

The Repose of Nun Vasilia in London

On Tuesday, February 13/26, 2013, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Convent of the Annunciation, in London, followed by the funeral service for Nun Vasilia, one of the sisters under the Reverend Mother Vikentia at this convent. His Grace, who travelled to England specially for this purpose, was assisted by our local clergy, with many faithful in attendance.



Nun Vasilia was born in 1930 into a family of Arab (Palestinian) Orthodox Christians, and grew up in the ancient Holy City of Jerusalem. She studied at the Russian Orthodox Bethany School for Girls, and, together with her sister Susanna (the future Abbess Seraphima), she entered the Russian Convent in the Hill Country of Judea. In 1948, however, she, along with the convent's Abbess, Mother Elizabeth, and several other sisters, were forced to leave by representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate. Finally, after years of wandering as refugees, the Sisterhood settled in London, with the blessing of Archbishop John (Maximovitch), where they founded the Convent of the Annunciation of the *Theotokos*.

Mother Vasilia served as the Sisterhood's ecclesiarch—in which



role she was distinguished for her precision and good order—and steward, and was responsible for receiving guests. She always preserved the memory of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in her heart and on her lips.

The Sisterhood, which had remained faithful to the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, decisively rejected the idea of union with the Moscow Patriarchate and thus, together with the Monastery of St. Edward under Archimandrite Alexis, joined the Holy Synod in Resistance.

Mother Vasilia was laid to rest next to the convent's two former Abbesses, Elizabeth and Seraphima (her sister according to the flesh). May her memory be eternal!