

# The Successful Opening of the First Exhibition of Orthodox Iconography

## “Icons and Hope: The Hummingbird and Our Responsibility”

(November 24, 2012 - January 2, 2013)

**T**HE GOAL of this Exhibition is to provide much needed funds to further the outreach of the Saint Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women’s Guild, a charitable organization operating under the aegis of the Holy Synod in Resistance of the Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece. The proceeds from the sale of the contributed works of art will enable the Guild to continue its philanthropic endeavors, in these extremely trying times for Greece.



### The Hummingbird and the Rationale of our Exhibition: “I will do my part...”

An African folktale relates that once, during a forest fire, all of the animals were running to escape the danger, except for a small, humble hummingbird. The hummingbird took one drop of water in its beak—all that it could manage—and, although it was risking its life, dropped it onto the fire! “You are mad, you can’t put out the fire!” said one of the other animals as it was running, panic-stricken, to save its life.

“I know,” replied the hummingbird, “but I will do my part.”



### **The *Theotokos*, “Hope of the Despairing”**

One of the Icons in the Exhibition.

Placed in the lobby, the *Panagia* gives a warm welcome to the visitors, receives their veneration, and inspires hope for a better future.

(This Icon has already been acquired by one of the faithful in the United States, through our [website](#))



**“Hummingbirds”:** Volunteers for the St. Philaret Women’s Guild cheerfully offer their services at the Exhibition’s reception desk.



**Exhibition Hall A,**  
on the ground floor.



**Blessing the inauguration of the Exhibition,**  
in spacious Hall B,  
on the first floor





**The Blessing of the Waters,**  
performed by His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi,  
Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance





**Members of the “*Hellenorthodoxe Kleronomia*” chorus**  
delight the packed hall with ecclesiastical hymns  
appropriate for the occasion





**His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi**

offers greetings and words of edification and consolation:

“...and yet, there is hope as long as there is beauty and loveliness,  
and these, indeed, as achievements of ecclesiastical art  
and acts of benevolence...”



**Words of greeting from Ms. Eirene Archontoule,**

President of the Saint Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild



**Words of greeting from Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes,**  
Mayor of the municipality of Phyle.  
“Icons are not merely works of art, but first and foremost  
spiritual creations of our Tradition...”





**The inauguration closes**

with beautiful classical music, superbly rendered by musicians from the Conservatory of Phyle.



## Blessings and Gifts



### **The St. Philaret Guild**

offers an Icon of Christ the Merciful to Bishop Cyprian,  
and of St. Philaret to Mayor Demetrios Bouraïmes.



**Gifts as a blessing are given on behalf of the Guild  
to those who helped organize the Exhibition and to sponsors.**



To Deputy Mayor Ellie Katsanou and to  
Municipal Councillor Panagiotes Drolias.





To Deputy Mayor Ioanna Spyridonos-Pine and to Emmanuel Parasyres, webmaster of the Iconography website, <http://agiografikesmeletes.blogspot.gr>





**Refreshments are offered**  
in Exhibition Hall A, which soon, for all its  
spaciousness, proves to be too small.





**Discussions of Iconography and exchanges of viewpoints,  
with warmth and gladness...**





**Browsing through the wondrous world of Holy Icons**





**Lectures on Iconology and Iconography lessons,** as well as videos with a philanthropic content, will be shown daily in a room set aside for that purpose



**The Exhibition's catalogue** lists all of the works of, and biographical notes on, the participating Iconographers—a valuable “collector’s” handbook for devotees of Icons.



**The Exhibition stimulates**

“on-the-spot” drawing exercises—next to a book inviting people to jot down their impressions of the Exhibition—and also many new enrollments in the free Iconography lessons, which began on November 28...



**...but also the most important thing:**

the sale of Icons, books, catalogues, CDs, etc., the proceeds from which will enable the Guild to continue rendering assistance to the suffering during these times of economic crisis.



**For more information, or to place orders:**

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