MONASTERY
OF SAINT MINAS

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Contemporary censer used during the services carried out at Saint Minas Monastery.

Front cover image; icon of Saint Minas dated in 1757, work made by monk Filaretos, found in the temple of the monastery’s church.
ΤΟ ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

Τον τύραννον ἡσυχώς, ἀνδρειοφρόνως στερρέ·
εἶδωλα κατεπάτησας, καὶ τα εν βίω τερπνά, Μηνά
παμμακάριστε. Εἴληφας τους στεράνους, διά του
μαρτυρίου, ἐτυχες κληρουχίας, παρὰ τοῦ μόνου
Δεσπότου. Διὸ εν παρρησία Χριστῶ, πρέσβευε
σωθήναι ἡμᾶς

HYMN OF SAINT MINAS

You who humiliated the tyrant, you brave strong
man. You denied the idols and the pleasures of
life; Minas, you worthy, blissful man. You had
been laurelled for the tormented death and only
the Lord has rewarded you. For this, speak
outspokenly to Christ on our behalf requesting
our salvation.
FEW WORDS BY MOTHER SUPERIOR KASSIANI

With the help of our Gracious Lord and the blessings of our Monastery’s protector Saint Minas, we considered it imperative duty to proceed with this publication, being urged by the interest of our revered pilgrims. In this way, an opportunity is given to the believers to learn the rich holiness of our church and to study the life of the Saint.

In the first part we read historic information concerning the establishment of the monastery which took place while Cyprus was under possession by the Venetians, and was renovated while Cyprus was under the possession of Ottomans, in 1754.

In the 19th Century the monastery was abandoned in order to be renovated again and then was back in operation as a nun’s coenobitic monastery in 1965.

This historical reference was undertaken with much willingness by the distinguished historian – researcher Mr Kostis Kokkinoftas, whom we thank with all our heart. We express our gratitude to all who contributed for this publication and may our Lord and Saint Minas repay them for their efforts and contributions.

The monastery maintains worthy ancient history and we wish with all our hearts, for it, to become a spiritual lighthouse for our revered pilgrims. May this be evidence of the existence of God, and at the same time assist in fighting against the human’s indifference and revolt from our Lord and Savior.

Humbly we pray that with our Protector’s blessings, our spiritual struggles will assist us in our personal holiness since it is the main objective of our earthly life.

We have as a bright example of our struggle our protector, Saint Minas along with all the Saints, whose tormented death confirms the undefeated, passionate faith and pure affection for Jesus Christ.

With his self-denial and his zeal he inspires us with faith and supports us and guides us through the right course towards our spiritual renaissance and salvation.
This heavenly man with the brave soul remained strong, endured with patience the inhuman and severe tortures and with his stabled and impulsive confession, presents a way out for the human who lives the confused and disturbed life of today.

We sincerely wish that reading this publication shall be beneficial to the soul of all pious Christians.

Mother Superior Kassiani and
the nuns of Saint Minas Monastery.

The nuns of Saint Minas Monastery in the beginning of 21st century.
INTRODUCTION

The holy monastery of Saint Minas is located in the Mountainous area of Lefkara Village, very close to the road which unites the villages of Kato Drys and Vavla, within territory limits of Vavla. It is built on the river banks of Maroni River, in the middle of a small green valley in wonderful natural environment full of olive trees carob trees, aspalathus linearis, mastic trees and pistacia trees. The monastery is dedicated to the great martyr Saint Minas, a very popular Saint in Cyprus, who lived in Egypt during the 3rd century and is classified in the group of “Military Saints” together with Saint Georgios, Saint Demetrios, Saint Artemios, Saint Theodoros of Tyros, Saint Theodoros the general and others. The reputation of his miracles is widely spread to the people who pray and appeal to him very often in their daily lives. Especially in the old years when Cypriot people were stricken by malaria and since the Saint was considered a healer, those who suffered from malaria fevers came to the monastery and requested his intervention in order to become well again. The people also believe that Saint Minas relieves those who suffer from pain and heals all kinds of diseases. He is specially loved by the Cypriot people and this is why they have dedicated several churches in various villages of the island such as Lapithos, Geri, Drymou, Neo Chorio of Paphos, Polemi, Pentalia, Stroumbi and others. We pay tribute to his memory on November 11, and many

1 Calycotomo villosa.
2 Pistacia lentiscus,
3 Pistacia atlantica
believers visit the Saint’s monastery in Vavla on that day, where a great pancyprian festival takes place.

The Monastery of Saint Minas as it looks today.
THE BOOK

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