

An Ode to the Most Blessed Theotokos

The Patronal Feast of the Convent of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*, in Aphidnai, Attica

By the Grace of the child of God, the Virgin Mary, on Thursday, September 24, 2010 (Old Style), the Convent of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*, in Aphidnai, Attica, celebrated its Patronal Feast, with the participation of a large number of pious faithful, nearly all of whom communed of the Immaculate Mysteries.

The Reverend Mother Evpraxia and her Sisterhood had prepared everything for the honor due to the Mother of God. The *Synaxis* of the Icon of the *Panagia Myrtdiotissa*—which was revealed to a simple shepherd on the fragrant island of Kythera in the fourteenth century—is celebrated exactly forty days after her Venerable Dormition.

The Reverend Mother Taxiarchia, Abbess of the nearby Convent of the Holy Angels, with a number of her nuns (who provided the chanting), and the Reverend Mother Christonymphe, Abbess of the Convent of the Transfiguration, in Barnaba, Attica, were in prayerful attendance. His Grace, Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod in Resistance, was the principal celebrant, assisted by Father Soterios Gioules, Hierodeacon Joseph, and Subdeacon Monk Antonios.

At the end of Matins, the Immaculate Theotokos had an especial blessing and joy in store for the worshipers: The convent's novice, Barbara (Adamopoulos, 32 years old), was tonsured a Rasophore Nun with the name Myrtdiotissa. This was a very moving event for a number of reasons, not least of which because she is the third daughter in the pious Adamopoulos



family to dedicate her life to Christ our Beloved Bridegroom. The first two, Great Schema Nuns Xene and Evpraxia, belong to the Sisterhood of the Convent of the Holy Angels, under obedience to their maternal aunt, Mother Taxiarchia. Glory to God for all things!

During the procession around the convent's main Church, prayers of supplication for the repose of the convent's ever-memorable Foundress and first Abbess, Mother Evgenia (†July 20, 2001), were read at her grave.



Following the Liturgy, according to monastic custom, a festal meal was served, during which everyone present extended their best wishes to the newly tonsured Sister Myrtidiotissa, as well as to the venerable Mother Thekla, who has recently been beset by ill health, on the occasion of her Nameday.

This was a truly edifying celebration, an Ode to the Most Blessed Theotokos, and an excellent opportunity to pray for our sorely-trying homeland and the entire world.

