

FEAST OF ST EFSTATHIOS PATRON SAINT OF THE ORTHODOX ORPHANAGE

On Sunday 28th September 2016, His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Brazzaville and Gabon, conducted the Divine Liturgy and preached the homily at the Holy Parish Church of St Irene in the city of Dolisie, honouring the memory of St Efstathios, Patron Saint and Protector of the Orthodox Orphanage "St Efstathios".

Most moving was the voluntary attendance at the Eucharistic gathering of the Ecclesiastical Councils and faithful of the Parishes of the Resurrection of the Lord in Brazzaville, Ascension of the Lord Pointe-Noire and St Fotini Pointe-Noire, who wished in practice to express their love and support for the children of the "St Efstathios" Orphanage, offering food, sweets, toys and school items.

Equally important was the brotherly act of the Roman Catholic Bishop of the city, His Eminence Bienvenu Manamika, who donated food, as well as a symbolic sum of money for this charitable foundation.

Before the ending, the Chairman of the Parish Council Mr. Dallou, addressed the Bishop thanking him for his ceaseless paternal care for the Parish and its adjacent institutions (orphanage and school), and stressed the dynamic presence of the Orthodox Church in society.

In his reply expressed his gratitude to all who attended the Liturgy, who with their presence expressed the unity and solidarity which abounds in the local Church, as well as the recognition of the philanthropic efforts undertaken. He also expressed gratitude to the Missionary societies of Greece, organizations, Holy Metropolises and pious Orthodox faithful throughout the world for their valuable assistance in the Missionary effort, particularly to the Orthodox Orphanage.

A festive reception followed, after which the Bishop departed by road for the See of the Holy Diocese. Present at the Feast of St Efstathios were His Eminence the Roman Catholic Bishop of Dolisie Bienvenu Manamika, the Director of Social Affairs of the Niari District, the Honourable Mr. Chrysostomos Djimbi Simouna, President of the Courts of Dolisie, Member of the Diocesan Council, the Chairmen of the Parish Councils of the Holy Churches of St. Fotini Pointe-Noire Mr. Michel Armand Massa, Member of the Diocesan Council and Mr. Adrien Hosse, of the Resurrection of the Lord in Brazzaville, and others.