

## New Clergyman From Singapore\*

On the Second Sunday of the Great Fast, 14 March 2005 (Old Style), Father Demetrios Sithuraj Ponraj from Singapore was received into our Holy Synod, according to canonical order.

Father Demetrios comes from a Hindu family, is thirty-two years old, and is married. Having initially joined the Lutheran Faith, he was Baptized Orthodox four years ago and was later Ordained a Priest by an uncanonical Orthodox group following the Western Rite in France.



Our new clergyman, who is distinguished for his piety and sobriety, has received an extensive education in colleges and universities in the USA and Europe and speaks at least ten languages and dialects, including Chinese! He has already formed two communities of Catechumens to Orthodoxy: one in Singapore (where he was



born and resides), made up primarily of Chinese, and the other in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, consisting of Indians.

It is noteworthy that Father Demetrios learned about our Synod through the Internet; and, following correspondence on the subject, consciously decided to join the Synod, thereby opening up promising prospects for a missionary witness to true Orthodoxy in distant Southeast Asia.

\*Source: *Άγιος Κυπριανός*, No. 326 (May-June 2005), p. 179.