

Anniversary of the Consecration of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, Our Spiritual Father



ON THE SUNDAY of the Publican and the Pharisee, at the beginning of the sacred period of the *Triodion*, 7/20 February 2005, the Feast Day of St. Parthenios the Wonderworker, Bishop of Lampsakos, the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, Attika, once again celebrated the anniversary of the Consecration of its Spiritual Father and Abbot, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod in Resistance.

As is well known, the Consecration was performed on this day twenty-six years ago, in 1979, at the same monastery, by the ever-memorable Hierarchs Kallistos of Corinth and Antonios of Attika.

Taking part in the festal Divine Liturgy, at which Metropolitan Cyprian was the principal celebrant, were Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Bishop Ambrose of Methoni, as well as other clergy, among whom was Father Jeremias Cvak from the Czech Republic.

In prayerful attendance was a great throng of Faithful and a large number of nuns from the Holy



Synod's convents, who wished our venerable Shepherd a heartfelt “Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτη, Δέσποτα [Many Years, Master]!”

His Eminence received greetings from Greece and abroad for his anniversary. On behalf of the Brotherhood of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis addressed Metropolitan Cyprian as follows.

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Address of Thanksgiving On the Anniversary of the Consecration of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, Our Spiritual Father

Our Much-Revered Spiritual Father,
Most Reverend Shepherd and Metropolitan Cyprian:

We are vouchsafed once again this year to celebrate the anniversary of your Consecration. May the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be blessed for this great gift!



For the twenty-sixth time since the year 1979, our spiritual family in Christ, gathered here today around the Holy Altar with gladsome voices, gives thanks to the Lord for this extremely significant event.

You were, of course, a spiritual Father and guide even before your elevation to the Episcopal Throne, but your contribution, though—by the Grace of God—important, was, nonetheless, restricted.

However, it seems that Divine Providence was harnessing the wealth of your spiritual activities, up to 1979, towards one major purpose, exactly in the way that it happens when we harness a natural energy, in order profitably to channel it, in due time, into greater works.

The two and a half decades following your Consecration to the Episcopacy have confirmed the “certainty of the word.”

Christ, the Lord of the Vineyard, entrusted you with a spiritual Field of truly immense proportions.

Yet, its godly cultivation and its irrigation by the channels of Grace, continues uninterruptedly: your solicitude is unsleeping, your efforts tireless, your sacrifices incessant, and, above all: your compassionate attitude is inexhaustible.

It is worth dwelling further on this point.

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It is well known to all who delight in our holy Tradition that, among the spiritual gifts that adorn a spiritual Father of the Church, mercy or compassion takes first place.

The Saints assure us that any work, toil, virtue, or ascetic practice that is not coupled with mercy, that is not imbued with compassion, is vain in the eyes of God.

Precisely for that reason, compassion must always weigh down our balance, until the time that we feel within us the compassion that God has for the world.

As your spiritual children, we feel particularly favored and blessed because of that very gift of yours.

In your ministry of many years, you were not only the Teacher who teaches, but, first and foremost, the compassionate Father who bears children in God by the Holy Spirit, and seals them with compassion.

If the spiritual Father, as the Saints teach us, is the “guardian of Divine love for mankind” and seals his children with compassion, then, assuredly, his contribution to the world and to mankind is inestimable. For he does not merely speak about God, but he incarnates God; that is, in his person, God is revealed—He Who became man, not to judge the world, but to heal the deep wound and to save man.

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The timeliness of these thoughts and observations, especially in our days, is perhaps more than self-evident.

Violent and successive waves relentlessly strike the authority and dignity of the Church, in human eyes: everyone judges, disparaging and pillorying everyone. Moderation and limits have been completely eliminated, owing to foolish and uncompassionate zeal.

In the midst of this storm, which is permitted by the Lord—and we pray that it will have a favorable and healing end—, your spiritual children at this moment turn in gratitude towards Your Eminence and express their heartfelt wishes, because you have instilled in us the attitude of Divine compassion, and not of demonic hardness of heart; the attitude of the Publican’s self-reproach, and not of pharisaical self-assurance; the attitude of patient prayer, and not of pusillanimous condemnation.

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In conclusion, allow us, our Most Reverend Metropolitan and Much-Revered Father, along with our thanks for all that you have offered us, to express our wholehearted wishes:

May our Mother the *Panagia*, Sts. Cyprian and Justina, and St. Parthenios of Lampsakos keep you thriving for long years, full of Grace and comfort, a living icon of Divine compassion, for the edification of the people of God and the glorification of the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

