

Bishop Consecrated for Sweden*

On Cheesefare Sunday, Archimandrite Johannes (Deurloo), seventy years of age and pastor of the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Stockholm, Sweden, was Consecrated to the Episcopacy at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, Greece. The Consecration was performed by Metropolitan Cyprian, President of the Holy Synod, and his two assistant Bishops, Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis and Ambrose of Methoni, along with Bishop Angelos of Avlona, Bishop Michael of Nora, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, and Bishop Auxentios of Photiki. The new Bishop, who was assigned to the Titular See of Makarioupolis, will serve as an assistant to Metropolitan Cyprian and as Synodal Exarch in Sweden.



Metropolitan Cyprian and Archbishop Chrysostomos, during the Consecration of Bishop Johannes.

His Grace, Bishop Johannes, was born near Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on January 31, 1930, the sixth child of strict Dutch Reformed parents. In high school, he converted to Roman Catholicism and, in 1949, entered the Franciscan Monastery in Weert Limburg. While at the monastery, he completed the normal theological course, as well as a three-year program in art at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He also later undertook training in the plastic arts and earned a certificate in art restoration.

Through his art study and exposure to Iconogra-

phy, His Grace developed a keen interest in the Orthodox Church. After a crisis of conscience about matters of faith, he decided to leave the Roman Catholic faith, and in 1965 moved to Sweden, where he met and, one year later, married his wife, Monica Johannesson. The couple subsequently had two children, Anders and Cecilia, and in 1973 the entire family converted to Orthodoxy.

In 1976, His Grace was Ordained to the Diaconate by Metropolitan Ireney of what was then the Free Serbian Orthodox Church (now reconciled to the Serbian Patriarchate). In 1977, he was made a Presbyter and assigned to serve the Serbian parishes in Stockholm and Malmö. Metropolitan Ireney later elevated him to the honor of Protospyter.

Concerned about the ecumenical activities and various pastoral problems in the Serbian Orthodox Church, in 1985 Bishop Johannes petitioned to be received by Metropolitan Cyprian into our Synod of Bishops in Resistance. In 1990, after submitting a thesis on the "History and Idea of the Holy Icon in the Orthodox Church," he was awarded, with the blessing of Metropolitan Cyprian, the Licentiate in Orthodox Theological Studies by the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies in Etna, California. Excerpts from his thesis appeared in *Orthodox Tradition* in 1990 (see Vol. VII, No. 3, 1990).

Following her graduation from the University of Stockholm in 1988, Bishop Johannes' daughter, Cecilia (now Schema-nun Justina), entered the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess in Etna, California. And in 1999, shortly before her death, his wife, Presbyteria Monica, was also tonsured to the Great Schema with the name "Parthenia." His Grace, after the death of his wife, himself became a monk, receiving the monastic tonsure on April 19, 1999 (Old Style), at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Fili, Greece. Four days later, Metropolitan Cyprian elevated him to the rank of Archimandrite.

The new parish Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen, which Bishop Johannes serves, is located in the Vårberg area of Stockholm. It was completed in 1998. The parish is comprised of Swedish converts to the Orthodox Faith and Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian, and Syrian Orthodox immigrants.

(Below, left to right, the newly-Consecrated Bishop Johannes, Bishop Ambrose of Methoni, and Metropolitan Cyprian.)



* Source: *Orthodox Tradition*, Vol. XVII, Nos. 2 & 3 (2000), pp. 50-52.