



## “For the Edification of the Church”

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■ For the thirteenth consecutive year

## Opening Ceremony of the Charity Shop Organized by the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild

**Duration:** November 19, 2023 – January 19, 2024 (New Style)

**O**n Sunday, November 19, 2023 (Old Style), there took place the opening ceremony of the charity shop that is organized annually as a fund-raising effort by the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild, under the protection of the Holy Patrons of our Metropolis: the Mother of God “Surety of Sinners” and the Three Holy New Hierarchs, whose Synaxis was celebrated that day (the first Sunday of November).



Friends and supporters came to the shop in Ano Liosa (Municipality of Phyle) and were present for the Small Blessing of the Waters and a special prayer for the inauguration of the charity shop, which was served by His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, with the assistance of Archimandrite Theodosios, Abbot of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, and Hierodeacon Father Gabriel Hagiokyprianites.



Also present were the Reverend Father Soterios Gioules; the Mayor of Phyle, Mr. Christos Pappous; Deputy Mayor, Ms. Eleni Liakou; and Municipal Councillor, Mr. Dionysios Vlachos.

Representatives from monasteries belonging to our Metropolis and oth-

er members of our Local Church were also in prayerful attendance at this annual endeavor of our charitable Guild.

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**After** the Blessing of the Waters, Metropolitan Cyprian gave thanks to God, by Whose good pleasure the charity shop was organized once again this year.



**He** also thanked the Mayor, his staff, and the other local dignitaries in attendance for their support for the social work of our Church, and for this endeavor in particular, which is undertaken solely in order to assist our needy brothers and sisters in these difficult times.

**He** emphasized the necessity, for the progress of the local community, of a collective care in which pastors, political leaders, various institutions, and personal initiatives work together for the good of our fellow human beings, on both charitable and cultural levels.



**The** President of the Guild, Mrs. Athena Choriatopoulos-Tounta, expressed her gratitude to our Most Reverend Metropolitan, as well as to all those who contributed to the realization of the shop, stressing that all of the items had been donated to the Guild for that purpose.

**The** visitors then had the opportunity to browse the store and choose from a variety of ecclesiastical and decorative items, icons, household objects, and clothing, etc., which are being sold at very affordable prices. Volunteers of the Guild offered refreshments at the entrance to the shop.

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**The Board** Members of the St. Philaret Guild would like to express their best wishes to all those who have donated various items for sale in the gift shop, to those who volunteer their time for this purpose, and to all those who





will visit the shop, each contributing in his or her own way to the charitable work of our Holy Metropolis.

God willing, the gift shop will be open until January 19, 2024.

