MEETING PLACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE OLD TIMES IN CYPRUS

The children of the 3rd grade of the B Primary School of Agios Athanasios were involved in a project about the meeting places of young people in the old times. The children worked with their teachers and in groups and discovered many interesting things on this topic. They were very excited to see the differences between today and the old times. They found information on the computer and in different books and presented them in their exercise books.

Young people used to meet in different ceremonies and on special occasions. Such occasions were <u>wedding ceremonies</u>, <u>religious festivals</u>, Sunday <u>mass</u> and also going <u>to the village' s fountain</u>.

<u>WEDDINGS</u>

 Young people liked to attend to traditional wedding not only because of the event itself but also because that was a way of meeting other people. Traditional Cypriot weddings used to be very lively and fun to attend to. The celebrations started with the dressing of the groom and bride usually to a musical accompaniment. Then they continued at the church where the ceremony took place and at the end at the wedding reception which was the most exciting place for young people. There they had the chance to mingle with other youngsters and enjoy dancing and singing traditional Cypriot songs.

SUNDAY MASS

In the old times people, especially in villages, used to go every Sunday to the mass. So it was an opportunity for young people to meet.

In the Orthodox Church, this rite is usually called the Divine Liturgy, rather than the Mass. It is the most important sacrament (or mystery) of the Church, celebrated every Sunday and on feast days throughout the year (in some communities, particularly in monasteries, it is celebrated every day, except on the weekdays of Great Lent).

GREEK ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS FESTVALS

The Greek Orthodox Church has many religious festivals that take place in the local communities. The saints and the angels are an important part of our church. So on each saint' s day the communities celebratethis special days with festivals that take place outside the local church. Young men and women used to go to these festivals always accompanied by their parentsto meet other people, to dance and sing.

THE VILLAGE FOUNTAIN

Women used to go to the village' s fountain to wash their clothes and to get some water. There, they used to meet with other young women who went there for the same purpose. Sometimes the village' s fountains where places where men and women had the opportunity to meet, talk and flirt.