

## The Ordination of a New Deacon, Father Jirí (George) Ján, from the Czech Republic

**O**n Sunday, October 15, 2007 (Old Style), with the blessing of our Most Reverend Father, Metropolitan Cyprian, Jirí Ján was Ordained a Deacon at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Fili, Attica. The new Deacon hails from the Czech Republic.



His Eminence, Bishop George of Albania (from South Ossetia, in the Caucasus), who is staying at our Monastery, performed the Ordination during a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi (Acting President of the Holy Synod) was the

principal celebrant, with the participation of Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion. Hieromonks and Hierodeacons from the Monastery also took part, with a large crowd of pious worshipers in prayerful attendance.

The new Deacon, Father Jirí, was born in the Czech Republic, in 1973, and was formerly a Roman Catholic. He enrolled in the Protestant Evangelical School of Theology at the prestigious Charles University, in Prague, since, at that time, there was no other place in his homeland to pursue theological studies. During his student years, in his spiritual quest and out of deep interest in these subjects, he studied ancient Greek philosophy and the Holy Fathers of the Church in the original Ancient Greek.

He visited Greece for the first time in 2000, becoming acquainted with the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, in Fili, where he discovered what he had been seeking—that is, a place where the true Faith was lived. With the help and guidance of his spiritual Father,

His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, he eagerly received Orthodox Baptism. Following this, his Protestant fiancée from the Czech Republic, Clara (Photine), was also Baptized, and the two were married.



They already have two charming sons, Philip and Jirí.

The newly-illumined Jirí later carried out academic research for a year and a half in the School of Theology at the University of Athens, in order to complete his doctoral dissertation, which he recently submitted to the Charles University. His dissertation, entitled “Christ and the Salvation of Man According to St. Hilary of Poitiers,” is about a great Saint and Father of the Church who battled against heresies in the fourth century, as a Western counterpart of St. Athanasios the Great.

In addition to Czech (his native tongue) and Greek (both Ancient and Modern), the new Deacon also knows English, French, Latin, and Russian. He is distinguished for his piety and humility and is beloved by all. He is to be Ordained a Priest in the near future, so as to serve the pastoral needs of our ecclesiastical jurisdiction in Greece, since he and his family have already settled permanently there.

May our Lord confirm and strengthen him in the service of His Vineyard!

