

### **Monastery Feast Day in Etna**

On the second Sunday of Great Lent, 2008, which is dedicated to the memory of its Patron Saint, the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA, celebrated its major Feast Day. The brotherhood was joined by the clergy from the nearby parish of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, Protopresbyter David Cownie and Father Jerome Zubricky, as well as Father George Mavromatis, who serves the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess, in Etna. The Abbess of the convent, Mother Elizabeth, and twelve nuns joined in the festivities, along with a small group of lay people.

The Feast Day was made especially memorable and joyful by the presence, as a concelebrant in the services, of His Grace, Bishop Andronik, who is responsible for the parishes in America under His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel, First Hierarch of the temporary supreme administration of that part of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad which did not accept the union with the Moscow Patriarchate, in May of last year, and which body is a Sister Church of the Orthodox Church of Greece, Holy Synod in Resistance. His Grace was accompanied by his



*Above, left to right, Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, Father George Mavromatis, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos, His Grace, Bishop Andronik, Protodeacon Iov Chemerov, Father Jerome Zubricky, and Protopresbyter David Cownie.*

Protodeacon, Father Iov Chemerov. Bishop Andronik, former Chief Administrator of the ROCA's mission in Jerusalem, was Consecrated to the Episcopacy by His Eminence, Bishop Agafangel, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, and His Eminence, Bishop George of Alania (South Ossetia), the latter two being members of the Holy Synod in Resistance.

During his visit, His Grace, Bishop Andronik, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, and His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos discussed the status of their small communities in this country and agreed to work cooperatively, as Sister Churches, in sharing together the spiritual and pastoral guidance of their respective parishes and monastic communities. They also agreed to maintain close spiritual ties between the two Exarchates in America, with the hope of building up the spiritual strength of their clergy and faithful and fostering brotherly contacts and cooperation.



*The rite of the Blessing of Loaves, following the festal Liturgy, performed on the steps of the Metropolitan Cyprian Theological Library.*