



## “For the Edification of the Church”

- Annals • Pastoral Activities • Presentations •
- Gatherings • Homilies • Sermons • Feasts •
- Pilgrimages • Social Ministry • Publications •

Upon the Commemoration of the Patron Saint of our Charitable Guild

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

Acharnai, Athens, December 1, 2022 (Old Style)



On Tuesday night to Wednesday morning, December 1, 2022 (Old Style), the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild celebrated its annual festal All-Night Vigil on the occasion of the Feast Day of its Patron Saint. As usual, the *Agrypnia* took place at the Convent of St. Paraskeve, in Acharnai, near Athens.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle presided throughout the entire Vigil, assisted by the Reverend Fathers Konstantinos Soterides. Also participating were Hierodeacon Father Gabriel Agiokyprianites and Subdeacons Demetrios Giatrakos and Chrysovalantes.

The Reverend Mother Taxiarchia and nuns from the Convent of the Holy Angels, the Board of Directors and members of the Guild, and many others attended this festal and compunctious *Agrypnia*, at which the majority communed of the Immaculate Mysteries.

\* \* \*

**At the end** of the All-Night Vigil, Metropolitan Cyprian gave thanks to God for His succor and innumerable gifts over the eighteen years of the Guild's activities (2004-2022). He reminded those present that the Guild was founded with the blessing and perspicacious exhortation of Metropolitan Cyprian of blessed memory (†2013), and it has become a strong branch of our Holy Metropolis, behind many of its activities.

**H**is Eminence extended special thanks to all those who have worked, are working, and will work for the Guild, in whatever fashion, and to all those who offer their support. Philanthropy is an integral part of every Metropolis and parish Church.



**A**lmsgiving, he continued, is not merely an external action, but a disposition of the heart, a gift of the Holy Spirit: “What is a merciful heart? It is the heart burning for the whole of creation, for men, for birds, for animals, for demons, and for every created thing,” (St. Isaac the Syrian, Homily 81).

**A**s we hear in the Gospel reading of the day, our Lord links almsgiving and philanthropy with watchfulness. Practicing charity, we are in a constant state of vigilance for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.

**W**hen the disposition of our heart becomes less merciful, it is a sign that our inward struggle, repentance, and humility have weakened, and that our heart has grown hard.

**W**hen almsgiving is not merely a perfunctory answer to a beggar but comes from the heart, it attracts the Grace of God and leads to knowledge of God.

**B**y nature we cannot attain to perfection. Through compassion, however, we become sons by Grace, like unto God: “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful” (St. Luke 6:31-36).

