



“For the Edification of the Church”

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■ A noble vision and an urgent necessity

A Second Meeting for the Foundation of Private Orthodox Schools

Phyle, Attica, January 25, 2016 (Old Style)



By the Grace of God, on January 25 (commemoration of our Father among the Saints Gregory the Theologian), with the blessing, dynamic presence, and encouraging guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, a second meeting was held for the foundation of private Orthodox schools.

This gathering was significantly broader in scope than the first and was very well attended.

Present at this “historic meeting,” as it was reckoned, were important friends and supporters of the work of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle, as well as representatives of the local government.

In an atmosphere of holy zeal, warmth of feeling, and enthusiasm, the meeting proceeded flawlessly, eliciting the unflagging attention and active participation of those in attendance from beginning to





end (8:30-11:30 p.m.).

As a case in point, the well-known and successful entrepreneur, Mr. Konstantinos Loules (a former civil governor of the Holy Mountain), stated that he had postponed a trip abroad in order to participate in “this very important meeting,” as he characterized it in his thoughtful comments.

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Our Much Revered Shepherd opened the meeting with an indispensable historical retrospective of the educational vision of our Metropolis. He then read messages of encouragement sent by people from various parts of our homeland who heard with great enthusiasm and relief the “good news” of our endeavors to establish both a Guild to realize our educational vision and an Association of Orthodox Scholars.

Hierodeacon Gabriel Hagiokyprianites, a member of the steering committee, then gave a brief report of the progress of our endeavor, which has already brought forth promising firstfruits and enkindled in hundreds of concerned faithful the flame of faith and hope for a bright future.

The other two members of the steering committee then gave reports on more specific matters. Mr. Nikolaos Mannes, a schoolteacher, presented a first draft of a charter for the immediate foundation of a “Guild of Friends and Supporters of the Educational Vision of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle.” Mr. Photios Athanasopoulos, a civil servant, detailed





the legal aspect of the undertaking.

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In the discussion that followed, all were free to express their views or specific proposals for this undertaking, which is a very difficult one, though—by the Grace of God— not unattainable.

Among the two hundred or so participants who joined in the discussion were: Ms. Elene Liakou, the Deputy Mayor of Phyle; Mr. Demetrios Bouraïmes, the former Mayor of Phyle; Archimandrite Father Euthymios Bardakas; Hieromonk Father Dionysios Hagiokyprianites; Mr. Konstantinos Papademetrakopoulos, the founder of the “Photodotes” publishing house; the former President of the St. Philaret the Merciful Guild, Mrs. Eirene Archontoule; Mr. Taxiarches Kokores, a civil servant in the Ministry of Finance; the physician Ms. Basilike Liose; Ms. Evtychia Hieremiadou, teacher and Assistant Professor at the School of Education at the University of Athens; the teacher Ms. Theodora Koutsoumba; the physician Loukas Palles; the teacher Georgios Korres, and others.

All of the views expressed were pertinent, and Metropolitan Cyprian recorded them in order to create a synthesis containing the best elements of each, for the immediate and dynamic





advancement of this “noble but urgently necessary vision,” as it was repeatedly characterized.

Finally, at the exhortation of Metropolitan Cyprian, twenty-three of the participants expressed the desire

to be founding members of the “Guild of Friends and Supporters of the Educational Vision of the Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle,” which will work vigorously to realize the foundation of the first school.

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Just as at the first meeting, we asked for the prayers of all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ for the fruition of our vision of providing genuine Greek Orthodox education.

Little Justina then read a concluding poetic prayer that was written specifically for the occasion, and which is read during the opening prayers at the lessons given to children by our Metropolis’ Iconography Workshop.

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The steering committee, bolstered by the significant participation of Mrs. Eirene Archontoule, was called upon to continue its work, and a third meeting was set for Thursday of the third week of Great Lent, March 18/31, 2016.

**To our God be
glory, thanksgiving,
honor, and worship
unto the ages. Amen!**