



The Thirty-First Annual Nameday Tribute by our Brotherhood

“Thanksgiving 2007”

Virginity in Christ as a Way of Life in Today’s World

Glory to God—to the Father, Son, and Spirit, through the intercessions of the Most Blessed *Theotokos*—for all things!

By the Grace of Christ our Savior, Who loves mankind, the thirty-first “Thanksgiving” celebration in honor of the Nameday of our spiritual Father, Elder, and Guide, Metropolitan Cyprian, was held with particular splendor and immense success.

The traditional annual Nameday tribute of our Brotherhood once again took place at the Novotel Convention Center in downtown Athens, on Sunday, October 8/21, 2007. The program lasted two hours (7:00-9:00 p.m.).

The main auditorium was filled to capacity, the joy in Christ and a sense of spiritual gladness were manifest, and all present were profoundly moved by the presentations, as well as the presence and participation of our ailing Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian, at this great event.



The extended family of the lay community attached to the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Jus-

tina was present, as were the majority of the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod in Resistance (Bishops Silvano of Luni and Johannes of Makarioupolis had already departed [for Italy and Sweden, respectively], as had our brothers from Romania



and Bulgaria). Also in attendance were our friends in Christ who support the multifarious activities of our Brotherhood, among whom was Mr. Nicholas Kanteres, Member of Parliament for Attica.

◆ The new Hierarchs of our Holy Synod were present as well: His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi (Acting President) and His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion (Secretary of the Holy Synod in Resistance and the Standing Synod), both of whom were Consecrated the preceding two days (Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7). Those present took the opportunity to extend to the new Hierarchs their heartfelt best wishes.

The Monastery’s tribute took place, yet again this year, precisely within the ecclesiological parameters of our Synod, which are **unitive, Eucharistic, doxological, renewing, and restorative.**

Contributing to the success of these goals was the prayerful unfolding of a program that perfectly harmonized, in its execution, both **richness** and **measure**, as well as **essence** and **method.**

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■ “Thanksgiving 2007,” Part I

The Byzantine Choir of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina chanted the following:

- a hymn of welcome to our Most Reverend Metropolitan, “We Shall Joyfully Meet,” in the Second Tone (1:10);
- the *Apolytikion* of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in the Third Tone (0:28);
- verses from the Great Doxology, in the Plagal of the Second Tone, by Georgios Biolakes (5:28);
- the first stasis of the *Typika*, in the Plagal of





the Fourth Tone (6:06); • Festal Encomia, in the Plagal of the First Tone, with the acrostic “O Father, Rejoice!” composed as a gift by our Brotherhood (4:43).

■ “Thanksgiving 2007,” Part II

• His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone delivered a *Festal Address* on the subject: “*Virginity in Christ as a Way of Life in Today’s World*” (16:42). • Our beloved brother in Christ, Professor Georgios Korres, addressed a simple and lyrical *Message of Gratitude* to our Most Reverend Metropolitan, expressing the common feeling that “we are celebrating a spiritual spring,” and that we have been granted a “fore-taste,” at this year’s tribute, “of the bliss of Eternal Spring and the fragrance of the Holy Spirit” (3:16). • His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion briefly presented our Brotherhood’s gift to our much-revered Elder: a truly wondrous Icon from the Icon Studio of our Monastery: “*The Apparition of the Mother of God to St. Seraphim of Sarov*” (7:41), the theme of which was directly related to the *Festal Address*.



■ “Thanksgiving 2007,” Part III

The chorus and instrumental ensemble, “Hellenorthódoxe Kleronomiá,” presented songs and instrumental melodies: • the “Prayer to the *Theotokos* for our missionary work,” composed as a gift by our Brotherhood (6:48), which was first recited by our sister in Christ, Maria Giatrakou. • An instrumental dance melody from Crete. • A serenade from Stergia. • “My little Bird, where did you flee?” a





folk song of Epiros, in the First Tone (2:53). • An instrumental melody from Argos (1:55). • The song, “Welcome, light rain,” a folk melody: verses for autumn.

■ “Thanksgiving 2007,” Part IV

Professor Onouphrios Sochos superbly narrated the “*Apparition of the Theotokos to St. Seraphim of Sarov.*” Simultaneously, images were projected onto a screen, such that the combination of sight and vision lent an exceptional, dramatic quality to the narration (12:30).

■ “Thanksgiving 2007,” Part V



The master of ceremonies, His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, brought the tribute to a conclusion with expressions of gratitude, greetings, best wishes, and announcements. • The customary *Polychronion*

was chanted in the Second Tone to our Metropolitan. • Treats and small gifts were distributed.

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This year’s Nameday tribute was perhaps the most emotion-laden tribute, ever, by our Brotherhood. Apart from the fact that the “Thanksgiving” celebration was “*literally bathed in the light of the joy of the Resurrection,*” we were also granted by the *Theotokos* to put *spiritual filial piety* most vividly into practice. This was a unique and profoundly renewing experience: Our white-haired, revered Father, affectionately attended upon by his grateful children, accepting the pure expressions of



love and gratitude of his flock, wholeheartedly blessing his elect sheep, who continue to follow him...

■ **To our All-Good God, the Giver of all good things, be glory and thanksgiving!**

†Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi