



“For the Edification of the Church”

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“I was in prison and ye came unto Me” (St. Matthew 25:36)

Visit to the Juvenile Special Detention Center of Volos, Greece

† September 29, 2022 (Old Style)



On Wednesday, September 29, 2022 (Old Style), with the blessing and guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle, we made our eighteenth to the Juvenile Special Detention Center of Volos, in northern Greece.

Owing to continuing health measures, it was once again not possible to meet with our incarcerated brothers in the courtyard of the detention center, as previously was our custom.

Despite his heavy schedule, Metropolitan Cyprian decided to go in person, together with a small delegation, to deliver the care packages prepared for 120 inmates by the volunteers of the St. Philaret the Merciful Philanthropic Guild.

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At the Detention Center, our beloved brother in Christ Mr. Basilios Apostolakes courteously welcomed the group in the control room, since it is currently not permitted to enter the inner area of the prison.

Thanking them for their support, he expressed the hope that the restrictive measures regarding visits will be lifted, so

that the inmates will once again have the joy of an informal meeting with their visitors *en masse*.

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Leaving the Detention Center, with the blessing of the local Hierarch, Metropolitan Photios of Demetrias, the group visited the Convent of the Life-giving Spring in Rizomylo Belestinou. They were welcomed by Nun Akakia and by Father Georgios Shahla Buhaous and Father Andreas Assaad, who had celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the convent earlier that day.

The Fathers described to Metropolitan Cyprian the living conditions and ecclesiastical situation in Syria and Lebanon, as well as the great spiritual and practical needs of the Church there. They then joined His Eminence in singing hymns, enraptured by the beauty of our Byzantine tradition and the vivid sense of brotherly unity in Christ....

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The pilgrims returned to their homes giving thanks to our Lord for the gifts of this twofold pilgrimage.

