

## A Follow-up to the Missionary Visit\*

As we wrote in a previous issue of our periodical, *Άγιος Κυπριανός*, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, together with His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methoni and two laymen, made a successful missionary visit to our communities in Kenya during the final ten days of this past January.

From among the many expressions of gratitude that we received from our Orthodox brethren in Kenya following this visit, we are publishing just two representative letters: the first is from Protopresbyter John Njue Njagi, one of our Episcopal Representatives and Rector of the newly-Consecrated Church of the Holy Apostle Paul, in Kaanja, Embu, and the second is from Mother Christonymphe, Superior of the newly-established Convent of the Holy Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer, near Mount Kenya.

### I.

#### Church of the Apostle Paul, Embu

27 March 2001

Your Eminence:

I prostrate before you and kiss your right hand, and I ask your forgiveness, I, your lowly and sinful servant, who am not worthy to incline my head over a piece of paper to write to you, unblesed as I am. ...On behalf of the clergy and the Orthodox Faithful of the Eastern Region, we wish to thank



you and those who accompanied you. We do not have words to express our gratitude, for our Church in Kenya has been uplifted more than we can put into words. May the Heavenly Father grant many years to you and your fellow-workers in the Lord's Vineyard.

The Consecration of the Church of the Holy Apostle Paul showed forth the truth of Orthodoxy, which is unknown to the heterodox. For this reason, it strengthened the faith of our Orthodox people. Your visits to different parishes, beginning with the Convent of St. George and the Divine Liturgy

that you celebrated there, as well as your paternal counsels, encouraged the Faithful, who long to have you always near them. They say that you have laid the foundation of genuine Orthodoxy here in Kenya. They pray that, God willing, you might visit them again.

Pray for us and send us your blessing, and inform our brothers and sisters in Greece and elsewhere that we rejoiced beyond measure at your visit here and the love that you showed us, at your prayers, and at your material assistance to us.

The least among Priests,

Father John Njue

## II.

### Holy Convent of St. George the Trophy-bearer

26 March 2001

Your Eminence, bless!

With great gratitude I thank you for your paternal visit to us. Truly you sacrificed yourself as a loving father before his beloved children, and you endured this whole great journey to Kenya, and also its scorching sun and its dust.

I know that you faced difficult conditions here, but you bore them with great patience and with great joy and love. Our Lord and God will reward you and will crown you with unfading glory in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Venerable Father, forgive me for any impropriety that I committed during your visit to our convent. It was my desire to show fitting honor and respect to your holiness, but because of the poverty of our convent and my human weakness, I failed in my purpose. Thank you for your humility and patience.

We were very moved by your words, which possessed a spiritual sweetness, and we look forward to hearing you again, if God so wills....

Bending down to the ground, I kiss your right hand.

The least of your servants in the Lord,

Nun Christonymphe

\* Source: Άγιος Κυπριανός, No. 301 (March-April 2001), pp. 21-22.