

Pastoral Visit to South Ossetia

On **Bright Wednesday** of Renewal Week, April 5, 2012 (Old Style), after his return from England, where he had gone for the Feast of the Annunciation, Great Week, and Pascha, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose of Methone, Director of Missions for the Holy Synod,



travelled by way of Moscow to South Ossetia, in the Caucasus, as *Locum Tenens* of the Holy Diocese of Alania, which belongs to our Holy Synod. In Tskhinvali, the capital of the state, His Grace had an opportunity to meet with the children from the orphanage there, whom the Nun Seraphima voluntarily cares for as her primary obedience, and to visit the Orthodox school, an institution for primary and secondary education, where our Father George Djoev serves as Director.

On the Sunday of St. Thomas, April 9, His Grace, Bishop Ambrose liturgized at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity of the Theo-



tokos in Tskhinvali with the Priests Father Yakov Khetagourov and Father George Djoev, and ordained to the Diaconate the pious brother Simon Gagloev. He also tonsured a brother in Christ, John Bekoev, a Reader.

On the occasion of his visit, Bishop Ambrose inspected the construction site of the Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God in the hamlet of Znauri, confessed and met with many of the faithful, and attended to various matters of the Diocese.

In the course of his return to Greece by way of Moscow, where he spent one day, His Grace visited the Monastery of the Resurrection of Christ, “New Jerusalem,” just outside Moscow, as well as other places of pilgrimage in the Russian capital, where he was received with kindness and brotherly love.

