



“For the Edification of the Church”

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“I was in prison and ye came unto Me” (St. Matthew 25:36)

Pilgrimage and Visit to the Juvenile Special Detention Center of Volos

December 3, 2021 (Old Style)



On Thursday, December 3, 2021, in the midst of the Nativity Fast, with the blessing, participation, and guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, we made our **seventeenth** visit to the Juvenile Special Deten-

tion Center of Volos.

Once again, owing to the restrictive measures for containment of the pandemic, it was not possible to meet with our incarcerated brothers in the courtyard, as was previously our custom.

Despite his heavy schedule, our Most Reverend Shepherd decided to go himself, together with a small delegation, to hand over the care packages for 120 inmates prepared by the volunteers of the St. Philaret the Merciful Philanthropic Guild.

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The warden, our beloved brother in Christ Mr. Basilios Apostolakes, joyfully received the group in the control room, since it is currently not permitted to enter the facility itself.

He fervently thanked them for their support and described to them the difficult conditions concerning the administration of the detention center during the pandemic. Through the good care and cooperation of the personnel, the few cases

of the virus among the inmates were dealt with successfully, though the times are certainly difficult...



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Upon leaving the Detention Center, the pilgrims went, with the blessing of the local Hierarch, Metropolitan Photios of Demetrias, to the Convent of the Life-giving Spring, in Rizomylo Belestinou.

After visiting the Church, which is being adorned with iconographic murals, Sister Akakia showed the visitors around the convent, currently under restoration with the help of the municipality and the faithful of the region.

Finally, giving thanks to the Lord, they shared the light lunch prepared in advance by the helpers of the Guild. During this time, Metropolitan Cyprian spoke about how we can fast, and, in general, practice abstinence, in a spiritual, mystical manner, which we are taught by the warmth of our relationship with Christ.

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The participants in this twofold pilgrimage returned to their homes with feelings of thanksgiving and glorification to God.

May our All-Merciful Lord soon grant an end to the present tribulations and once again permit group visits to the prisons and detention centers, for the support and strengthening of our brothers.

*Association of Voluntary Blood Donors
"The Crucified"*

● For further information, participations, queries, requests for blood, please contact the **Saint Philaret the Merciful Guild's Offices** (210 24 12 162) or **Mrs. Marianthi Pagoulatos-Toumpa** (6972 45 66 82).