



***Thyranoixia* of the Chapel Dedicated to the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria in Munich** **June 4-6, 2023 (Old Style)**



In July of 2018, following a pastoral visit that His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle made to Bavaria and Austria together with the Reverend Father Angelos Mourlas, the latter wrote:

“We returned...with the conviction that the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria will not abandon our small flock, but will consolidate our humble missionary efforts, such that, after approximately twelve centuries, they will once again be commemorated in an Orthodox manner in the place where they first sowed the word of Christ.”

By the Grace of our Lord and the blessing of His Beatitude, Archbishop Kallinikos, the faith and prayers of our Shepherds and of the small flock in Bavaria have borne fruit, both in Austria and Munich.

First, on November 11 - 12, 2018 (Old Style), there took place in Köstendorf, Salzburg, Austria, the *Thyranoixia* (“Opening of the Doors” ceremony) and first Divine Liturgy of the Chapel of St. Robert (Rupert), the Enlightener of Bavaria, at the conclusion of which Metropolitan Cyprian expressed the wish that the faithful be vouchsafed a second miracle of the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria: a second functioning Church, this time in Munich.

And now, on June 4, 2023 (Old Style), Metropolitan Cyprian went to Munich in order to inaugurate a new period in the life of our Orthodox community there.

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By the intercessions of the Holy Enlighteners of the country, Sts. Emmeram, Robert, and Corbinian, at the end of the year 2022 a suitable location was found for the liturgical and mysteryological needs of our faithful in Munich, in a spacious private house in Wolfratshausen, approximately 30 km (19 miles) southwest of Munich.



Accompanied by the Reverend Father Theodosios (Abbot of the Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Phyle) Metropolitan Cyprian went in January to give instructions regarding the construction and arrangement of the chapel. The parishioners, aided by Father Angelos, worked hard and with self-sacrifice to prepare everything, with very beautiful results.

On Saturday afternoon, June 4 (Old Style), Metropolitan Cyprian performed the *Thyranoixia* of the Church, assisted by Father Angelos, in an atmosphere of compunction and joy. Great Vespers followed, during which the service for the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria, written by His Eminence, was chanted together with the Resurrectional hymns for Sunday.

On Sunday, June 5 (Old Style), at the end of Orthros, the *Cheirothesia* for service in the Church was read over the wardens and chanters of the Church of St. Robert (in Austria) and of the Chapel of the Enlighteners of Bavaria. His Eminence then presided at the Divine Liturgy, with Father Angelos concelebrating.

Many faithful from Germany and Austria were in attendance, some having travelled several hours to participate, as they regularly do for services and to partake of the Immaculate Mysteries.



In his homily, Metropolitan Cyprian gave thanks to the Divine Founder of the Church, the Most Holy Theotokos, and the chapel's Patron Saints, as well as to all those who contributed in one way or another to the preparation of this new place of worship.

That it was God's good pleasure for this vision to be accomplished is a sign that He is rewarding the faith and dedication of our small flock to the traditions of our Church. Let us show ourselves to be grateful and consistent, with a self-sacrificial disposition and obedience to the calling of our Lord, like the Apostles, who left their nets and followed Christ, and like the New Martyrs whom we commemorate today.



In this new period being inaugurated today, let us fight with ever greater resolve against carnal-mindedness and worldly attachments. Let us be ready to follow our Lord with self-sacrifice, for a twofold wave of apostasy has arisen: from without, the de-Christianization of society based on various atheistic, New Age, or rights-related ideologies; and from within, the endeavor to transform the substance of our faith, such that while we do not openly deny Christ, our "faith" and deeds no longer conform to the Gospel of our Lord....

Metropolitan Cyprian once again expressed his gratitude to Father Angelos for his self-sacrificing love in performing his missionary ministry, as well as to our Sister in Christ Helen and her charming family for their prompt willingness to grant the location for the use of the Church, and prayed that the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria recompense them abundantly for their God-pleasing "hospitality."

• After the Divine Liturgy an *agape* meal was served, during which His Eminence instructed the faithful on ways of participating in divine worship, the use of the prayer rope in our daily lives, and also the means set forth by Church tradition to assist our brothers and sisters, both living and reposed.

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On Monday, June 6 (Old Style), Metropolitan Cyprian and his travelling companions from Greece returned to their homeland with thanksgiving to our Lord for this new step in the progress of our small flock in Bavaria.



May the Divine Founder of our Church, through the intercessions of the Holy Enlighteners of Bavaria, confirm, strengthen, and comfort our brothers and sisters!

