



Sixth Pastoral Visit to Southern Germany and Austria October 8 -12, 2021 (Old Style)

By the **Grace** of our Lord and with the blessing of His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos, His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, together with the Reverend Father Angelos Mourlas and a group of six travelling companions, made his sixth pastoral visit to Southern Germany and Austria, from 8 to 12 October 2021 (Old Style).

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On Thursday, October 8 (Old Style), the delegation from Greece visited the cemetery at Perlacher Forst, in Munich, where they served a *Trisagion* at the grave of Alexander Schmorell, a member of the anti-Nazi resistance group known as White Rose (Weiße Rose), and prayed at the graves of other members of the group.

They also went to the Old Cemetery of Munich in order to serve a *Trisagion* at the grave of Leonidas Androutsos—son of Odysseas Androutsos, one of the most prominent figures of the Greek Revolution—but the gates were locked owing to the wind storm.



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On Friday, October 9 (Old Style) the small group of local faithful and the visitors from Greece went to the Gothic



Burghausen Castle in Upper Bavaria, located near the Salzach River. The castle's roots originally date back to the eighth or ninth century, but its appearance as we know it today—with its fortified towers, walls up to five metres thick, great halls, moats and drawbridges—originated in the thirteenth to fifteenth century.

The castle complex measures 1,051 metres in length, making it the longest in the world.

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On Saturday, October 10 (Old Style) the Divine Liturgy was celebrated at a house chapel in Munich, with a number of faithful in attendance.

Metropolitan Cyprian expressed his pleasure at participating in a humble and compunctious Divine Liturgy

in a house chapel, making reference to the early Church, when the Eucharistic Synaxis was performed in the homes of the faithful, who “were of one heart and one soul.”

After the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Cyprian met with the faithful and heard confessions, and once again discussed the possibility of finding an appropriate location for a chapel in Munich or the surrounding area.



Around noon, the Shepherds and their travelling companions left for Salzburg, Austria, where they were met by Mr. Kyriakos Kyriakides, the warden of the Chapel of St. Rupert (Robert) in Köstendorf, Salzburg. Great Vespers

was served in the chapel that afternoon.

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On Sunday, October 11 (Old Style), the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Synod, Resurrectional Matins and the Divine Liturgy were celebrated. The Austrian parish-

ioners were joined by faithful from Munich.

Metropolitan Cyprian expressed his joy at being among the parishioners again, and spoke about the dogmatic significance of the Holy Icons and the important place they have not only in the Church, but also in the homes of the faithful, and how the reverence we show them attracts the Grace of God and the protection of the Saints.



He reminded the faithful about an account from *The Spiritual Meadow* of John Moschos, in which an unclean spirit promised an ascetic, who was undergoing carnal warfare, that he would leave him alone if only he removed from his cell the icon of the Mother of God.

After the Divine Liturgy, a visit was made to the Nonnberg Abbey, located on the eastern foothills of the Festungsberg, beneath the Salzburg Fortress. Founded between 712-715, it is the oldest continuously existing convent in the German-speaking world. Here, they venerated the Relics of St. Erentrude, the convent's first Abbess and niece of the founder of the convent, St. Rupert. St. Rupert († 26 February), St. Erentrude († 30 June), and St. Virgil († 27 November) are honored as the Patron Saints of Salzburg.



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Both on Saturday and Sunday, in between the services, Metropolitan Cyprian and Father Angelos held small gatherings at the house of Mr. Kyriakos Kyriakidos, at which they discussed various spiritual matters in answer to the questions of the faithful regarding our life in Christ; for example, how to practice humility in our daily lives, and also various ecclesiological issues.

Our brothers and sisters described how they have lived peacefully through the pandemic, thanks to their regular Church attendance and by making good use of the Internet: listening prayerfully to live broadcasts of services together in the Church, and enjoying brief weekly digital meetings with Father Angelos.



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On Monday, October 12 (Old Style), the visitors from Greece returned to their homeland.

During this blessed visit, Metropolitan Cyprian yet again ascertained the fruits of the self-sacrificing ministry of the Reverend Father Angelos and his lay assistants: there does indeed exist a "hearth" where our Orthodox brethren abroad find spiritual nourishment and warmth, while sharing their faith with others.

May our Most Holy Theotokos and the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria protect and strengthen their Small Flock in their honorable endeavors. Glory to God for all things!

