

The Annual Patronal Feast of the Holy Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina

On **Thursday**, October 2, 2009 (Old Style), by the Grace of God, the Holy Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina, in Phyle (Attica), Greece, celebrated its annual Feast Day with splendor, innumer-



able multitudes of pious pilgrims having also hastened to join in honoring the memory of these wonder-working Saints of God.

This festal gathering of clergy and laity to give glory to God had, as always, a pan-Orthodox character. The Feast was attended by pilgrims not only from Athens and other parts of Greece, but also from many parts of the world. In this way, yet again the blessed union of the anti-ecumenist Old Calendarists of Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad was clearly made manifest.

On the afternoon of the Eve of the Feast, the customary *Paraklesis* to Saints Cyprian and Justina, with prayers of exorcism, which is held every Wednesday, was served at 5:00 p.m. On this day in particular the throng of countless pilgrims filled the Church to capacity.

At Great Vespers, at 7:00 p.m., His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, presided, together with the Holy Hierarchs, His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel of New York and Eastern America, First Hierarch of our Sister Church,



the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad; His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, from our Sister Old Calendar Church of Bulgaria; and also the following Hierarchs: His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, from Cagliari, Sardinia; His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, from Pistoia, Italy; Their Graces, Bishops Antonie of Ploiești, Glicherie of Iași, and Dionisie of Galați, from Romania, representing His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, (who was unable to attend, having broken his leg in an accident); and Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes (Clement) of Gardikion, from Greece.





Many clergy, monks, nuns, and a large crowd of lay people were also in attendance.

The festal sermon at the conclusion of the Service was delivered by His Grace, Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, who spoke about the journey of Saint Justina towards spiritual perfection—a journey that was sealed by the trial of enduring sorcery—and about the repentance of Saint Cyprian.



On Thursday morning, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, acting in the stead of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, presided at the festal Divine Liturgy with the aforementioned eleven Hierarchs. Also taking part were dozens of Priests (from Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Sweden, and the Czech Republic), along with Deacons and numerous Subdeacons.

Included among the tremendous number of faithful were representatives from our monastic institutions, parishes, and communities in Greece and abroad.

During the Communion of the Clergy, His Eminence, Metropolitan Agafangel gave a homily suitable for the occasion, after which His Grace, Bishop Klemes delivered a panegyric on Saints Cyprian and Justina and their powerful message.

After the Dismissal at the festal Liturgy, celebrated by such a large number of Hierarchs and chanted so skillfully by the monastery choir (as they also did at Great Vespers), His Grace, Bishop Cyprian offered brief festal greetings, and His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos thanked by name the dignitaries in attendance:



The Prefect of Western Attica, Mr. Aristeides Arkoudares; the Vice-Prefects Ms. Stavroula Demou and Mr. Athanasios Makrynores; the President of the Prefectural Council, Mr. Angelos Lioses; the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes; the Deputy Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Stamatios Abrames; the President of the Mayoral Council of Phyle, Mr. Aristeides Brebos; Mayoral Council Member Mr. Anastasios Arampatzides; the former Mayor of Ano Liosia, Mr. Evangelos Christophylakes; the Commander of the Ano Liosia Police Department, and others.

Because of rain, the customary procession of the Holy Icon and the Holy Relics of Saints Cyprian and Justina was not held. However, the municipal



band of Ano Liosia played traditional melodies in the courtyard of the area that serves pilgrims to the monastery.

Treats were offered in the monastery's reception hall, where Their Eminences, Metropolitan Agafangel (from Odessa, Ukraine), Bishop Photii (from Sofia, Bulgaria), and Bishop Silvano (from Pistoia, Italy) offered festal greetings.

At the ensuing meal, His Grace, Bishop Antonie of Ploiești, delivered festal greetings on behalf of our Sister Old Calendar Church of Romania, and brief messages of spiritual content were offered by our dynamic legal counsel, Mr. Theodoros Theodoropoulos, advocate before the Greek Supreme Court, and the erudite Professor Basileios Gaitanes, who serves on the faculty of theology of the University of Athens.

We owe glory to the Holy Triune God for the gift of such a beautiful and greatly beneficial Feast of the Wonder-Working Protectors of our Holy Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina.

