

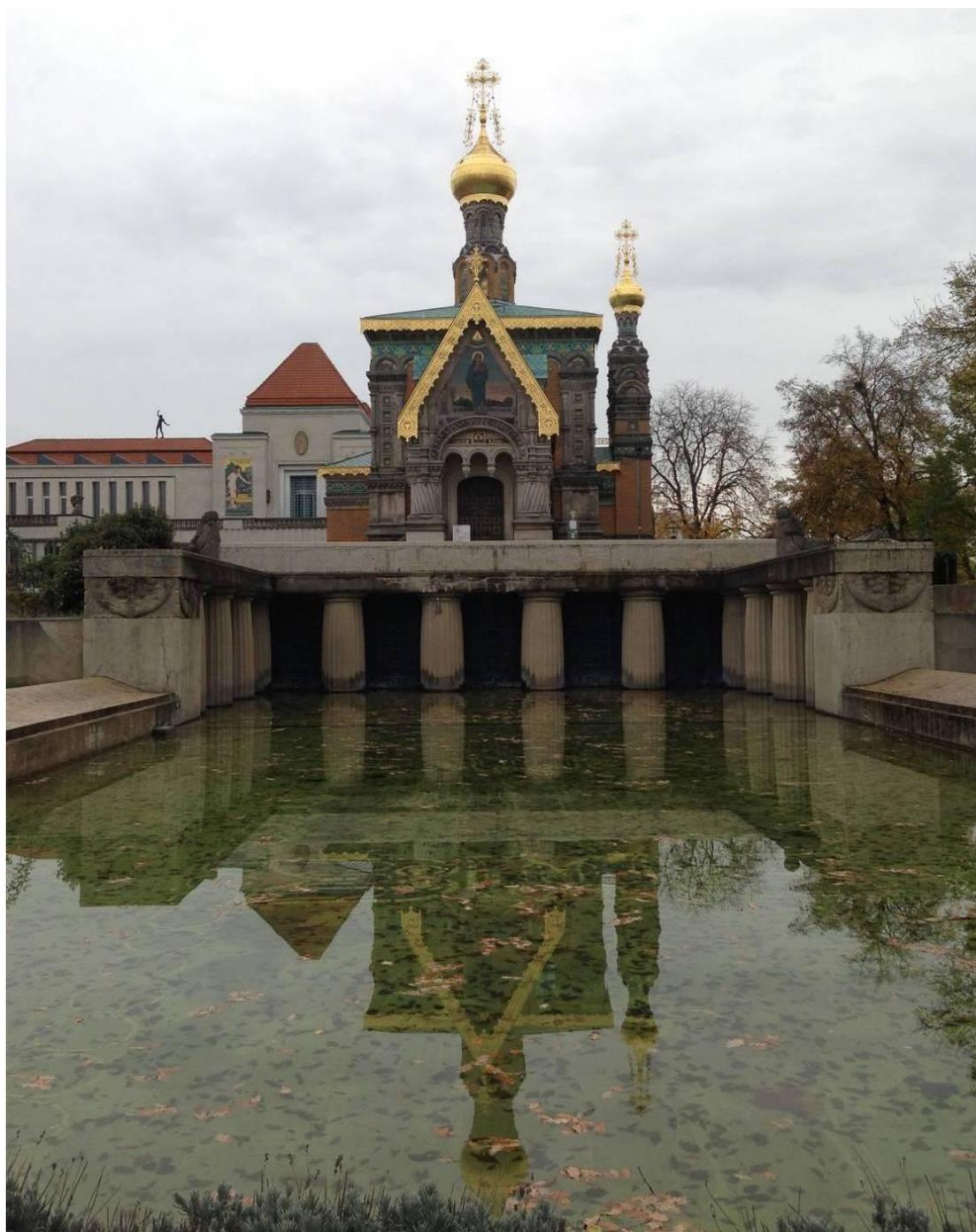


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Новости Романовых

By Paul Kulikovsky

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The church of St. Mary Magdalene in Darmstadt

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna

By Paul Kulikovsky

The 150th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna was celebrated in many places, both in Russia and abroad. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia said - "The image of this Martyr shines so extraordinary human and spiritual beauty and is so an amazing phenomenon in the history of Russia, that we need to make it became a national hero, to become a role model."

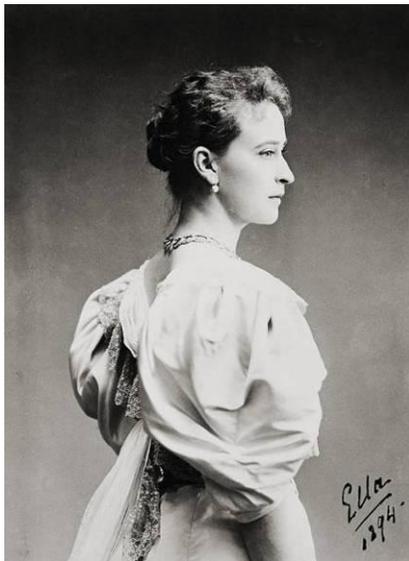
Even if 1st of November not formally is a church holiday - because the Church does not celebrate birthdays of saints - it was an important date for the church. His Holiness led the Divine Liturgy in Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow, and in the evening, at the Moscow International House of Music, was a charity concert devoted to "Grand Duchess Elisabeth. 150 years since the birth."

In her birth town Darmstadt, in Germany, a metropolitan and four bishops served in the church of St. Mary Magdalene, celebrating the anniversary.

