

## The Election of an Hegumen (Abbot) at the Holy Monastery of Saints Cyprian and Justina Phyle, Attica, Greece

**O**n Wednesday, June 27, 2013 (Old Style), a new Hegumen was elected—with Divine help and by canonic vote—at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Phyle, Attica, Greece: the Reverend Monk Theodosios Agiokyprianites, successor—in the Abbacy only—of the recently reposed Founder and Builder of the Monastery, our Father and Metropolitan, His Eminence, the Most Reverend Cyprian.

After a strict, three-day fast, the Brotherhood of the Monastery, in prayer and a sense of duty, readied itself for this historic event.

On Wednesday morning, His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, *locum tenens* of the Metropolis and of the position of Abbot, celebrated the Divine Liturgy, vested simply as a Priest, in the public



Cathedral at the Monastery, and at the conclusion of the Liturgy chanted a *Trisagion* (Memorial Service) in memory of His Eminence, our Father and Metropolitan Cyprian.

Thereupon, the entire brotherhood retreated to the small *katholikon* (the Chapel where daily monastic services are conducted within the monastery cloister), where, after an introductory entreaty and a short exhortation by His Grace, Bishop Cyprian, the election, with thoroughgoing order, sobriety, and anonymity took place for the appointment of a new Hegumen.



Considered as potential candidates, in accordance with the Constitution of the Monastery, were all of the Great Schema Monks registered as brothers of the monastery, twenty-two in number, whose names were entered onto a ballot especially prepared for that purpose.

Eligible to vote were all of the Monks of Rasophore status and above, with only the Novices excluded from voting.

In the end, a total of thirty-four Fathers voted (four others were absent and away), the overwhelming majority voting for the Reverend Monk Theodosios, with twenty-eight votes, while other brothers received five votes, and one ballot remained blank.

Immediately, a Thanksgiving Doxology was chanted, and His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi congratulated the newly elected Hegumen together with, and on behalf of, the brotherhood, emphasizing that this appointment was of God, through the brothers, and that the duty would entail a metaphorical crucifixion.

Afterwards, the entire brotherhood greeted the Elder-elect Theodosios prayerfully.

There then took place a photographic commemoration in the courtyard of the Monastery, and thereafter, with His Grace, Bishop Cyprian and the new Hegumen in the lead, they entered the Refectory, chanting the *Theotokarion* (hymn to the Mother of God), “The Universal Glory,” accompanied harmoniously by the ringing of the bells.

In the Refectory, after the noon meal, His Grace, Bishop Klemes (Clement) of Gardikion offered words of congratulations as representative of the Holy Synod, and, in turn, His Eminence, Bishop Silouan (Silvano) of Luni, who is visiting the Monastery from Italy. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi briefly reflected on the nature of the Abbot's duties, which are distinguished by compassion and reminding the brothers of the scope and meaning of monastic dedication (commitment).



It has been determined that at the all-night service (Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy) at the Monastery for the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, the new Abbot will be Ordained to the first level of the Priesthood, the Di-

aconate, and on Sunday a Presbyter. Arrangements for his official Enthronement will be announced shortly.

- The new Hegumen, Monk Theodosios, was born in Kavala in 1967, where he grew up and completed his secondary education. He moved to Thessaloniki, where he undertook studies as a medical assistant, though without completing his studies there. He worked for a short time outside Greece, in Switzerland, and he knows and speaks English quite adequately. He married a foreign convert to Orthodoxy, but their marriage was dissolved by mutual consent after a relatively short period of time.

After his military service, he entered the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, some twenty years ago, at the beginning of 1993. After his novitiate, he was tonsured a Rasophore Monk on March 25, 1995, and to the Great Schema on February 24, 1996, by His Eminence, our Metropolitan and Abbot Cyprian. He was also ordained a Subdeacon on October 23, 1995, and already in the following year had taken on responsibility for the direction of our then newly built *metochion* (dependency) of St. Paraskeve in Rongia, Chrysovitsa (in the region of Thermo, Aetolia), where he lived in ascetic self-abnegation for thirteen and a half years. For the past four and a half years, he was one of the Fathers who looked after His

Eminence, our Elder Cyprian, during the many years of his illness, whom he served with paradigmatic and incomparable sacrifice every night during this period.

Elder Theodosios is beloved by everyone in the brotherhood for his meekness, his irenic spirit, his profoundly monastic sensitivity and obedience, his humility and love, his industriousness and acumen, his monastic formation, prudence, and discretion. As well, he maintained a greatly developed spiritual unity with His Eminence, our Father, to whom he especially gave solace, enjoying his unreserved esteem, trust, and love.

May his charisms be put to even greater advantage in service to the brothers of the



Monastery and their progress in all things. In this, beyond the help of God, the protection of the Saints, and the blessings of our Elder, he will have the undivided support and guidance of His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi (Confessor of the Brotherhood) and His Grace, Bishop Chrysostomos of Christianoupolis (Steward and Provisor).

- Attention has been drawn to the appropriately strict proviso that the new Hegumen will exercise his duties exclusively within the monastery cloister, and only as concerns the Brotherhood, without his involvement in pastoral work, which is undertaken by the Hierarchy and in general by the clergy assigned thereto, as well as regards the public domain of the Monastery and beyond.

May our Lord show him to be a genuine continuator of the Legacy of our Holy Elder and Father, Metropolitan Cyprian. Amen!

