

Flowers from the Field of the Beloved

The Monastic Tonsure of a New Sister at the Convent of the Holy Angels

On Tuesday evening, January 7-8, 2009 (Old Style), with the blessing of our much-revered Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi offered, by way of the monastic Tonsure, a new Bride of the Beloved to Christ our Bridegroom, during a very compunction-evoking Divine Liturgy at the Convent of the Holy Angels, in Aphidnai, Attica.



The much-graced, newly-tonsured Sister, Rasophore Nun Dorothea, had entered the Convent as a Novice exactly one year ago, at the age of twenty-one.

In his homily for the occasion, His Grace referred to the truly stirring Life of the Holy Virgin-Martyr Dorothea of Caesarea, in Cappadocia, who was martyred during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. Her Life is not included in the Greek *Synaxarion*, which is why she is not well known to us. St. Dorothea was among the virgins accompanying the Most Holy *Theotokos* during the latter's final apparition (March 25, 1831) to St. Seraphim of Sarov, before his repose (January 2, 1833). The marvelous Life of St. Dorothea also makes reference to the *Garden of the Beloved* and His wondrous gifts (apples, roses, etc).

A large crowd of faithful participated in the preternatural joy of this *Agrypnia*, at which the overshadowing of the Holy Angels and the blessing of our Elder were vividly felt, accompanied by the beautiful chant-

ing of the nuns.

Nun Dorothea—known in the world as Maria Giatrakos, daughter of Andrew and Evgenia Giatrakos, the fifth of seven children—was a catechist and an English teacher, and studied for three years at the Athens Teachers' Training College. Her sister according to the flesh, Great-Schema Nun Taxiarchia (b. 1981), has been a sister at the Convent for nine years. May Christ bless them both and confirm them in Divine love.

