received the name “Theodore.”

The newly-Illumined Theodore was prepared for this great moment of his entry into our Holy Orthodox Church by a year-long catechumenate at the parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Stockholm, under the guidance of his spiritual Father, His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis, who heads the mission of the Holy Synod in Resistance in Sweden.

The new convert travelled to Greece with Bishop Johannes for the Feast Day celebration of the Monastery of St Cyprian and received Holy Baptism a few days later.

The Baptism was performed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, Abbot of the monastery; His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis and His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis were also present. The sponsor was our brother in Christ, Mr. Photios Athanasopoulos.

Also in attendance was the wife of the newly-Illumined, who herself is now seriously considering the possibility of becoming Orthodox, especially after the evident spiritual transformation that she saw in her husband, who was literally reborn through Holy Baptism. This is particularly significant, since she is a deaconess in the Lutheran Church in Sweden.

It is clear that the missionary attitude of the Church, in love and truth, towards the heterodox is a sign of genuine Orthodox ecumenicity, and that the heresy of ecumenism, which does away with mission towards the heterodox, strikes a mortal blow against the ecumenical nature of the saving mission of the Church in the world.