

THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS ON THE HOLY ISLAND OF TINOS – PARTICIPATION OF THE BISHOP OF CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

On the evening of 13th August 2014, in the forecourt in front of the Holy Church of the Finding, of the Pan-Hellenic Holy Institute of the Evangelistria of Tinos, the last Paraclesis to the Theotokos was served, conducted by His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Brazzaville and Gabon, whom His Eminence Dorotheos II, Metropolitan of Syros and Tinos, welcomed to his birthplace, the Holy Island of Tinos, wishing him a productive ministry calling on the blessing of God and the protection of the Holy Virgin, for the success of the missionary work of the local Church of Congo-Brazzaville. Thousands of pilgrims and many pious residents of the island, who in multifaceted ways expressed their honour and respect to the Holy Icon of the Theotokos, were present, trying to touch it and venerate it.

His Grace Panteleimon, speaking to the crowds of pilgrims, spoke of mans' search for God and meeting with Him, through the Theotokos. The Service of the Paraklesis was broadcast by the Radio Station of the Church of Greece.

On the evening of 14th August, in the Holy Church of the Evangelistria, Great Vespers was served, officiated over by His Eminence Dorotheos II, Metropolitan of Syros and Tinos, and His Grace Panteleimon Bishop of Brazzaville, in the presence of the Decentralized Administration Secretary General, representing the Greek Government, the illustrious Leaders of the Hellenic Navy and the Coast Guard, representatives of the Hellenic Army and the Security Forces, the outgoing and the newly elected Mayors of Tinos, Regional and Municipal Councilors and thousands of faithful Christians.

On Friday 15th August, Matins and the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy were served, conducted by His Eminence Metropolitan Dorotheos II, concelebrated by His Grace Panteleimon, Bishop of Brazzaville and Gabon. The procession of the miraculous icon of the Theotokos followed, which was awaited patiently and with anticipation by the faithful Christians who had come from afar, the East and the West. In Ecclesiastical order the procession took place and the crowds of faithful waited to pass under the Icon of the Theotokos, to touch the holy ciborium and to receive the grace of the most venerable icon.

At the Pantanassa Square His Eminence Metropolitan Dorotheos II, of Syros and Tinos, spoke of the intercession of the Theotokos on the salvation of the Hellenic Nation and of the world. The Divine Liturgy and the Procession were covered by satellite of Greek television throughout the world. Following the return of the Icon to the Church of the Evangelistria, the Administration Council hosted a reception for the official guests in the reception hall of the Pan Hellenic Holy Institute of the Evangelistria of Tinos.

(photos: www.romfea.gr)