The church service was followed by the conference "Elisabeth legacy today: in Russia and the near abroad", held in Darmstadt Palace. In the Catholic Cathedral of St. Paul in the evening was the world premiere of the musical work "The Way to Christ" created especially for the 150th anniversary of the holy Martyr - glorifying the earthly life and the sanctity of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



Portrait of Princess Elisabeth, 7 years old. By Reginald Easton (1807-1893).



The First International Forum "Mercy" was held in St. Petersburg, dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

In Jerusalem, in the convent of St. Mary Magdalene in Gethsemane, where her relics repose, festivities were held.

In Almaty, Kazakhstan was unveiled a monument to the Saint, a modified copy of the monument to Martyr Elisabeth at the Martha and Mary Convent in Moscow.

In Kurgan was opened a diocesan museum "History of Mercy", created through the efforts of the Sisterhood in honor of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth.

In Ekaterinburg was consecrated the first stone and the cross on the construction site of a new church-monument in honor of the Russian Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

In the Concert Hall of Tchaikovsky in Moscow was the Russian premiere of the "musical icon" called "The Way to Christ".

And there was lectures in Alapayevsk, Cherepovets, Kazan and Moscow, exhibitions in Moscow and Jerusalem, and many more commemorations at orthodox fairs, churches, monasteries, and convents.



A badge given to the participants in the "Elisabeth days" in Darmstadt - it is made by the national artist of Russia Vladimir Nikonov.

The first event of the day was to lay flowers at the grave of the parents of Grand Duchess Elisabeth at the necropolis of the Grand Duke of Hesse in the park Rozenhoehe ("Rose Hill") in the east of Darmstadt. Rozenhoehe is now a park in the English style of the XIX century with a rose garden, meadow, orchard and a collection of rare trees. There are two mausoleums, the old and the new. The old mausoleum was built in 1826. In the middle of the 19th century it was extended by two side chapels to accommodate others of the Grand Ducal family. The new mausoleum built by Grand Duke Ernst-Ludwig in the beginning of the 20th century for the remains of his parents (Ludwig IV and Alice, daughter of Queen Victoria) and later his siblings Marie and Friedrich-Wilhelm. Nuns, Sisters of Charity, priests, and pilgrims put a large basket of white flowers at the door to the new necropolis.

The celebration in Darmstadt

By Paul Kulikovsky

Photos by Anna Halperina, Olga Winter, Gregory Manevich, and author.

For me the visit to Darmstadt was my first, and "first visits" are always exciting. Several of my ancestors are from Hesse, making it a kind of a family visit. Then are two of my relatives - Ella and Alix - born in this city, now Russian Saints, which made it feel like a pilgrimage. The occasion for the visit was the celebration of the 150 year anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna - This visit was in so many ways special.

Darmstadt is a city in Hesse, in the south-west of Germany, with a population of 149.000, located a half hour drive to the south from Frankfurt's airport. Prior to World War II, Darmstadt was the capital of the Grand Duchy of Hesse. The Hesse Grand Dukes used to live in what is now the Museum Residential Palace.



Much of the old city was destroyed in carpet bombing by the Allies during World War II, and most of what is still standing was reconstructed after the war. It is now a "Wissenschaftsstadt" (City of Science), a major centre of scientific institutions, universities and high technology companies.

On November 1st, a thick fog engulfed Darmstadt and made it misty all day. The participants in the "Elisabeth days" arrived from near and as far away as Ekaterinburg, Alapayevsk, Orsk, Moscow, Kiev and the Holy Land.



Nuns, Sisters of Charity, priests, and pilgrims put a large basket of white flowers at the door to the new necropolis.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Darmstadt

The most important example of Russian cultural heritage in Darmstadt is the church of St. Mary Magdalene, built on the desire of Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna to have an opportunity to attend an Orthodox service during their stay in the hometown of the Empress. The foundation of the church was done by protopresbyter John Yanysheva on 16 October 1897 in the presence of the royal and ducal families. At the foundation of the church was brought earth from several provinces of the Russian Empire.

The church was built on the personal funds of the imperial family - The emperor gave 310.000 rubles . The project was made by the architect L. Benoit. The construction was carried out under the direct supervision of the architect Gustav Jacobi, and then his assistant Friedrich Ollerih.

8 October (OS 26 September) 1899 the church was consecrated in the name of St Mary Magdalene. The name is said to be chosen in honor of the patron saint of Emperor Nicholas II's mother Dowager Empress Marie Feodorovna. The ceremony was attended by the Russian Emperor and Empress. However, the internal decoration of the church (the mosaic decoration) continued until October 1903.



Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna leaving the Church of St. Mary Magdalene

Originally the church was regarded as a home church of the royal family, but by decree of 27 February 1904, the church was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and worship in the church was made by the clergy of the Church in Wiesbaden. In the church in 1903 was held the wedding of Prince Andreas of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg. The last service with the royal family was made there in 1910.

With the beginning of the First World War the church was closed and all gilded decorations, bells, part of the roof and stained glass windows were confiscated as "enemy property". Due to the fact that the roof has been removed a lot of water came into the building. Damage caused by moisture, were eliminated in the 1920s.

After war services in the church were rare. As a rule, they were devoted to ceremonial events. Since the 1930s, traditionally there was a memorial service in the day of murder of the royal family.

in 1938 the church was handed to the "Orthodox bishops of the Diocese of Berlin and Germany", a part of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.

Significant damage was inflicted to the church by the bombing in 1944, but already in August 1945 began service at church. The priest of the church, Fr. Tikhon Kirichuk, initiated redecorating of the church.

The first major overhaul of the church was done in 1955, with the financial support of municipal and federal authorities. 7 May 1955 the church was re-consecrated by Archbishop Alexander (Lovchev) . Since the late 1950s, the Darmstadt church became a center for a community of 250-300 believers. During overhaul, conducted in 1970, were reconstructed roof and masonry, gilded domes and skates. Works with a total value of more than 300,000 German marks were conducted through

donations received from the town of Darmstadt, Hessen, Princess Margaret of Hesse and the Rhine, the Evangelical Church of the Land of Hesse-Nassau and the Catholic Diocese of Mainz. 23 October 1976 was held a new consecration by bishops Pavlov of Stuttgart and Lawrence (Trifunovic). The last restoration took place in 2003.

The church was the first building in Mathildenhöhe (Mathilde Hill). Currently houses of an artist's colony in the style of Art Nouveau can be found around the church. The church is built in the early Yaroslavl style and as a prototype served the Bad Homburg's All Saints Church.

Built of red brick, the facades are decorated with gilded friezes and tiles in the shape of a Russian double-headed eagle. Outdoor tiles and floor tiles are manufactured by the firm «Villeroy & Boch» in Mettlach. In the construction of the church was used Caucasian marble.



In the center of the building on a high drum towers gilded onion domes. The bell tower is arranged in the southern part of the church.

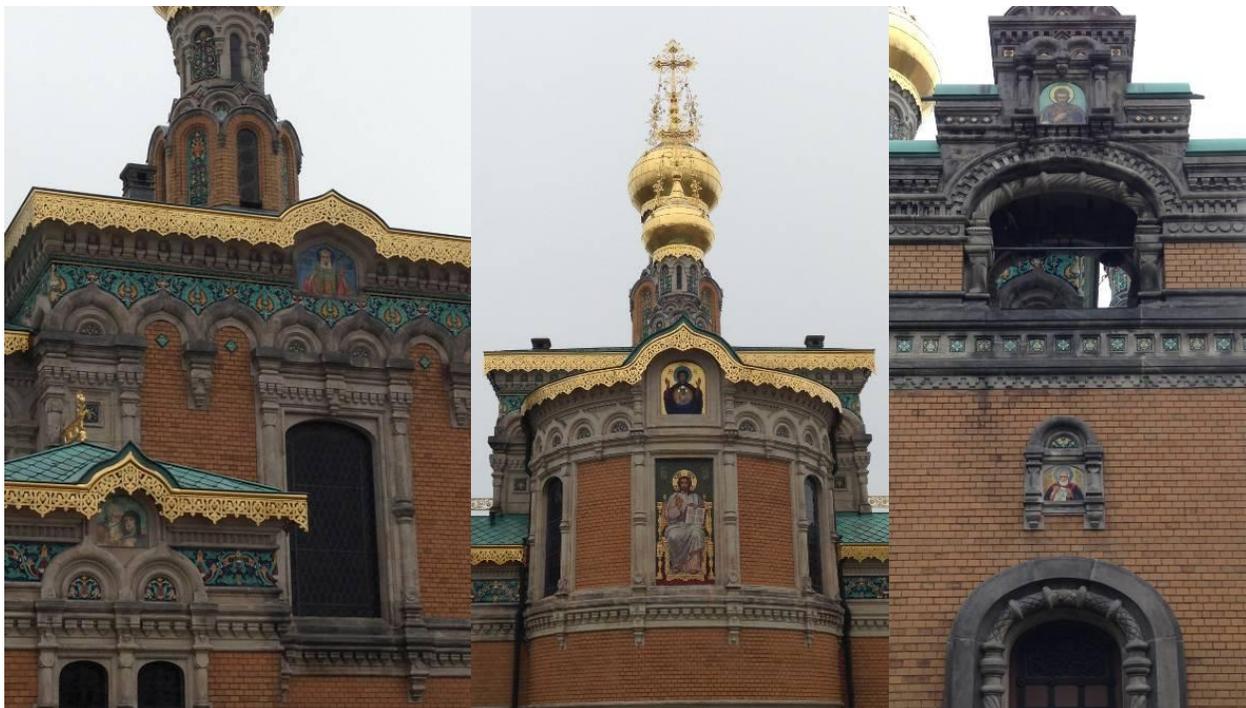
On the outer walls of the church are the images of saints: On the north wall - Holy Martyr Alexandra, holy righteous Zechariah (on his forehead patch with the words "Holy is the Lord") and Elisabeth.

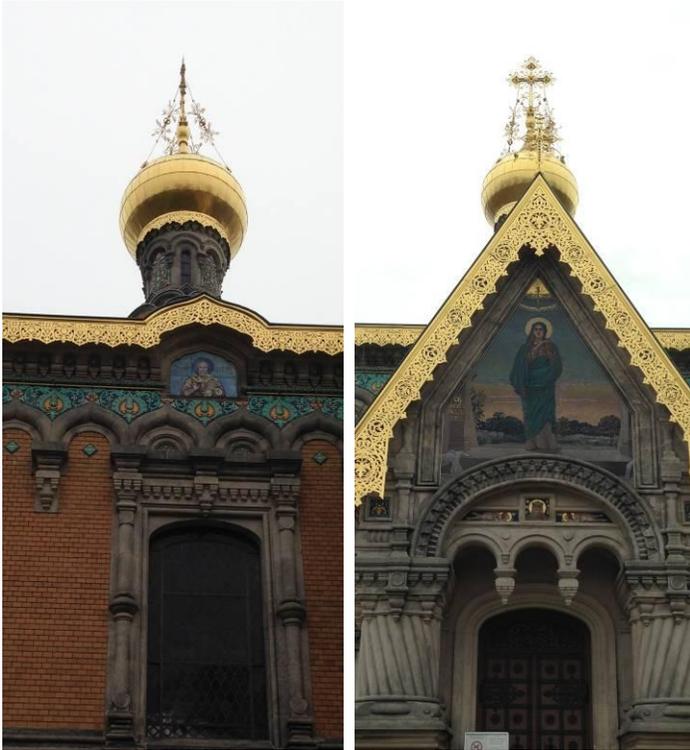
On the apse - Kursk Icon of the Mother of God (at the top) and the Lord Almighty.

On the belfry - St. Prince Alexander Nevsky (top) and the Venerable

Sergius of Radonezh (over the side entrance). On the south wall - Saint Nicholas.

The main entrance is decorated with a porch with a triangular pediment, in which it has a mosaic image of Saints Mary Magdalene (below small - St. Grand Duchess Olga).





The iconostasis, a corporal, banners and oak casket with the shroud were brought from London, from the home church of Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gottorp. Images for the oak iconostasis made painter Carl Timoleon Neff.

In the apse there is a mosaic depicting the Virgin seated with the infant Christ on the heavenly throne surrounded by angels. The mosaics was made by the artist B. A. Frolov on sketches from Victor Vasnetsov. Vasnetsov also made the sketches for the external mosaics, ornaments on the walls and vaults, and two banners. Ornaments were made by artists V.T. Perminov and Cusick.

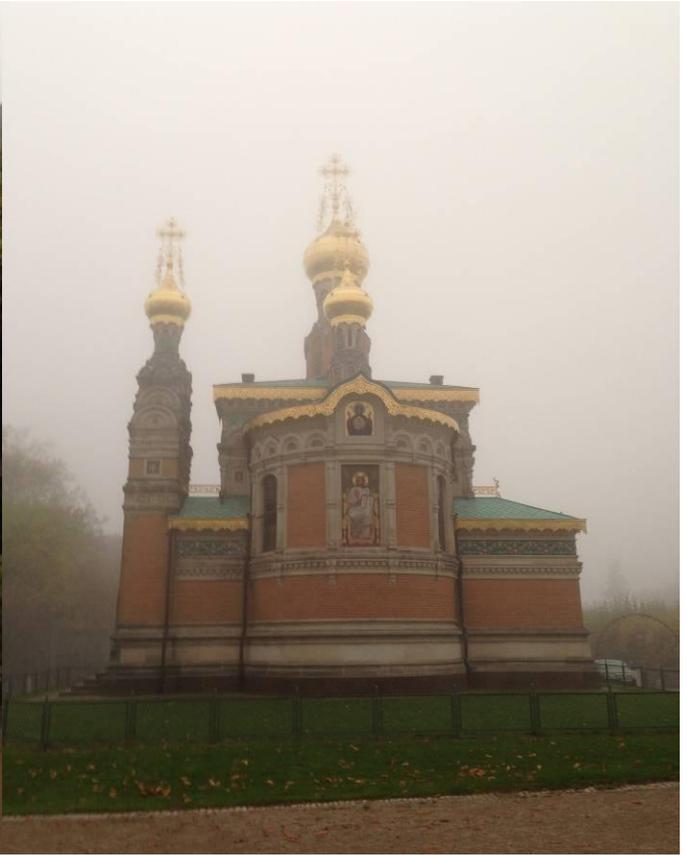


In the central dome is the Lord Almighty.

The Icon of Kazan Mother of God, placed in front of the iconostasis, originally belonged to the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. the monk Seraphim passed it to the Swedish Queen Louise. The queen, nee von Battenberg, bequeathed the icon to the Darmstadt church where her parents were married. The frame around it is new.



The road changed from asphalt to gravel and became narrow, when we walked up the road to the church. At the end of the road we saw the Church of St. Mary Magdalene coming out of the fog, the vision was spectacular, like in a dream, a bit unclear, yet right there it was in front of us.



In front of the entrance white canopies were erected, which would allow even more faithful to stay dry, should the mist turn into rain. The area inside the church is rather small, about 50 sqm, only enough for about 100 persons standing tight, but expectation was now for more than double of that.

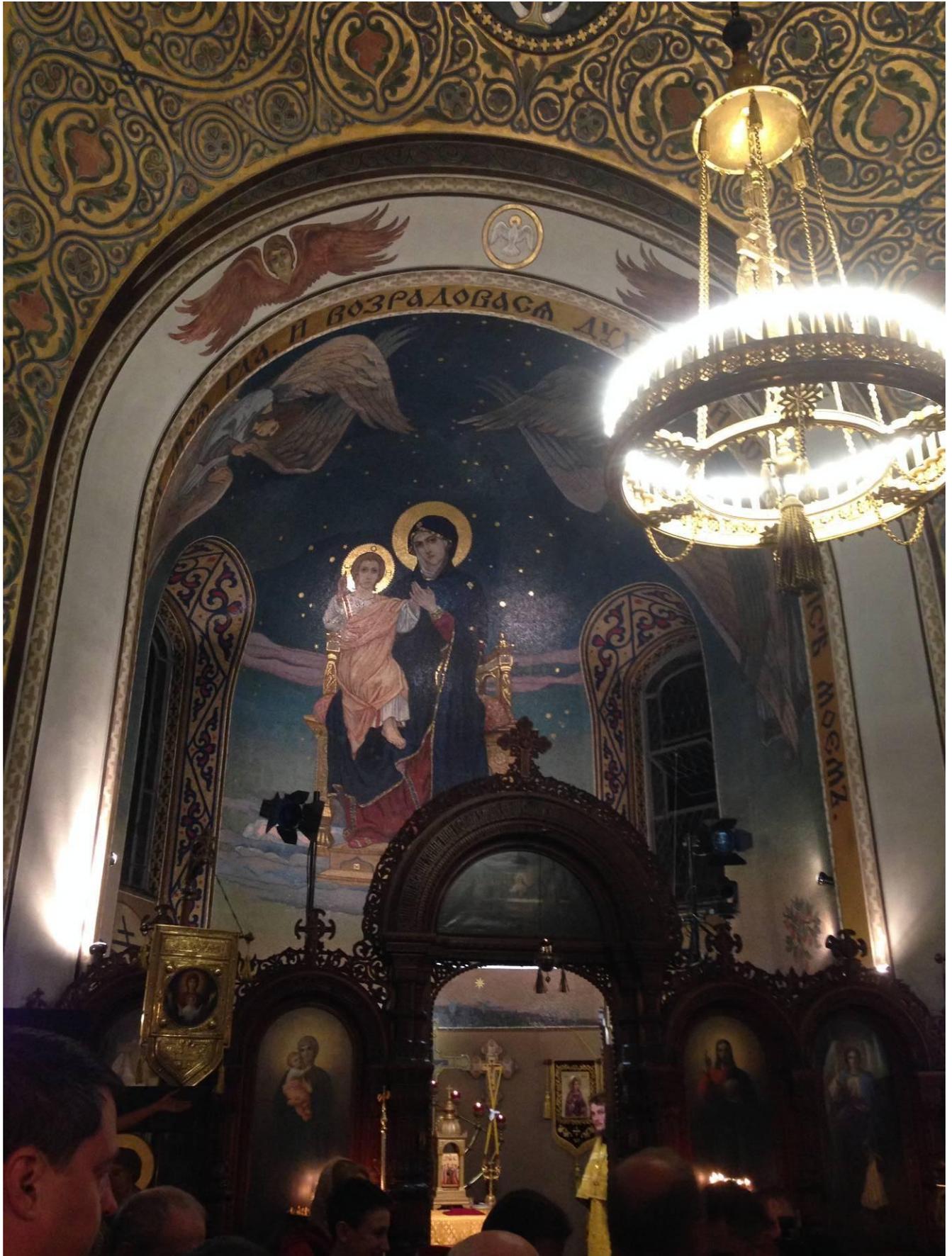


In the entrance was two big portraits showing Emperor Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, with an icon of the Royal Martyrs in between them.

Below was all the "souvenirs", icons, postcards, material about the church and other religious objects.

At 17.00 started the vigil led by Archbishop Mark of Berlin, Germany and Great Britain. Acting as deacon was Father Georges from Mainz. Several priest from Russia also participated in the service.





The Moscow Synodal Choir under the direction of Honored Artist of Russia Aleksei Puzakova sang beautifully during the entire service.



Towards the end of the vigil was brought an icon of Saint Elisabeth with flowers around it. Next to the Gospel, and on the other side - relics of Saints Elisabeth and Nun Varvara.



The celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of St. Elisabeth Feodorovna continued next day, Sunday November 2nd, and in the morning we went to Matilda Hill for the Divine Liturgy in St. Mary Magdalene.



The fog had disappeared, but it was still a gray day. The canopies in front of the church were now full of people, under it was placed several icons of Saint Elisabeth with flowers around, and there stood Sisters of Mercy handing out small icons and information material about her. There were also large plasma screens, on which the service were broadcasted. The church was properly by now beyond its capacity and the excitement were high. This was going to be something really special.



The divine Liturgy was led by Greek Metropolitan Augustine, concelebrated by four bishops - Archbishop Mark of Berlin, Germany and Great Britain, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate on foreign institutions Archbishop Mark (Egoryevsky), Archbishop Theophanes, and Archbishop John Palmyra (Patriarchate of Antioch).

Among the faithful were the Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Sergei Stepashin, and his deputy Igor Ashurbeyli, chairman of the Fund "Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society" Anna V. Gromova, Abbess Elisabeth of Martha and Mary Convent in Moscow, Director of Russian Federation State Archives Sergey Mironenko, Vladimir Chernikov from the Government of Moscow, pilgrims, nuns and nurses from the monasteries, parishes, sisterhoods devoted to the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna in Germany, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.



There were also many representatives of the media, both Russian and German.



The icon of St. Elisabeth and the shrine with the relics of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and nun Vavara were placed in front of the stairs to the iconostas.

On this day, was also mentioned the death of Emperor Alexander III and for St. Elisabeth was sung "Mnogaya leta" (Many Years).

At the end of the service was gifts presented, among them an Icon of the Holy Royal Martyrs from Ekaterinburg, handed over to Father John (Grinchuk) of St. Mary and Magdalene in Darmstadt by the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly in Ekaterinburg Ludmila Babushkina.



After the service the parish had arranged lunch for the guests - one could get all sorts of baked pies, cheesecakes, and "Danish", "Berliners" and doughnuts. The hot tea/coffee was most welcome, as it was a bit chilly now to go outside the church.

A memorial group photo of the day was made on the east side of the Church.



The conference "Elisabeth legacy today: Russia and the near abroad."

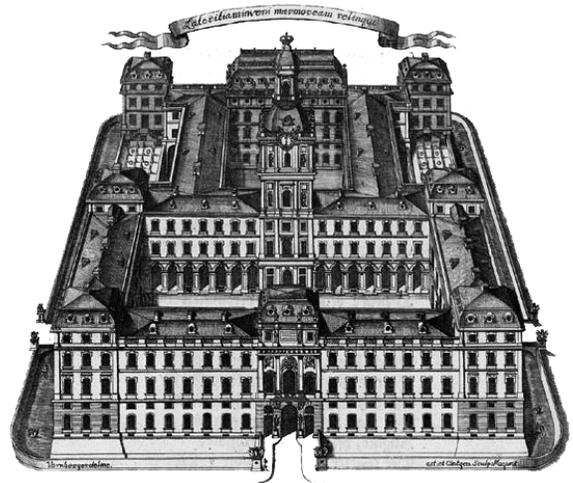


The Darmstadt's Residential palace seen from Marktplatz (from south).

Darmstadt's Residential Palace is located at the centre of modern downtown Darmstadt, at the upper end of the Rheinstraße. This has not always been the case. Earlier, in the times of Georg I, the Palace secured Darmstadt's west flank. The Palace moat was used as a defense against intruders.

The Residential Palace combines structures from 6 centuries. The origins of the castle are from the middle of the 13th century built by the Counts of Katzenelnbogen as a moated castle. 1330 Darmstadt received city rights, a year later the castle was first mentioned. In 1479 died the last Count of Katzenelnbogen, Darmstadt fell to Landgraf Heinrich III of Hesse. The castle was rebuilt several times after being destroyed in wars. In 1693 the castle was again destroyed. Landgraf Ernst Ludwig instructed in 1715, the French architect Louis Remy de la Fosse thus, to build a new Baroque palace plan with four large wings. This would be the last major structural changes of the castle.

In 1944, the Palace burned down to the outer walls. Reconstruction efforts succeeded in restoring the facade structures to nearly pre-war status.

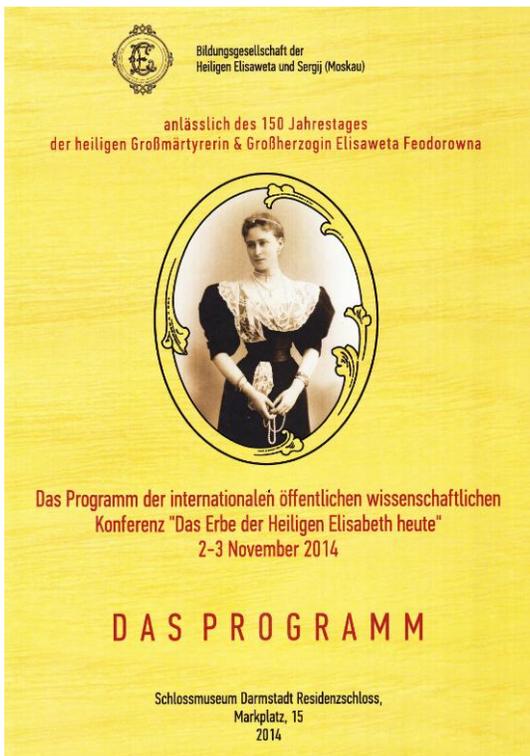


The Palace Museum, founded in 1924, is located in the older part of the Palace. Its 22 rooms provide a good overview of 250 years of courtly life in a minor Residence as well as the history of the region, at first under the Landgraves and later as the Grand Duchy of Hessen.

After the church service, in the afternoon on November 2nd, in Darmstadt's Residential Palace hosted the conference "Elisabeth legacy today: Russia and the near abroad."



We entered the palace from the Karolineplatz (the north entrance) through the old gate with the coat of arms, and walked to the "Bärenzwinger" - the Bear wing - where outside the entrance was a small exhibition of photos in poster size of Grand Duchess Elisabeth. Two floors up we entered two large exhibition rooms, now arranged for the conference. In the first room were placed a big screen allowing the audience there to view the speakers in the second room.



Among the participants were Archbishop Mark of Berlin, Germany and Great Britain, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate on foreign institutions Archbishop Mark, Archbishop Nikolai Sokolov, dean of Church of St. Nicholas at Tretyakov Gallery, the Lord Mayor of Darmstadt Mr. Jochen Partsch, Head of Department of the Government of Moscow, Vladimir Chernikov, the Consul General in Frankfurt Ruslan Karsanov, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly in Ekaterinburg Ludmila Babuschina, Director of Russian Federation State Archives Sergey Mironenko, Professor Dr. Eckhart Franz from Hessische Staatsarchive Darmstadt, Vice-president of St. Andrew the First Called and the Center of National Glory Mikhail Yakushev, Director of the Museum of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Gregory Manevich, former Russian Ambassador Peter W. Stegnyy, and many representatives of museums, archives, churches, monasteries, and societies devoted to, or with an interest in, the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, all in all about 150 persons.

The Chairman of the Fund Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society Anna V. Gromov welcomed the participants in the conference and read a greeting from the Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Sergey Naryshkin.



Archbishop Mark (Egoryevsky) read the greeting of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill:

Organizers and participants of "Elisabeth days in Darmstadt"

Graces hierarchs, reverend fathers, dear brothers and sisters!

I cordially greet the organizers and participants of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth.

During the XX century in Russia and abroad was growing veneration of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, celebrated afterwards among the saints. Church canonization - a call to

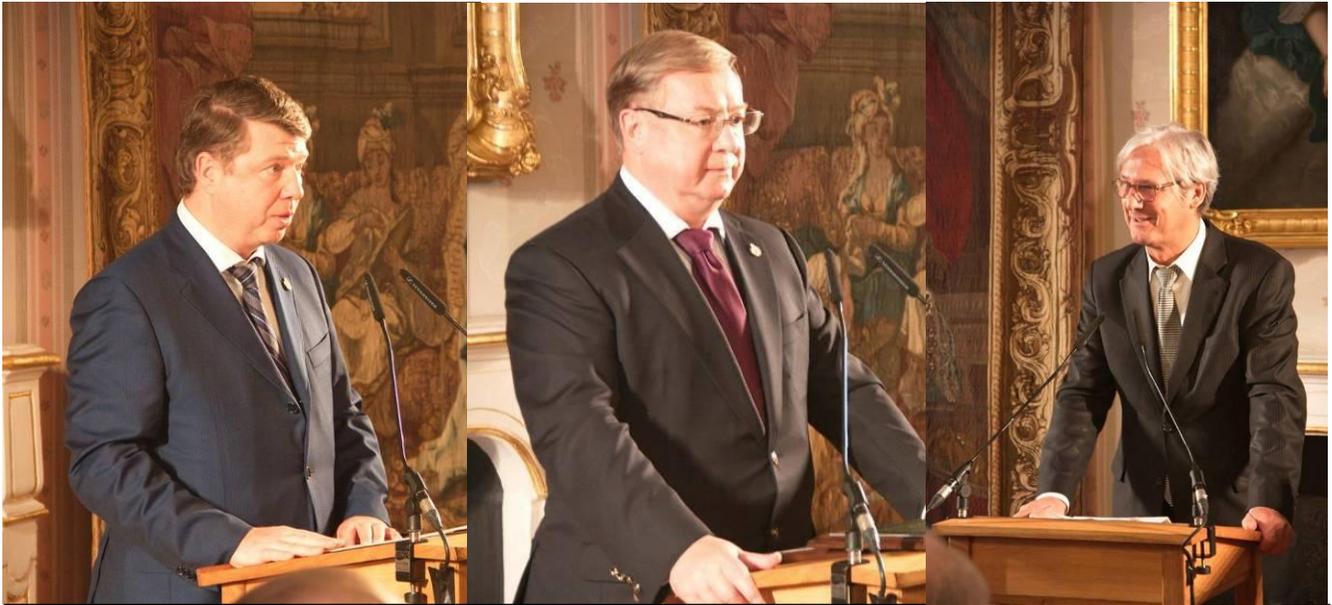
follow the ideals that are embodied in his life or that saint of God. The Grand Duchess, who devoted themselves to prayer and fasting, sacrificial care for the needy, has become an example for many pious laymen, nuns, sisters of the Orthodox sisterhoods.

Let the Lord of Mercy be upon all gathered in these days in Germany, in order to honor the memory of St Elisabeth, his hearty assistance in the way of growth in the Christian virtues of love and charity. Invoke God's blessing on you.

+ Cyril, Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus'

The conference participants were also welcomed by Archbishop Mark of Berlin, Germany and Great Britain, the Lord Mayor of Darmstadt Mr. Jochen Partsch, a greeting was read from Landgrave of Hesse Heinrich Donatus, Head of Department of the Government of Moscow, Vladimir Chernikov spoke on behalf of the Mayor of Moscow Sergey Sobyenin, the Consul General in Frankfurt Ruslan Karsanov read a greeting from Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation in the Federal Republic of Germany Vladimir Grinin, Chairman of IOPS Sergey Stephasin in person greeted the participants and thanked the organisers, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly in Ekaterinburg Ludmila Babuschina gave a greeting, Igor R. Aschurbeyli from Russian-British Chamber of Commerce was talking, Chairman Board of Trustees of St. Andrew the First Called and the Center of

National Glory Vladimir Yakunin's greeting was read by the first vice-president of same Mikhail Yakushev and Deputy General Director of the Foundation "free deal" Elena Filippenko read the welcome speech of the Chairman of the Board of the Fund Oleg Deripaska.



Head of Department of Media and Advertising of the Moscow Government Vladimir Chernikov, Chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Sergei Stepashin, and the Lord Mayor of Darmstadt Mr. Jochen Partsch.

Vladimir Chernikov in addition said: *"I believe that such commemorations and celebrations devoted to our Orthodox saint, the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, shall acquire the status of an annual tradition. Also, I plan to propose the idea to arrange such "Elisabeth days" in Russia, in Moscow, to residents of the capital are also acquainted with the rich cultural traditions of Darmstadt, famous for its history of the city, forever akin to Moscow wonderful name of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. Which is close called "Encyclopedia of good works."*

Sergei Stepashin told about major activities of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna as benefactress, which can serve as a worthy role model for today. *"It teaches us that today is very important for the people: peace, prosperity, respect for each other,"* - said Sergey Stepashin. He also told about the celebration ceremony of IOPS issuing a post block on the theme of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. On one of the three stamps display August chairwoman of IOPS Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. The stamp block was given to the participants. He ended with saying thank you to the organizers of the celebrations in Darmstadt and presented diplomas to the Fund "Elisabeth Sergius educational society" and personally to the Chairman Anna V. Gromova.





I started with a greeting from His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent; *"I am very disappointed not to be able to join you at the "way to Christ" concert to be held in Darmstadt on 2. November 2014 to mark the 150th anniversary of the birthday of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. The commemorative ceremony is sure to be a solemn and moving occasion. I send my best wishes and blessings to all those involved"* - signed in hand "Michael".

Then added a few words of my own - *I thank the Fund Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society for again having arranged the "Elisabeth Days", and for it this year to take place in Darmstadt, to mark the 150th anniversary of her birth here. A big thank you to Anna Vitalyevna Gromova for the invitation to participate. As a relative of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and as a descendent of Empress Marie Alexandrovna - wife of Emperor Alexander II, my great-great-great-grandmother - who was born in Darmstadt, is it like a pilgrimage for me to come here"*.

Anna V. Gromova presented to the Darmstadt Mayor a painting with white lilies in a vase with a portrait of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna on the wall behind, and to the Palace Museum was presented a portrait of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, adding to it a proposal to make it a tradition to hold memorial days of Elisabeth Feodorovna in her hometown, so that the German themselves do not forget about the Princess of Hesse-Darmstadt, who became a Russian Saint.



