

Holy Theophany 2006

On Thursday, 6 January 2006 (Old Style), the Holy Synod in Resistance of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece yet again celebrated Holy Theophany with particular splendor in Oropos, Attika. The clear weather especially contributed, with a marvelous day, for this time-honored and joyous celebration of Orthodox confession and witness.



The Great Blessing of the Waters, at the pier of Oropos, was performed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili, President of the Holy Synod, who delivered a brief festal message.

A large crowd of Faithful from Athens, Attika, and other regions of Greece, as well as abroad, took part in this event.



Also taking part were six other Hierarchs, who lent a festive and more inclusive, inter-Orthodox character to the ceremony:

from our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church in Romania, Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava and Antonie of Ploesti;

from faraway Australia, His Eminence, Bishop Chrysostomos of Sydney and New South Wales, who is currently residing in Greece;

from our own country, Bishops Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Ambrose of Methoni assistants to the Metropolitan;



from Stockholm, Sweden, His Grace, Bishop Johannes of Makarioupolis;

and also, representing our American Exarchate, Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of St. Gregory Palamas, in Etna, California. Taking part, as well, were clergy from the parishes and monasteries of our Holy Synod and a large number of monks and nuns.

The customary procession through the streets of Oropos was led, as always, by our living hopes: dozens of young men and women in traditional folk costumes with banners and flags, arousing admiration and diffusing a sense of excitement and gratitude. Also leading the procession was the city band of Ano Liosia.



Many dignitaries were given a place of honor on the platform where the Blessing of the Waters was held. Among them were:

Members of Parliament for Attika, Messrs. Athanasios Bouras, Vasileios Oikonomou, and Georgios Vlachos; the Prefect of East-

ern Attika, Mr. Leonidas Koures; the Prefect of Western Attika, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudares; the Deputy Prefects of Western Attika, Ms. Stavroula Demou and Mr. Angelos Lioses; the Mayor of Ano Liosia, Mr. Evangelos Christophyllakes; the Mayor of Oropos, Mr. Spyridon Mexes; the Mayor of Fili, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes; the Deputy Mayor of Fili, Mr. Stamatios Avrames; the President of the City Council of Fili, Mr. Aristeides Brebos, and the Vice-President, Mr. Anastasios Arabatzides; the President of the commune of Sykaminon, Mr. Thomas Rousses, as well as representatives of local organizations.

May the Grace of our Savior, Who has manifested Himself to us, inspire all of us to journey on the path of confessing our true Faith and our Orthodox way of life. □