



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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May 25, 2011

Third Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

Rev. Abbess Mother Theonymphie
St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Monastery
P.O. Box 5757
Cleveland, OH 44101

Dear Mother Theonymphie,

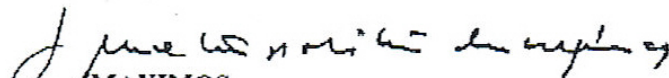
Χριστός Ἀνάστη! I wish to thank you for traveling to Pittsburgh in order to share the blessing of the beautiful icons that you presented to me on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, which I had the distinct privilege to venerate and also to bless.

All three icons – 1) a duplicate of the original icon of the Theotokos with the Christ Child, that spoke to St. Mary of Egypt in the courtyard at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, thus leading to her conversion; 2) the special icon of the Theotokos given to the Monastery of St. Mary of Egypt in Cleveland, Ohio; and 3) an original, unprecedented icon of the conversion of St. Mary of Egypt, praying before the miraculous speaking icon in the courtyard of the Tomb of Christ – are truly God-inspired and worthy of pious veneration by faithful Orthodox Christians everywhere. I understand that a ray of white light shone from the right eye of the Mother of God when a photo of these icons was taken with both a film and digital camera, and has been reproduced in these renderings.

You have my paternal blessing to unveil these wonderful icons at the Monastery for veneration by the faithful in the near future. The unveiling and veneration must be preceded by a Divine Liturgy on the same date.

With blessings and best wishes for a joyous Paschal season and God's strength in all your endeavors, I remain,

With paternal love,


MAXIMOS
METROPOLITAN OF PITTSBURGH