

Visit to Italy

ON the Second Sunday of Great Lent, March 10/23, 2008, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone was invited to the Romanian parish dedicated to the Feast of the Entry into Jerusalem, in Rome, Italy, which is under the jurisdiction of our Sister Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Romania. He Liturgized with the parish Priest, Father Sebastian Mogârzan (a nephew of His Eminence, Metropolitan Vlasie) and Protopresbyter Mihail Marchidan (from Romania), who was also visiting. A large crowd of devout Romanian Orthodox immigrants was in attendance.



- **On Sunday** afternoon, Bishop Ambrose went to the city of Pistoia, the See of His Eminence, Bishop Silvano of Luni, where he took part in the customary annual meeting of the legal entity of the Orthodox in resistance in Italy [*“Associazione Dei Cristiani Ortodossi in Italia—Giurisdizione Tradizionale”*], of which he is a member. The meeting, presided over by the local Hierarch, Bishop Silvano, Exarch of our Holy Synod in Italy, took place at the Monastery of St. Seraphim of Sarov, in Pistoia. Clergy and lay representatives of the parishes and communities of both our Holy Synod and the Romanian Synod took part in order to settle various jurisdictional matters.

- **Bishop Silvano**, Bishop Ambrose, and a few clergymen then went to a mountainous region near Pistoia to look at the building that is to be allotted to them by the local forest service in order to be appropriately remodelled for future use, God willing, as a Convent. This event is considered especially hopeful and joyous for the presence and strengthen-



ing of the Orthodox witness of our ecclesiastical Eparchy in Italy.

- **With God's help**, Bishop Ambrose returned to Greece by air on the evening of Monday, March 11/24, 2008.

