



## An Event

### The consecration of a small chapel dedicated to St. Joseph in Chios (Greece).

Chios is a Greek island located near Smyrna, where the congregation had a mission, in the northern Aegean Sea (1884-1984).

The sisters withdrew from the mission, and the house in Chios was sold to the municipality of the city in 1984, with the promise of building a small chapel dedicated to St. Joseph there.

Fortunately, the bishops of Tinos (Héllade), under whose jurisdiction the Catholic Church of Chios falls, along with a small minority of Catholics, did not forget this promise. On the contrary, they fought for over 20 years to fulfill it. With perseverance and the help of a single Catholic priest, the parish priest of St. Nicholas, residing in the capital city of Chios and holding a Mass every Sunday for the few Catholic residents as well as for many tourists, refugees, and other passersby, “the dream” of Bishop Nicolas Prindezis, who has surpassed 75 years of age, and his diligent efforts have finally come to fruition.

I am sharing with you here some excerpts from his homily during the inauguration of this chapel (12.10.2024), to which Sr. Agnès Palaiologou, Provincial of Europe, and Sr. Elpida, Superior of the only community we have in Greece, in Heraclea, were invited.

“On May 3, 2002, the purchase contract for the historic house of Chios was signed. It was signed by the prefect of the city [...] and by Sister Hilarion Pachita, Provincial Superior of Greece at the time. This contract provides for the reconstruction of a chapel in honor of St. Joseph, reports the emeritus bishop.”

“That evening, I had a dream... the reconstruction of a lovely church, filled with Christians and believers. This is exactly what I see at this moment. It took 22 years of letters, insistence, and efforts. It wasn't until 2021 that the work began. And finally, we celebrate the Eucharist in this place where, in 1884, it was celebrated for the first time. The chapel was closed for 40 years, and the presence today of two Sisters of St. Joseph, Sr. Agnès P. and Sr. Elpida, reminds us of the irreplaceable educational, social, and charitable mission that the Sisters accomplished over an entire century: 1884-1984.”

May God be blessed.

Sister Alberta Stephanou





