

## Feast Day of the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess and the Tonsure of Two Sisters to the Great Schema

**O**n July 5, 2008 (Old Style), the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia celebrated its Feast Day with an Hierarchical Liturgy served by His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike, who were joined by Archimandrite Akakios, Hieromonk Gregory, Hieromonk Patapios, and Hierodeacon Nectarios from the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, as well as three married clergy: Father George Mavromatis, Serving Priest at the convent, and Protopresbyter David Cownie and Father Jerome Zubricky, both of whom serve the parish of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Etna. Matushka Maria Telepeneff and several parishioners from our Exarchate parish of St. John Chrysostomos in Boston (Saugus), MA, also travelled to Etna, in order to celebrate the convent Feast. (*See the blessing of the Five Loaves, following the Divine Liturgy, in the courtyard of the convent, below, left to right: Hieromonk Gregory [on the Church porch], Mother Elizabeth [with Cross and staff], Abbess of the convent, Hierodeacon Nectarios, Monk Chrysanthos [Subdeacon], His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos, and His Grace, Bishop Auxentios.*)





*Pictured above: the Tonsures; below, following the Tonsures, left to right, Mother Glykeria, Mother Elizabeth, Mother Seraphima, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, and Mother Seraphima's parents, Count and Countess Nikita Cheremeteff, who travelled to Etna for the ceremony.)*



During the festal Divine Liturgy, two nuns of the convent sisterhood were tonsured to the Great Schema. With the blessing of Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi, Acting President of the Holy Synod, and Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios of Photike tonsured Sisters Glykeria and Ioanna, the former retaining the name “Glykeria,” in honor of St. Glicherie, the Confessor of Romania, and the latter taking the name “Seraphima,” after St. Seraphim of Sarov and in honor of the revered Mother Seraphima (Princess Olga Lieven), late Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Protection in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Abbess of the convent, Mother Elizabeth, was sponsor for both of the nuns.

Mother Glykeria’s grandmother was Schema-nun Mother Olga, who reposed several years ago in the convent. She was a former spiritual daughter of St. John of San Francisco and secretary to the late and venerable Bishop Nektary of Seattle. The newly-tonsured Mother Glykeria has been a member of the sisterhood for more than ten years.

Mother Seraphima, who entered the monastic life not long after her graduation from university, has been a member of the sisterhood for six years. Both she and Mother Glykeria are of Russian heritage. □