

## A Touching Meeting With Our Small Brothers and Sisters

**W**ITH the blessing of our ailing Metropolitan, on the Sunday of the Blind Man, May 19, 2008 (Old Style), His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, led two groups of children from our Holy Synod's catechetical schools, together with their two catechists and members of the St. Philaret the Merciful Orthodox Women's Guild on a visit to the "Good Shepherd" Society for the Protection of Minors (Piraeus), which houses primary school, middle school, and a few high school age children abandoned or abused by their parents.



The group was received by the institution's Director, Ms. Charame, and her co-workers, and shown into a hall where the youngsters were eagerly awaiting them. The St. Cyprian children began by chanting "Christ is Risen" and then sang some songs which they had prepared for

the occasion. In a warm and cheerful atmosphere, accompanied by Bishop Cyprian's joyful smile, the institution children responded by presenting two charming skits and reciting poems.

Bishop Cyprian then approached the children, speaking to them words of Christian love and telling them about his recent visit to the Holy Land. Indeed, he offered to take some of the institution children with him on each of the next group visits to the Holy Land, at the Guild's expense, so that they would all, little by little, be able to go.





The children greeted this proposal with great enthusiasm. Bishop Cyprian then handed out a prayer rope to each child, along with the gift packages containing books, treats, table games, and school supplies prepared for them by the St. Cyprian children. Everyone then chanted “Christ is Risen”!

After a tour of the institution, all of the children went out to play together on the soccer field and basketball court, followed by Bishop Cyprian, who rewarded the winners with a small sum of money.



When it came time to leave, Ms. Charame promised to bring the children one day to the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, and her co-workers asked to meet privately with Bishop Cyprian. All of the children followed the group to the exit, while a few, “glued” to Bishop Cyprian’s side as to a Good Shepherd, accompanied him all the way to his car!

May the Lord and the *Theotokos* protect them throughout their lives!

