

❖ HOLY METROPOLIS OF OROPOS AND FILI

✠ Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina

■ The Annual Nameday Tribute of our Brotherhood ♦ Thirtieth Anniversary (1976-2006)

## “Thanksgiving 2006”

*The Central Role of the Elder in the Sanctification of His Disciple:  
Towards the Light of the Eschatological Kingdom  
by way of Praxis and Theoria*

**Glory to God** for all things!

By the Grace of our Lord and through the intercessions of the *Theotokos* and Saints Cyprian and Justina, whose memory was being honored, our annual “Thanksgiving” tribute was held again this year with great success, in honor of the Nameday of our spiritual Father and Abbot, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian.



**Present** in heart and soul on Sunday, 9/22 October 2006, for a program lasting two hours (7-9 PM) at the main auditorium of the Novotel Convention Center in downtown Athens, were the spiritual children of His Eminence, Metro-

politan Cyprian: clergy, monastics, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends of the extended family of the Monastery of St. Cyprian, as well as certain of the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod in Resistance and those with them. The rest of the Hierarchs, and those of Romania and Bulgaria, had already departed for their countries after our monastery’s Patronal Feast.

Attendance by the pious Faithful at this “Thanksgiving” celebration was noticeably greater than in previous years. Among the dignitaries present were Mr. Leonidas Koures, who has been re-elected Prefect of Eastern Attika, together with his Prefectorial Councilor, Mr. Nikolaos Kanteres, and the returned Mayor of Fili, Demetrios Bouraimis, with the Vice-President of the City Council of Fili, Mr.

Anastasios Arabatzides.

**As in the past,** the “Thanksgiving 2006” celebration consisted of a program wholly redolent of Greek Orthodoxy for our spiritual consolidation and edification. Its five parts presented the following:



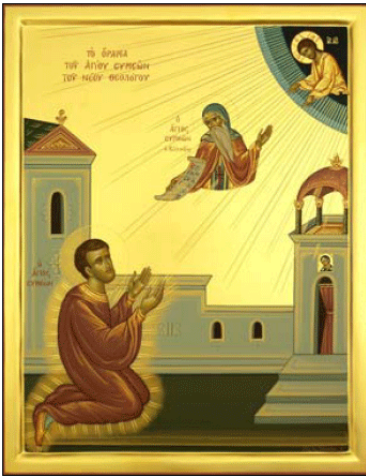
♦ **Part I** (twenty-one minutes). Apart from the customary introductory hymns, the Byzantine Choir of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina also chanted: verses from the slow Doxology in the First Tone, by Petros the Peloponnesian (5’); • “O Joyous Light” in the Plagal of the First Tone, by Constantine the Protopsaltis (6’); • Eight Festal Encomia, *Prosomoia* in the Third Tone, with the acrostic “To Cyprian”; a selection from the *kratema* in the same tone (7’; the “Encomia” were composed as a gift by our Brotherhood.)



♦ **Part II** (thirty-three minutes). Archimandrite Cyprian spoke on the theme: “The Central Role of the Elder in the Sanctification of His Disciple” (17’). With brevity and simplicity, he related the moving way in which the necessity of the Elder has been experienced in the monastic tradition, the Elder being *the pivotal figure*, as much in *praxis*—with obedience at its core—as in *theoria*, with prayer of the heart



at its core. • Our truly beloved brother in Christ, Mr. Georgios Tepezikotes, a dentist, addressed a brief “Message of Gratitude” (4’) to our Metropolitan on behalf of his lay spiritual children. He reminded us that our monastery is this



year completing its forty-fifth year of existence, and concluded with the wish: “May we be counted worthy in five years, in 2011, to celebrate all together—with, as always, Your Eminence as our leader—the first fifty years [our golden jubilee] of the blessed *Source* of our monastery.” • Hieromonk Klemes then presented our Brotherhood’s gift to our honored spiritual Father, which once again was a marvelous and original Icon produced by our monastery’s Icon

Studio: “The Vision of St. Symeon the New Theologian,” a theme directly related to that of the Festal Address (5’50).

♦ **Part III** (fifteen minutes). The chorus and orchestra ensemble “Orthodox Heritage” performed the following folk songs and instrumental melodies: • “Doxology to God” in the Plagal of the First tone, with verses and melody by Georgios Violakes (4’). • “Poor Plane-Tree,” a historic folk song of Moria in the First Tone (3’). • Instrumental melodies from Macedonia (3’12). • “The Mountain Song,” a pastoral song of Kalamata in the Plagal of the Second Tone (3’08).



♦ **Part IV** (forty-four minutes). Professor Onouphrios Sochos magnificently recited the continuation (part two) of the compunctious “monastery chronicle” entitled: “The Novice Patapios, the Oil of the Abbot, and the Morning Star of the *Panagia*” (23’). • The film “Travelogue to Orthodox Ke-





nya, 2001-2005” was shown, which was produced by our monastery and concerns the Mission of the Holy Synod in Resistance in this African country (15’).

♦ **Part V** (ten minutes). His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian made some concluding remarks, while His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and the Mayor of Fili, Demetrios Bouraimis, addressed brief greetings, • the *Polychronion* was chanted, and • treats and special mementoes as a blessing were distributed.

\* \* \*



**This** was the thirtieth anniversary (1976-2006) of our “Thanksgiving” celebrations: our Brotherhood’s tribute, which is organized every year as an expression of gratitude, as an outstanding opportunity for our re-

baptism in the waters of our Greek Orthodox Tradition, but also as an Orthodox witness of our universal and supranational Holy Faith.

■ **Glory and Thanksgiving to our God and Savior!**