

## **Commemoration of Saint Photios the Great at the Holy Monastery of Saint Anastasia Pharmakolytria, in Vasilika of Thessaloniki**



With ecclesiastical order, humility, and profound spiritual compunction, the memory of Saint Photios the Great, Archbishop of Constantinople, the wise and God-inspired hierarch, luminary of Orthodoxy, and tireless defender of the truth of the faith, was celebrated at the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegic Monastery of Saint Anastasia Pharmakolytria, in Vasilika of Thessaloniki.

The Eucharistic Synaxis was presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodimos of Kassandra, with His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of Miletus, Abbot of the venerable Monastery, joining in prayer.

On this sacred occasion, the Abbot conveyed to the congregation the paternal greetings and blessing of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Patriarch of the Nation, expressing the loving care and unceasing concern of the Mother Church for the Holy Monastery and the fullness of the faithful.

The sacred service was adorned by a large choir of chanters, led by the Archon Protekdikos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Mr. Haralambos Sioufas, together with the chief chanters Nikolaos Tyrovolis, Nikolaos Stathis, Stefanos Symeonidis,

Grigorios Zarkos, Nikolaos Dimitrakopoulos, Dimitrios Mastrospyros, Raphael Asdre, and Makis Gerovasileiou. With reverence and ecclesiastical ethos, they brought forth the melody of the ancestral Byzantine musical tradition, contributing to the atmosphere of compunction and the spiritual edification of the people.

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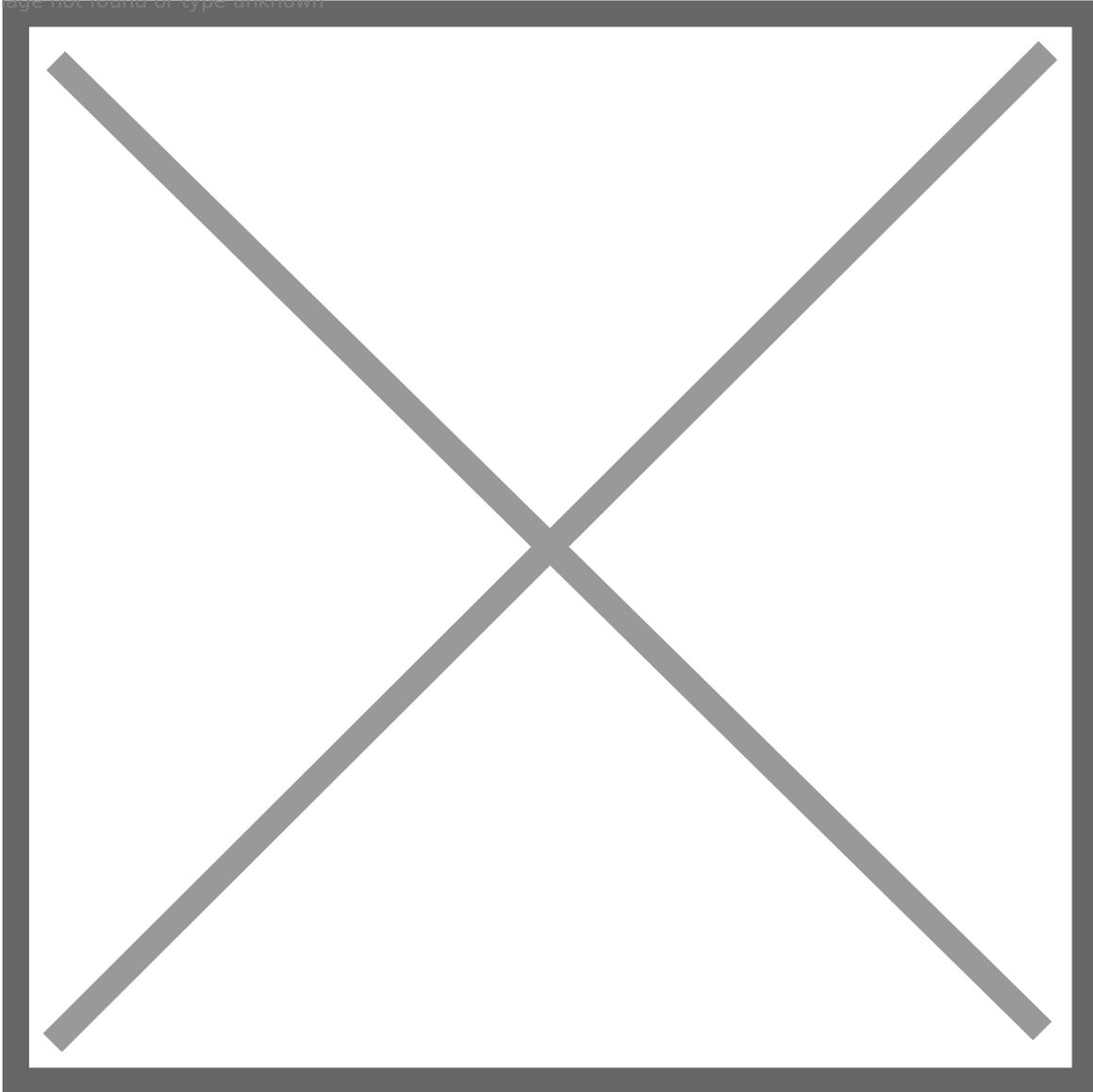
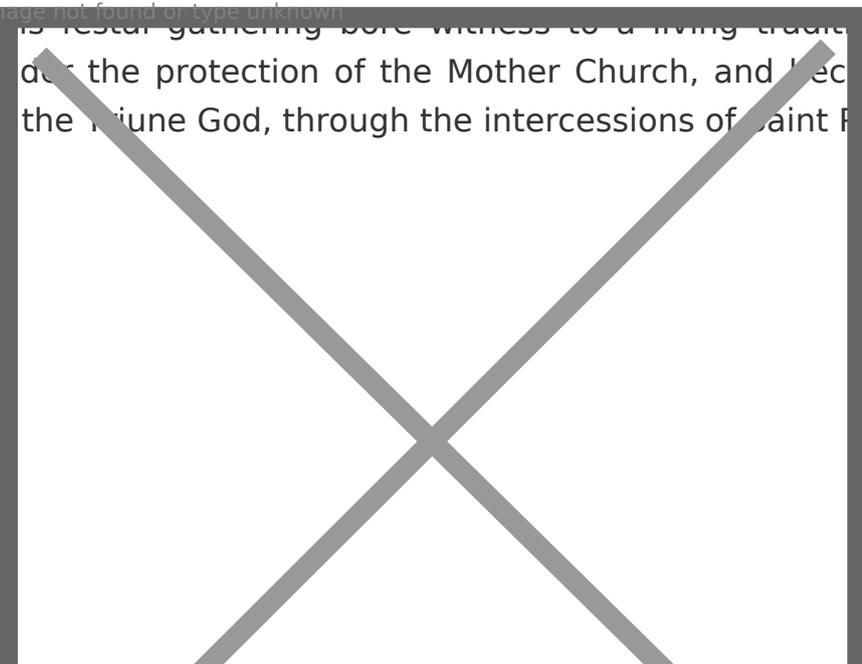


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This festival gathering bore witness to a living tradition and to ecclesiastical unity under the protection of the Mother Church, and became an occasion for doxology to the Triune God, through the intercessions of Saint Photios the Great.





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