



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ “All seeds of love that are sown will, sooner or later, blossom forth.”

Second Recognition Dinner for the Volunteers that Serve the Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle Phyle (Athens), November 22, 2016 (Old Style)



On Monday, November 22/ December 5, 2016, with the blessing and participation of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, there took place, by the Grace of God, the second recognition dinner this year honoring the volunteers that serve our Holy Metropolis with self-sacrificial love and self-denial in its ecclesiastical, charitable, and cultural work.

The recognition dinner once again took place at the hospitable “Avrames” restaurant in the Municipality of Phyle, which was graciously put at the disposal of our Metropolis by its owner, in a warmly familial atmosphere of joy in Christ.

The St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women’s Guild organized the event, assisted by our Metropolis’ association of volunteers.

The captivating and enjoyable program was presented with great charm by Ms. Justina Phokianou.





Mrs. Despoina Libizou-Pagkale, the new President of the Guild, greeted everyone with words of love, and its Steward, Mrs. Orsa Papisoteriou, read a very didactic text on volunteerism, entitled: “Concerted Volunteerism, Sol-

idarity, and Social Responsibility.”

A short theatrical sketch followed, entitled “Volunteers Needed,” by Mrs. Ekaterina Kostoula, which was performed by members of the children’s theatrical group: Kalomaria, Theodora, and Eirene.



His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, our spiritual guide, who inspired the vision of Concerted Orthodox Volunteerism, then read a profound and succinct text he authored, entitled, “Solidarity, Volunteerism, and Ministry: Safeguards,” wherein he lucidly set forth the conditions for the correct accomplishment of any ecclesiastical work, the great and serious dangers concealed therein, and also the means of surmounting and circumventing them.

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The first part of this family gathering concluded with the distribution of awards to five volunteers, who have served in various activities of our Metropolis for a number of years (especially assisting with photography and filming), and whose conscientious-

ness, love, and self-sacrifice are an example to be imitated.

Medals of honor were given to Antonios Pherianos, Emmanuel Parasyres, Konstantinos Toumbas, Anastasios Miraka, and Abraam Psales. The distribution of awards was met



with enthusiastic applause by those in attendance, but also with surprise by those being honored, in an atmosphere of spiritual joy and emotion.

A simple yet ample lenten meal completed the program. At this time, a group of young Pontic Greeks sang folk

songs with instrumental accompaniment.

The raffle prize of three beautiful ornamental candles was won—for the first time!—by our Most Reverend Metropolitan.

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Finally, everyone received from the hands of our Chief Shepherd, together with his paternal blessing, a memento depicting our Lord washing the feet of His Disciples.

Glory to our Lord for this blessed gathering, which contributed yet further to the cultivation and forging of an ecclesiastical mindset of volunteerism and the strengthening of the bonds of unity and love among the members of the various institutions of our Metropolis.

