

Rest of Mother Philothei in Sweden

On Thursday evening, November 16, 2012 (Old Style), the Feast of the Apostle Matthew, Mother Philothei, the Superior of our Synod's small Convent of St. Philothei of Athens, located in the countryside outside of Grillby, Sweden (near the city of Enköping), quietly reposed of heart failure at the age of 90.

Mother Philothei, whose grandmother was Russian Orthodox, converted to Orthodoxy after rearing her family and retiring from a career as an orthodontist and oral surgeon. Shortly thereafter, she went to Greece to train as a nun at the Convent of the Holy Angels, near Athens. After her tonsure to the Great Schema, she was blessed to return to Sweden to establish a convent—then, the first Orthodox convent in Sweden in modern times.

Mother purchased suitable land for this purpose in the mid-1980s, having been assisted in her search by Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna, who was at the time teaching in the Theological Institute at the nearby University of Uppsala. For that reason, the small convent in Sweden and Mother Philothei have always been closely associated with our monastic communities in Etna.

Pictured below, in the convent Chapel, are Mother Philothei (at center), Sister Magdalene (at left), and Sister Lydia (at right), who devotedly cared for Mother during the last few years of her



life, when she suffered from heart disease and diabetes and was confined to a wheelchair.

Among her other touching virtues, Mother Philothei was especially known for her exemplary and inspiring loyalty to Metropolitan Cyprian.

The Abbess of the Convent of the Holy Angels, Mother Taxiarchia, and a sister flew to Sweden for Mother Philothei's funeral and burial, which took place at the convent on November 18, 2012 (Old Style), and which were conducted by Father Anders Åkerström from the Dormition parish in Uppsala, assisted by clergy from the Cathedral Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Stockholm. Αἰωνία ἡ Μνήμη! *Memory Eternal!*