

Baptisms of Heterodox*

A. On Saturday, May 10/23, 2009, Hanna Gogacz, a former Roman Catholic from Poland, received Holy Baptism at the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.

The newly-illuminated Hanna was born in 1975 into a family of Roman Catholics (the religion of the overwhelming majority of Poles). She studied art at the University of Krakow, in her native country, speaks four languages in addition to Polish (Russian, German, Italian, and Greek), and has worked in Greece, Germany, and Italy.



Hanna came to Greece a few years ago for work-related reasons, and it was here that she married. Encountering many problems in her life, she fervently besought God to show her a place where she might receive spiritual aid.

When she first visited our Monastery a short while ago, she felt the spiritual strengthening that she had so desired, and resolutely began preparing for her entrance into our Holy Orthodox Faith, the Ark of Salvation.

Father Jiří Ján performed the Mystery of Baptism, assisted by Father Apostolos Kagioglou, at the Chapel of St. Kosmas of Aitolia at our Monastery. Immediately thereafter, the newly-illuminated Hanna's marriage to Mr. Panagiotes Phantakes was given a formal Church blessing.



B. On Thursday, May 15/28, 2009, a former Protestant received Holy Baptism at our Monastery. A political refugee from Pakistan, he is twenty-five years old and came to our country a few months ago.

After arriving in Greece, he was drawn to Orthodoxy and, following preparation and catechism, was baptized by His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, with Mr. Anastasios Pietres as his sponsor, and received the name Solomon.

* Source: *Hagios Kyprianos*, No. 350 (May-June 2009), p. 323.