

## The First Patronal Feast of the *Hesychasterion* Dedicated to the Transfiguration of Our Savior

**O**n Sunday, 6/19 August 2007, the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Savior, the first festal Divine Liturgy was celebrated, by the Grace of God, at the newly-constructed *Hesychasterion* in Sykamino, Oropos, Attika, which is dedicated to the Transfiguration. Hieromonk Mark, a Brother of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, liturgized.

Present were the two nuns of the *Hesychasterion*—Mothers Mariam and Ilaria—, nuns from the Convent of the Holy Angels in Aphidnai, Attika, and a number of pious worshipers.



In his message of gratitude, which was read at this first Patronal Feast of the *Hesychasterion*, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Fili said the following, among other things:

*“...May the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, of our Lord and God, be glorified: He Who, in such a short space of time, and despite many and various difficulties, has worked His miracle—this great miracle. Today a new sacred place of worship officially opens its door; yet one more harbor of salvation is inaugurated, and a new place for the healing of souls begins its work.*

*Venerating her Grace, I also profoundly thank the All-Immaculate and Most Blessed Theotokos, who has strengthened, comforted, and guided the Venerable Mothers Mariam and Ilaria in their tribulations, which began in 2003, and has shown care for them, as their true Mother, that they might create this holy Hesychasterion.*

*The Theotokos has rewarded the fidelity of Mothers Mariam and Ilaria*

*to their spiritual Father, and Christ our Savior will abundantly bestow His gifts upon them, both in this life and in the next.*

*I also sincerely and warmly thank the donor of the building-site on which the new Hesychasterion is being constructed.*

*Our beloved Soterios Tsevelekos is already to be found in the brightness of Paradise. He reposed this year on Great Thursday, but his soul, together with that of his wife Georgia, of blessed memory, is in our midst today, and they are rejoicing with all of us and with their blessed children, Demetrios and Kyriake. They will forever be commemorated as founders of our holy Hesychasterion.*

*I feel particular gratitude to the honorable Mayor of Sykamino, Mr. Thomas Rousses, and to the municipal council; for they have, from the outset, supported the heroic Mothers Mariam and Ilaria, assisting them, in one way or another, in their God-pleasing work.*

*Sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone, and especially to the pious couple, Stavros and Ruth Hatzeioannes, and their son-in-law, Mr. Demetrios Boakes, whose invaluable offerings have already been deposited in the treasury of Heaven. May the Lord bless them and their children.*

*Pray that we might soon complete our new Hesychasterion, and that it might, by the Grace of our Most Holy Mother and Theotokos, prove to be another **Mount Tabor**, from which we might ascend with humility, love, and purity of heart, in order to meet Christ our Savior, Who will pacify, enlighten, and transform us, such that we might, beginning already in this life, taste of the **Glory of the Future Kingdom**. Amen.”*

