



The Repose and Funeral Service of His Eminence, our Metropolitan and Father Cyprian

On **Thursday**, May 17/30, 2013, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle departed to the Lord in the midst of his spiritual children. His body was diligently prepared, being clothed in full Hierarchical vestments, and lay in state in the place where he reposed, within the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.

For two days, a large throng of faithful came to pay their homage and respects to our Most Reverend Chief Shepherd and Abbot, who lay in infirmity for the past five and a half years, but continued to confer his spiritual benediction on the development of affairs and issues pertaining to our Church and our monastery.



• On Saturday, May 19/June 1, his sacred remains were transferred in the early morning to the monastery Cathedral. A multitude of Hierarchs then concelebrated the Divine Liturgy, which began at 8:00 a.m., and following this a Funeral Service was chanted.





Many brethren in Christ came from different countries for this important event: from our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania, His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie, Their Graces, Bishop Sofronie of Suceava and Bishop Dionisie of Galați, and a Priest; from our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, His Eminence, Bishop Photii of Triaditza, a Priest, two Deacons, and several faithful; from our Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, His Eminence, Archbishop Sophrony of St. Petersburg and Northern Russia, who, owing to certain delays, arrived only in time for the Funeral Service; from Sardinia, Italy, His Eminence, Bishop Michael of Nora, together with Archimandrite Marianno; from Etna, California, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike; from Sweden, the Reverend Father Anders Åkerström, with two nuns and a monk; from the Czech Republic, the Reverend Father Jeremias Cvak; and from Slovakia, the Reverend Father Vladimir Mohorita.



All of the aforementioned concelebrated together with Their Graces, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and Bishop Klemes of Gardikion, and our clergy from Greece, with Bishop

Cyprian of Oreoi, now *Locum Tenens* of the Throne of the Metropolitanate, as the principal celebrant.



A large crowd of faithful, and also of monks and nuns, were in prayerful attendance, and throughout the Divine Liturgy and the ensuing Funeral Service, the faithful approached to give the final kiss to their much-lamented and deceased spiritual Father and outstanding Hierarchy of the Most High.

- The Funeral Service, observed according to the traditional *monastic order*, was celebrated immediately after the end of the Divine Liturgy, at 10:00 a.m. Among those present, in a prayerful spirit, were clergy and laity from other jurisdictions of the Old Calendar movement—a hopeful sign—while during the preceding two days even some of their Hierarchs had visited. A number of dignitaries were also present in this large assemblage, including the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes, and Dr. John Petropoulos, Director of the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies, and active participant in the scholarly work of the Holy Synod’s Exarchate in America.

The lengthy, compunctious, and splendid service was conducted peacefully, with reverence and prayerfulness, and the hymns, prayers, and supplications offered up for the repose of the soul of our departed Metropolitan and Father harmoniously alternated one with the other. In general there prevailed a holy atmosphere of joyful sorrow (χαρμολύπη) and a profound peace and overall blessedness, as a testimony to the boldness before God of the illustrious deceased.

After the reading of the two great prayers of forgiveness at the end by Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi and Metropolitan Vlasie, and also of the special

prayer of forgiveness for reposed clergymen by Bishop Klemes, Bishop Cyprian, filled with emotion, read his funeral address.

Thereafter, Metropolitan Vlasie and Bishop Photii delivered short orations and Bishop Klemes offered thanks to those taking part in the service, and especially to those who had come from afar, reminding them of the message of repentance and love which our “Good Shepherd” imparts to us even in death.

Following the final kiss by the Hierarchs, there was a procession with the holy remains of the Metropolitan around the public area of the monastery, after which they were placed in a specially prepared tomb in a chapel within the Cathedral complex, where the Dismissal was given. After that it was possible—as it will be in the future—for the entire throng of faithful to pass through in order to venerate the tomb.



- There followed a small reception in the monastery’s reception hall, where, among others, Archbishop Sophrony delivered a brief address. Subsequently the clergy and many of the worshippers went to the monastery proper for a meal in the *Trapeza*, while ready-made food was distributed to the rest of the faithful.

Moving messages of condolence were received from many people, from nearby and from afar, and the events of the Metropolitan’s repose and the Funeral Service were widely reported by electronic news agencies, both domestic and foreign, both religious and secular.

The endearing personality of our beloved Father will remain indelibly engraved in the hearts of his spiritual children and, more widely, of all who knew him and tasted of the divers benefactions of his great paternal heart. With his holy repose, he now belongs to the entire Church, both on earth



and in Heaven. Indeed, we are certain that his prayers will accompany us in our journey and in our struggle, and will contribute to the progress not only of our spiritual family, but also beyond.

May our Lord grant him rest with the Saints from all ages, in the tabernacles of the Righteous!

Ever and eternal be the memory of our Most Reverend Metropolitan and Father Cyprian!

