



**The Cross and Service**

Compassion means serving one's brother, and service has always been a "trademark" of true Christians: "to be girded with the towel of ministry is not degrading, it is majestic" in Christ our Savior and God.

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"He who does not want his Cross is not worthy of Christ or to be His disciple.

"The depths of spiritual being are opened to the Christian above all when he is crucified for His sake,

"We try to do that which Christ said, and find ourselves upon the Cross, which Cross is the Seat of True Theology?"

(Archimandrite Sophrony † 1993)

**"The Mystery of the Washing of the Feet of the People of God"**

"Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."

(Colossians 4:17)

Take care for the ministry that you have received by the will of the Lord, that you might perfectly fulfill it. ...This service is eminently honorable, though eminently burdensome and fraught with responsibility.... Its fulfillment demands vigilant attention, tireless effort, unceasing prayer, and power and wisdom from on high.

This ministry gradually leads me to the Upper Room of the Mystical Supper, to the effectuation of the Mystery of the washing of the feet of the People of God....

†Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle (6.10.2013)



*"Thou hadst taken upon Thy shoulders our human nature which had gone astray, O Christ, and Thou didst bear it to heaven, unto Thy God and Father."*

† Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle  
President of the Holy Synod in Resistance  
Phyle, Attica, Greece



Icon of the "All-Hymned Mother of God"  
Russian Icon, 18th cent.

## **Appreciative Words of Thankfulness**

9 October 2013 (Old Style)

† Commemoration of the Holy Apostle James, Son of Alphaeus



**I** hasten to express my humble, yet heartfelt, blessings and my appreciative words of thankfulness to my beloved Brothers in Christ and my beloved Sisters in Christ, who have demonstrated in so many ways their love and respect for my person, and who conveyed so many greetings to my unworthiness for my Nameday, as well as for my election and my enthronement as Metropolitan of Oropos and Phyle and President of our Holy Synod.

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**I**t is my heartfelt wish, with sincere emotion, that all of you should be continually under the all-luminous, bracing, and consoling protection of our All-Pure Lady and Theotokos, in your journey to the Heavenly Homeland, the embrace of our God and Father, and the glory of the Holy Trinity.

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**I** also call on the prayers of all of you for my strengthening in this new and lofty service as Metropolitan and President of the Holy Synod. I humbly request your assistance and your accompaniment in loving prayer, that we might be one with another by undertaking together the performance of the two Great Mysteries: the **M**ystery of washing the feet of the People of God and the **M**ystery of the union and unification of the Orthodox, to the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Least Servant of the Flock of Christ,  
Girded About With A Towel,  
† **Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle**