

Pilgrimage to Our Fellow Orthodox in Romania
Consecration of the Church of St. Niphon
at Our *Metochion* in Bucharest
The Feast of St. Glicherie in Moldavia

By the Grace of God, two important events were included in the schedule of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, during his recent visit to Romania, in June of 2004.



- On Sunday, 7 June 2004 (Old Style), the Consecration of the Church of St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople, at our *Metochion* [dependency—*Trans.*] in Bucharest was celebrated with reverence and solemnity.

This Church was built up from the foundations during the past decade by the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Fili, Attika, of which it is a *Metochion*, with the permission and blessing, to be sure, of the Hierarchy of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church in Romania. The interior and exterior decoration of the Church and its Iconography were completed only recently. It should be noted that the Church has functioned for years on a permanent basis as a parish Church, being served by Romanian clergy, and especially those from the Holy Monastery of the Dormition of the *Theotokos* in Bucharest, under the direction of its Abbot, Archimandrite Flavian.

Taking part in the Consecration service, which was celebrated by Metropolitan Cyprian, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, were the President of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Romanian Old Calendar Church, His Eminence, Metropolitan

Vlasie, His Grace, Bishop Pahomie of Vrancea; and His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and many Priests and Deacons. Also in attendance were the Romanian Hierarchs Bishop Demosten, Bishop Ghenadie, and Bishop Teodosie, and a large crowd of Faithful, including pilgrims from Greece.



After the Consecration, two Divine Liturgies were celebrated: one in the open air by the aforementioned Hierarchs, ten Priests, and four Deacons, in an area adjacent to the Church, and the other inside the newly Consecrated Church, by three Priests. This arrangement was deemed necessary, because, in accordance with the Romanian *Typikon*, before the first Divine Liturgy is celebrated in a Church that has been Consecrated, its Holy Table is venerated by all of the Faithful attending the ceremony.

At the end, after the distribution of gifts, a festal *agape* meal was served.

The newly Consecrated Church will continue to be a symbol of unity and love between the two Holy Synods of the anti-innovationist Orthodox of Greece and Romania.

* * *

Metropolitan Cyprian, together with those accompanying him, then departed for Moldavia, in Northern Romania. On the way, they visited the Holy Trinity Monastery in Cucova, where Bishop Pahomie of Vrancea and Bishop Teodosie of Braşov reside.

During the following days in Moldavia, they visited holy places belonging to the Old Calendar Church: the Holy Convent of the Life-Giving Spring, in Brădăţel, the Holy Convent of the Nativity of the *Theotokos*, in Moişa, the large and populous Holy Convent of

the Holy Protection of the *Theotokos*, in Brădițel Neamț (which has 130 nuns), a skete in Horaia, and the Holy Monastery of St. Menas;



and also the parishes of St. Parasceve the New, in Iași, of the Ascension of the Savior, in Pașcani, of Sts. Constantine and Helen, in Fălticeni, and of the Holy New Martyr John of Trebizond, in Suceava.

Everywhere they went, the visitors from Greece were accorded enthusiastic and unforgettable welcomes and were given conducted tours of the monasteries and churches. They were very impressed by the spiritual condition of the monasteries and the magnificence of the parish Churches. The struggle, the zeal, the dedication, and the self-sacrifice of our Romanian brethren—clergy, monastics, and laity—are truly exemplary and admirable.



- On Sunday, 14 June 2004 (Old Style), a Hierarchical Liturgy was concelebrated in the magnificent parish Church of the Entrance of the *Theotokos* in Poiana, during which the energetic Rector of the Church, Father Simeon Movila, was elevated to the dignity of Protopresbyter. The very capable and euphonious parish choir, which the pious Father Simeon formed, nurtures, and instructs, chanted wonderfully.

• On Monday, 15 June 2004 (Old Style), the day on which the repose, nineteen years ago, of the Holy Confessor and Hierarch Glicherie is commemorated, an open-air Divine Liturgy was celebrated by many Hierarchs at the Holy



Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Slatioara, which the Holy ascetic and Hierarch constructed and in which he remained uninterruptedly for thirty whole years until his Saintly repose. His Grace-filled holy Relics now rest in this place.

The Primates of the two Churches, Metropolitans Vlasie and Cyprian, and Bishops Demosten, Ghenadie, Pahomie, Sofronie, Teodosie, and Ambrose liturgized, and nearly a hundred Priests and Deacons took part.



Also present was a large multitude of Faithful, who had come from many parts of Romania to honor their Grace-endowed spiritual Father and leader and to venerate his holy Relics. Our Romanian Old Calendarist brethren

have never forgotten that it is thanks to the labors and sufferings of the Holy Confessor that a flourishing Church in Orthodox and God-pleasing resistance, and one which is growing both in quality and in quantity, exists today in Romania, with a strong monastic life and excellent clergy. These wondrous “fruits” attest to God’s blessing on the salvific work accomplished by Metropolitan Glicherie, a Saint of our times.

On the following day, 16 June 2004 (Old Style), Metropolitan Cyprian and those accompanying him returned by air to Greece, forti-

fied and edified by all that they had seen, heard, and experienced during their latest visit to the Romanian Old Calendar Church, the bonds of communion and love with which were assuredly strengthened, by the Grace of our Holy Triune God. 🙏