

The Feast Day of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*

On September 24, 2008 (Old Style), the historic Convent of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*, in Stamata, Attica, celebrated its Feast Day. The foundress and first Abbess of this Convent was the holy Mother Bryaine (Batistatou), who reposed in the Lord ten years ago (†June 6, 1998), and was a niece of the saintly Elder Joseph the Hesychast and Cave-Dweller.



A large crowd of devout worshipers was present at the compunctious *Agrypnia*, with His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion presiding at Vespers. A choir of nuns from the Convent of the Holy Angels (Aphidnai, Attica), under Reverend Mother Taxiarchia, chanted tirelessly throughout the entire *Agrypnia*.



His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, was the principal celebrant at the Divine Liturgy, concelebrating with Bishop Klemes and four Priests (Fathers Apostolos Kagioglou, Antonios Giannoukakos [the serving Priest at the Con-

vent], Konstantinos Soteriades, and Jiří Ján), and assisted by three Subdeacons.

Before Holy Communion, Bishop Klemes delivered a festal homily. Many of the faithful communed of the Immaculate Mysteries.

After the dismissal, Bishop Cyprian duly extended his best wishes to the Convent's Abbess, Mother Bryaine the younger, offering her an embroidered Icon of the Mother of God.



A modest reception followed, which was attended by the clergy and by the nuns present at the *Agrypnia* from the Convent of the Holy Angels, the Convent of St. Paraskeve (Acharnai, Attica), and the Convent of the Transfiguration of the Savior (Barnaba, Attica). At Bishop Cyprian's request, Mother Bryaine testified to the support and aid she receives in her arduous task from the departed Mother Bryaine, who was distinguished for greatly compelling herself spiritually and for her especially prayerful disposition, such that prayer had become her very life and breath.

The blessing of the *Panagia* upon her spiritual House on the occasion of its Feast Day was manifest, as was the spiritual and prayerful participation of the Convent's foundress, Mother Bryaine.

