



Honorary mother-superior of Gorny Convent honored with Patriarchal award on her 90th birthday



On Sunday November 14, 2021, marking the 90th birthday of honorary mother-superior Georgia (Schukina) of the Gorny Convent, Archimandrite Alexander (Yelisov), head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the convent.

Concelebrating were Archpriest Nikolai Zhdanov and Hieromonk Innokenty (Bespalov), the ordained staff members of the Mission Hegumen Nikon (Golovko) and Deacon Iliya Drachuk.

Mother-superior of the Gorny Convent Hegumeness Yekaterina (Chernysheva) with the sisters and parishioners of the convent were praying at the service. By the time of the Epistle and Gospel readings Hegumeness Georgia had stepped up to the mother-superior's place.

After the Dismissal, a thanksgiving moleben for the health and well-being of the honorary mother-superior of the convent was conducted and "Many years" sung in her honor.

Following the moleben, Archimandrite Alexander addressed Hegumeness Georgia with hearty greetings on behalf of the Mission's staff members and Gorny Convent's sisters and read out a congratulatory message from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia that said:

"Much esteemed Mother Hegumeness! Your life is full of burdensome trials and creative works for the benefit of the Church. Having survived the seizure of Leningrad and loss of parents, you found belief in

God and chose the way of service to Him as a nun. With a blessing of the holy starets Seraphim of Vyritsa, you entered the Pühtitsa convent, where you were carrying out all kinds of responsible obediences. After that you were fated to take part in the reconstruction works in the Convent of St. John on the embankment of the river Karpovka [in St. Petersburg] founded by St. John of Kronstadt. It is gratifying to witness that in all circumstances, difficult as they may be, you would always put your trust in God, and in response to your sincere prayers, He would grant you His mercies and benefits. I would like to express a special gratitude to you for many years of the assiduous service at the head of the Gorny Convent in Jerusalem, of which up to the present time you its honorary the mother-superior. In recognition of your merits and in connection with your 90th birthday I find it only just to honour you with a "Patriarchal Gratitude" medal. On this remarkable day I prayerfully wish you inexhaustible strength, peace and joy in the Lord."

Archimandrite Alexander handed over the Patriarchal award to Hegumeness Georgia and after that the clergymen of the Mission, sisters and parishioners of the convent got together for a memorial photo to be taken.

The celebration in honour of Hegumeness Georgia continued at a repast in the refectory of the convent: the sisters of the Gorny Convent sang a spiritual ode composed in honor of the mother-superior; as edifying reading during the meal, and passages from Hegumeness Georgia's book of memories "Way as Long as Life" were read out.

In the Hegumeness' chamber, following the repast, the honorary mother-superior received congratulations from Hegumeness Yekaterina (Chernysheva) with the sisters and from the clergymen who earlier that day had celebrated the Sunday divine service in the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission.

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