



Twining of Masari Rhode and Massari Cyprus

At the period of July 11th -17th , 2008 a group from the Occupied Massari Community Council (the Chair of the Community Council (CC) Dr Eleftherio Antoniou, the Vice Chair of CC Mr Eleftherio Vassiliou, the Cultural Representative of CC Ms Lygia Christoforou-Antoniou and Ms Maria Vassiliou) traveled to the island of Rhode to participate in a series of activities that were scheduled by the locals of Masari community in the island of Rhode.

The Cyprus group were invited by the Chair of the Church Committee [Father](#) Chrysostomo Papalexi, the Chair of the Community Council Mr Christo Nikita, and the Chair of the Cultural Association "The Kammyri" Mr Panayiotis Mastrosavvaki, within the frame of activities of promoting the twining of the two communities.

The Cyprus group was welcomed by a representation on Friday July 11th, 2008. They participated as the official quests on Saturday July 12th, 2008 at the evening ceremony, at the Chapel of Archangel Michael in Kammyri. The service was



headed with the High Priest of Rhode Kyrillo and was followed with celebrations.

On Sunday July 13th, 2008 they participated at a special ceremony organized at the Holly Church of Esodion of Theodokos at Masari village in Rhode. The ceremony opened with a speech by the [Priest](#) Chrysostomos Papalexis and the Chair of the CC Cyprus Dr. Eleftherios Antoniou, followed by a presentation of a small movie prepared by the School Teacher Mr Leonida Nikolopoulo about the life of Masari village from the old years until today.



The Philologer Mr Panayiotis Kechayias prepared a small research on the bindings of the Cypriots with the island of Rhode and their presence at Massari village of Rhode since 1682.

The ceremony ended with a presentation of the book "Massari-memories of a land" by the Cultural representative of CC Cyprus Ms Lygia Christoforou-antoniou and the exchange of mementoes.

On Wednesday July 16th, 2008 the Chair of Cyprus CC had a meeting at the office of Mr Photis Hadjidiakos and discussed together with the Church Community Chair of the common areas of the two communities as well as of any actions to be taken for promoting the procedures of twining of the two parts.

On Thursday July 17th, 2008 the Cyprus group was invited to a dinner party at Stegna area by the "Municipality Organization of Providence of Archangelos" and the Chair of the association Ms Vickie Geronta was informed of the friendship connections that have been created by the two parts, the common historical and cultural elements of the two parts. Ms Geronta was given a signed copy of the book "Massari-memories of a land" by the writers.

During their stay the Cyprus group had the chance to come in close encounter with the villagers of Masari Rhode at the small "Eleftheria" square and have had the chance to tour around the island and visit "Seven Springs", "Eleousa", "Butterflies", the town of Rhode, the port, the Aquarium, the areas of Stegna, Lindos, Vlichia, Platania and the Tharri Monasteri, the Charaki beach and Malona village.

*Lygia Christoforou-Antoniou
Cultural Representative
Massari CC*

