



“For the Edification of the Church”

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The Feast Day of the Patron of our philanthropic Guild
and the tenth anniversary of its re-establishment

All-Night Vigil in Honor of St. Philaret the Merciful

Acharnes (Athens), December 1, 2017 (Old Style)



On Wednesday night to the early hours of Thursday morning (November 30–December 1, 2017 [Old Style]) St. Philaret the Merciful Guild celebrated a festal All-Night Vigil on the occasion of the commemoration of its Patron. The Vigil, which included Compline, Great Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy, took place at the Convent of St. Paraskeve (Acharnes, Athens).

This year, the Feast Day and the anniversary of the founding of the Guild (December 1, 2003 [Old Style]) by our ever-memorable Elder, Metropolitan Cyprian (†May 17, 2013) coincided with the tenth year anniversary of its re-establishment (2007-2017) under the guidance and inspiration of our Most Reverend Archpastor.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle presided throughout the Vigil, assisted by the Reverend Abbot of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Archimandrite Father Theodosios, and Father Constantine Soteriades. Also participating were Subdeacons Christos Katsoudas,





Demetrios Giatrakos, and Avraam Psaltes.

The Reverend Mother Taxiarchia and sisters from the Convents of the Holy Angels and of the Panagia Myrtidiotissa (Aphidnes), the board members of our Guild, as well as many other worshippers, even including small babies, were in attendance at this compunction-evoking Vigil, at which the majority communed of the Immaculate Mysteries.

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At the conclusion of the Liturgy, Metropolitan Cyprian spoke a few words "confessionally," describing the sentiments of glorification and gratitude by which he was overcome during the Divine Mystagogy for the wondrous succor of Divine Grace to our philanthropic Guild in its endeavors over the course of the decade since its re-establishment.

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The Reverend Mother Justina and her Sisterhood then treated all those in attendance to a meal in the convent's large reception hall.

During the *agape* meal, Metropolitan Cyprian once again spoke of his gratitude for the heavenly assistance, thanks to which our small Guild has been able greatly to increase its activities, despite the economic crisis prevailing since 2010, and to prove to be the "right lung" of our Metropolis in its multifaceted work. He thanked everyone, including the monastic brotherhoods and sisterhoods, for their good cooperation in that regard.

His Eminence then invited the three women who have served as Presidents of the Board of our Guild—Mrs. Irene Archontoule, Mrs. Athena Choriatopoulou, and Mrs. Despoina Livizou-Pagkale—to speak about their experiences.

Finally, he underscored that we will understand the quality and genuineness in Christ of our philanthropic activities when we examine to what



extent they have opened unto us the fruits of the Holy Spirit, primarily love, compassion, peace, and humility.

The President of the Guild, Mrs. Despoina Lizou-Pagkale, then offered our Most Reverend Metropolitan a bouquet as a token of gratitude for his spiritual guidance and material assistance, by which he paternally supports the members of the Guild.

