

Pastoral Visit to the Czech Republic

By the Grace of our Lord, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian made his first pastoral visit to the Czech Republic, where for some years there has existed a small nucleus of faithful under the Holy Synod in Resistance.

Also taking part in this trip, which lasted for a week (6-13 May 2005 [Old Style]), were Hierodeacon Joseph Agiokyprianites and two of our lay brothers in Christ.

• **On Thursday**, 6 May 2005, the delegation from Greece arrived by air in Prague, where they were given a warm welcome by the small, though very fervent and vibrant, number of faithful in this exceptionally beautiful central European country.

Before being driven to his accommodations, which were kindly provided for him in the capital by a parishioner of Serbian descent, Metropolitan Cyprian visited the Chapel of St. Clement of Rome, located in the apartment of one of our Faithful.



There followed a guided tour of the beautiful and historic city of Prague by Father Gorazd, a Lecturer in the newly-established Program in Orthodox Theology at the Charles University, and Jirí Ján, who is well-versed in Greek and who performed the task of translating with great success.

• **On Saturday**, 8 May 2005, after a visit to the historic Monastery of a local Saint, St. Procopios of Sazava, Bohemia (eleventh century), which has been occupied since 1096 by Roman Catholic Benedictine monks, Metropolitan Cyprian and those with him went to the village of Jezdovice, where Father Jeremias Cvak, our Priest in that area, and his blessed family reside.

Father Jeremias maintains in his house a beautiful Chapel dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene and St. John of San Francisco, although in the near future a spacious new Church is going to be built on a plot of land adjacent to his house, in order to serve the liturgical needs of the faithful more effectively.

Also in attendance were Father Vladimir Mohorita, our Priest from Preshov, Slovakia, with a few of his faithful, who had traveled for ten hours so as to be present at the important and joyous event of the Metropolitan's visit.



• **On the Sunday** of the Paralytic, 9 May 2005, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at the Chapel

in Jezdovice. His Eminence Liturgized with the Priests, Father Jeremias and Father Vladimir, as well as Hierodeacon Joseph. Our faithful from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as an Orthodox Christian from Poland, were present.

The spiritual consolation of Grace was abundant, and the beautiful and compunctious chanting of Father Vladimir's Presbytera contributed to this.



• **On the following** two days, Metropolitan Cyprian, who stayed in a hotel in the historic city of Telch, had several spiritually edifying meetings with our clergy and faithful, and also with other interested persons, who had come to see and hear a "genuine and fervent Hierarchy," as they subsequently put it.

His Eminence also met with some heterodox who had learned about the Holy Synod in Resistance from its official website on the Internet.

• **On Tuesday**, 11 May 2005, the delegation from Greece returned to Prague, from where they departed by air late on Thursday evening, arriving in Greece very early on Friday morning.

THIS WAS a very important pastoral visit.

In the beautiful Czech Republic there is a thirst for the genuine truth of our Faith. Well-disposed individuals search for it in their ancestral roots: they recognize it in Orthodoxy, as it was transmitted by the two brothers from Thessaloniki, Sts. Cyril and Methodios. Back in the ninth century, they were sent to this country, then Greater Moravia, by the Patriarch of Constantinople, St. Photios the Great, at the invitation of Prince Rastislav.

The local Saints, heirs and successors of the Enlighteners Cyril and Methodios—St. Ivan the Czech (†883), St. Procopios of Sazava (†1053), the Holy Martyr Ludmila (†920), *et al.*—are leading today’s faithful, the veritable “little flock,” far away from the turbid mélange of ecumenism and secularism to the genuine sources of Orthodoxy, so that they might draw from its life-giving and light-giving streams.

These contemporary confessors prefer, with admirable self-denial, to suffer hardship with the anti-ecumenist Orthodox in God-pleasing resistance and to bear the reproach of Christ amidst a crooked and perverse generation. Indeed, such is the lot of the righteous.

May the God of our Fathers and our Lady *Theotokos* strengthen, bless, and guide them on their God-pleasing path!

