

## The Feast Day of St. John the Merciful in Thessalonica

ON Sunday, November 12/25, 2007, the chapel dedicated to St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria (a *Metochion* of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Phyle, Attica) celebrated its Feast Day. The *Metochion* is located in Thessalonica, on Hodos Kameniatou, between the Basilica of the city's Patron Saint, St. Demetrios, and the Byzantine Church of the Prophet Elias.



With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion Liturgized in the *Metochion's* small, humble, and compunction-evoking chapel together with Archimandrite Glykerios Hagiokyprianites, the Priest responsible for the *Metochion*, and delivered a festal homily.

The *Protopsaltes*, Mr. Nikolaos Polychros (a music teacher) chanted, along with Mr. Basileios Byros (a theologian) and other chanters.

More than one hundred faithful were in prayerful attendance—a number far exceeding the capacity of the *Metochion*—, being greatly benefited and spiritually strengthened thereby.

After the Divine Liturgy, refreshments were served in the *Metochion's* adjoining meeting hall. Bishop Klemes added some spiritual refreshment with counsels derived from the Life of St. John the Merciful and, also, from the teachings of the Herald of Grace and the Boast of Thessalonica, the Holy Hierarch Gregory Palamas.

