



## Twining of the occupied Community of Massari with the Municipality of Archangelos in Rhode Island

*You said I will go to another land, I will go to another  
sea, I will find another town better than this ...  
Kavafis*

*And I went to another land, to other places ... I have  
crossed the sea and the sky and I found another town,  
exactly the same as my town, the same with the town  
that I have lost and I cried, cause every pebble reminded  
me of the beauty I have left behind me, behind the  
barbwires'.*

This is how the Cultural Representative of the Council opened the official ceremony for the Twining of the occupied community with the Municipality of Archangelos in Rhode Island on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The event took place in the afternoon of January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Holly Bishopric of Kykkos in Archangelos area.

The ceremony opened with a speech on behalf of the President of the Parliament Mr Andreas Angelides (Member of the Parliament), on behalf of the Minister of Internal Affairs Mr Argyris Papanastasiou (Nicosia Sub-prefect), Ms Antigoni Papadopoulou (Member of the European Parliament), on behalf of the Bishop of Morfou Metropolis the Priest Constantinos Kakourides and the Prefect of the Embassy of Greece Ms Ekaterini Xagorari. During the ceremonial part there were speeches of the Chair of the community council of Massari Dr. Eleftherio Antoniou and the Mayor of Archangelos in Rhode Mr Alexandro Pappoura. The Protocol was read to the audience and was signed by both parties. There was an exchange of mementoes between the two authorities.

*The Protocol that was signed referred to: :*

*Today, Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Cultural Centre of the Holly Bishopric of Kykkos in Nicosia,*

*The tow parts represented by the Mayor of Archangelos in Rhode on one hand, and by the Chair of the occupied Community Council on the other hand are signing this*



*formal declaration of twining, of the two parts with mutual friendship and trust as a seal to their cooperation in all areas for the development of any cultural, economic, educational and social relation and their contribution in the development of common social activities, of the two councils of their citizens.*

*This protocol formalizes the decisions of the two parties for twining.*

The Mistress of the Ceremony referred that the meaning of twining between towns and communities started after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War aiming to enforce the meaning of Unity between the States. Today over 30 cities in European countries have created a network of



thousands of twinning's, contribution to the creation of more unified European Union.

The act of twining brings the citizens that participate in specific actions, with a spirit of cooperation, unity and mutual friendship. The ceremonial act of January 17<sup>th</sup>, looks upon to the enhancement of the bonds of friendship that have been created between the two parts and to the continuation in developing mutual activities.



At the entertaining part of the ceremony Marinos Stefanou sang the song "The dream" (To oroman) in the local greek cyriot accent. With this song Marinos participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Cypriot Song Competition in 2009 and has been awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The song "From Masari to Massari" was played. The lyrics were written by Spyros Moudatsos especially for this event. The performers were Spyros Moudatsos and Christina Koza. The music was written by Antonis Mpafitis.

A lively performance of Cypriot dancing followed by the dancing group "Cyprus" that came from Paphos with their dance Instructor Mr Aristide Tziamali whose origins are from Massari. While Greek dances were presented by the Cultural Association of "Kameiri" from Rhode. Poems were recited by the elderly people of the Massari Cyprus and Masari Rhode Mr Eleftherios Makris and Ms Maria Patta respectively.

The ceremony honoured with their presence the Mayor of Morfou Mr Charalambos Pittas, the Chair of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Mr Takis Hadjidemetriou, the Chair of the Union of the Occupied Communities in Nicosia and Kyrenia, the Chair and members of the Cyprological Studies Company, the Chairs of the Community Councils of Loutros, Tymbou, Filia, Katokopia, Pera Chorio Nisou and a big number of Massari villagers, villagers from Archangelos (Rhode), Malona (Rhode) and friends.

This ceremony was the pick of four-day celebrations that were prepared in order to host the people from Rhode (January 15<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, 2010). The delegates from Rhode were from the Archangelos Municipality, the Massari Community, the Malona Community and were represented by the Archangelos Mayor Mr Alexandros

Pappouras, the members of the Municipality Council, the Chair of the Massari Community Council Mr Christoforo Nikita, members of the Community Council in Rhode, the Chair of the Community Council of Malona Mr Manoli Hadjiconstantinou, the Chair of the Cultural Association "The Kameiri" Mr Panayioti



Mastrosavvaki, the Chair of the Sports Association "O Asteras" Mr George Sarri, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Ecclesiastical Committee Priest Chrysostomo Papalexi and George Papageorgiou, representatives of the "Massari Agricultural Association", members of the dancing group "The Kameiri" and villagers from the villages of Massari, Malona and Archangelos in Rhode all together numbering to 70. All of them participated in a series of events and activities organized by the Massari Community Council of Cyprus and the Massari Athletic Association in order to cultivate the spirit of unity of the two parts.

The program included participation of all the guests from Rhode on Saturday evening January 16<sup>th</sup> to the afternoon ecclesiastical ceremony of Ayios Antonios at the Holy temple of "Varnava & Ilarionos" at Peristerona village, with the presence of the Bishop of Metropolis Morfou Neophytos. A dinner followed with Cyprus meze at a restaurant in Asinou area.

In the morning of Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup>, the delegates participated at the morning ecclesiastical ceremony of at the Holy temple of "Varnava & Ilarionos" at Peristerona and were taken at the buffer zone in order to view the occupied Massari community. They visited the Macedonitissa Tombs and at the afternoon of the same day, the official Twining Ceremony took place.



The four-day events concluded with an “afternoon coffee” in the old part of Nicosia, with coffee, small talk and exchange of mementoes.

Issues such as future cooperation and adoption of new methods of approaches and enforcement of the two communities were exchanged between the citizens of the two homonym communities within the frame and spirit of twinning that was signed two days ago

*Lygia Christoforou-Antoniou*  
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On Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>, there was bus tour to Pera Chorio Nisou. The guests were welcomed by the Chair of the Community Council of Pera Choriou & Nisou Mr Yiannaki Georgiou and members of the Council, the High School Principal Mr David David and the Academic from the University of Cyprus Anastasia Chamatsou. There was a sight visit to the Tsambika temple, the teachers and the students of the Peripheral High School of Pera Chorio & Nisou prepared a small ceremony for their welcoming.

On Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup>, they visited the traditionally preserved village of Kakopetria, the water mill, and the temple of “Metamorphoseos tou Sotiros”. Lunch was offered by the Bishop of Metropolis Morfou Neophyto. Before the end of the day, they visited the historical chapel of Panayia Podithou, well known being one of the 10 churches that is under the auspices of UNESCO.