From Russia was brought one of the five icons of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, specially made for the first pilgrimage to the sorrowful path of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and nun Varvara, through Yekaterinburg, Alapayevsk, Beijing, and to Jerusalem, organized in 2013 by the charity "Socium-A", together with the church of St. Martyr Elisabeth in Pokrovsky-Streshnevo. In the icon is a capsule with particles of the earth from the places of worship where the pilgrims stayed - Yekaterinburg, Alapayevsk, Beijing, and Jerusalem.

The most controversial speech was probably the speech of Igor Ashurbeyli, Vice-Chairman of IOPS. He read a line from St. Elisabeth Feodorovna's testament:

"Please bury me in the crypt beneath the church built by me in the name of the Holy Virgin in my possession on Ordynka Street in Moscow, at my Convent of Mercy at the location specified by me as the abbess of the monastery, lowering my coffin in the bottom, in the ground ... If I die abroad or outside of Moscow, please put me in a coffin, close it completely, transported to Moscow and bury it (without opening the coffin), as I stated above".

- and then he added that he believes this is the last will of Holy Martyr Elisabeth and he therefore will work for her relics being transferred to Moscow and buried as bequeathed by Elisabeth Feodorovna.

After his speech he added in a conversation - *"I'm doing this for the written will of the revered Saint and restoration of historical justice. The legend the guides in Jerusalem tells bothers me - the young princess in the prime of her beauty and with her husband on their first visit to Jerusalem, being fascinated, exclaimed: "How I wished to be buried here!" When I visited there, I too, so said, yes. But this is just a lyric cry of a young beautiful woman. But after her husband was killed, she created the Martha and Mary Convent, and she wrote a will - a testament! It is published, it is signed, and it clearly says what she wanted. Just for 96 years no one dared to say it out loud. I want on the centenary of the death of St. Elisabeth Feodorovna to secure the return of her relics in Moscow, at the Martha and Mary Convent."*



In an interview in a break at the conference I was asked about my opinion about the proposal to moved the relics of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna from Jerusalem to Moscow. I said - *"I have great doubts that we need to move all the remains of the Romanov family members buried outside of Russia. Of course, now, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of St Elisabeth Feodorovna, it is logical that people have these thoughts, and they begin to say, "We want to rebury her in Moscow". But I'm not ready to support this idea, because I know that she also expressed a desire to be buried in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem, which in fact happened. I understand that in her will, she has expressed her wish to be buried in the crypt of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy. But I see a strong "symbol" in this being empty. When tourists and Orthodox pilgrims who visit her convent and church see the empty crypt, they should ask themselves - Why is the deeply revered in Russia Holy Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna not buried here, in the convent founded by her, in the center of the Russian capital, but in the Holy Land? People in Russia have to think about what happened to*

her - why did Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna not find a resting place in Russia? Lenin personally gave the order for her arrest. It is known that she repeatedly was offered to leave Moscow, but she refused and said: "Why should I go? I have not done anything wrong." She was accused of being a spy, because she was born in Germany, and she knew if she left it would be seen as admitting guilt. And this is the "White Angel of Moscow", Elisabeth Feodorovna, who dedicated her life to help the unfortunate and disadvantaged. Never the less, she was arrested, transported to Ekaterinburg, then Alapayevsk, and then brutally murdered together with her compatriots - she threw her alive into a pit. The remains of Elisabeth were taken from Russia by faithful people, brought to Jerusalem, where she was buried. I think this is a very important symbol. We must remember what happened. The Bolshevik revolution of 1917 and all that followed, caused suffering not only to Elisabeth Feodorovna, but also to many other people. But the example of Holy Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna, is probably the most powerful and on its way to become the most famous in Russia. Her empty crypt in the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy to me is one of the strongest reminders of this tragic period in Russian history, and I hope others will see it the same way. It should remind Russians of the terrible tragedy and help to avoid similar terrible mistakes in the future, blinding masses of people and the falsification of history. We are approaching the year 2017, where, obviously, will be celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Revolution, and to talk about how to move the remains of Elisabeth Feodorovna to Russia before this, I find disturbing. I am afraid it could be used to "white wash" this great tragedy, like moving the "evidence" and then say nothing really happen, see here, Saint Elisabeth is here in her convent. Now her remains are in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem, service is performed daily there, and people are coming to pray at her relics. There is no need to change this now. If you want to bury someone, then bury the remains of the Tsetsarevich Alexis and Grand Duchess Marie. They are Royal Martyrs! Or find the remains of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich in Perm. Or the four Grand Dukes at the Peter and Paul Fortress. Or even the persons killed together with Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, who are buried and forgotten in Peking"



Ambassador, Historian Peter Stegny and the Director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Sergey Mironenko speaking at the conference.

Ambassador, member of IOPS, Historian Peter Stegny made a presentation about the "Hesse princesses in the history of Russia".

Professor Dr. Eckhart Franz spoke on "The State Archives in Darmstadt. Documentary evidence of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna."

Director of the State Archive of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Sergey Mironenko talked on the theme "Proceedings of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna in GARF".

At the end of the first day of the conference some of the participants assembled to make a group photo.



In the city was placed posters advertising the concert "Der weg zu Christus".

Konzert | Weltpremiere
Chor des Sinods (Moskau)

- DER WEG ZU CHRISTUS -

Anlässlich des 150. Jahrestages der heiligen
Großmartyrerin und Großherzogin Elisaweta Feodorowna,
gebürtigen Prinzessin von Darmstadt

Darmstadt – Moskau

02.11.2014 um 19.00 Uhr
Pauluskirche, Niebergallweg 20, 64285 Darmstadt

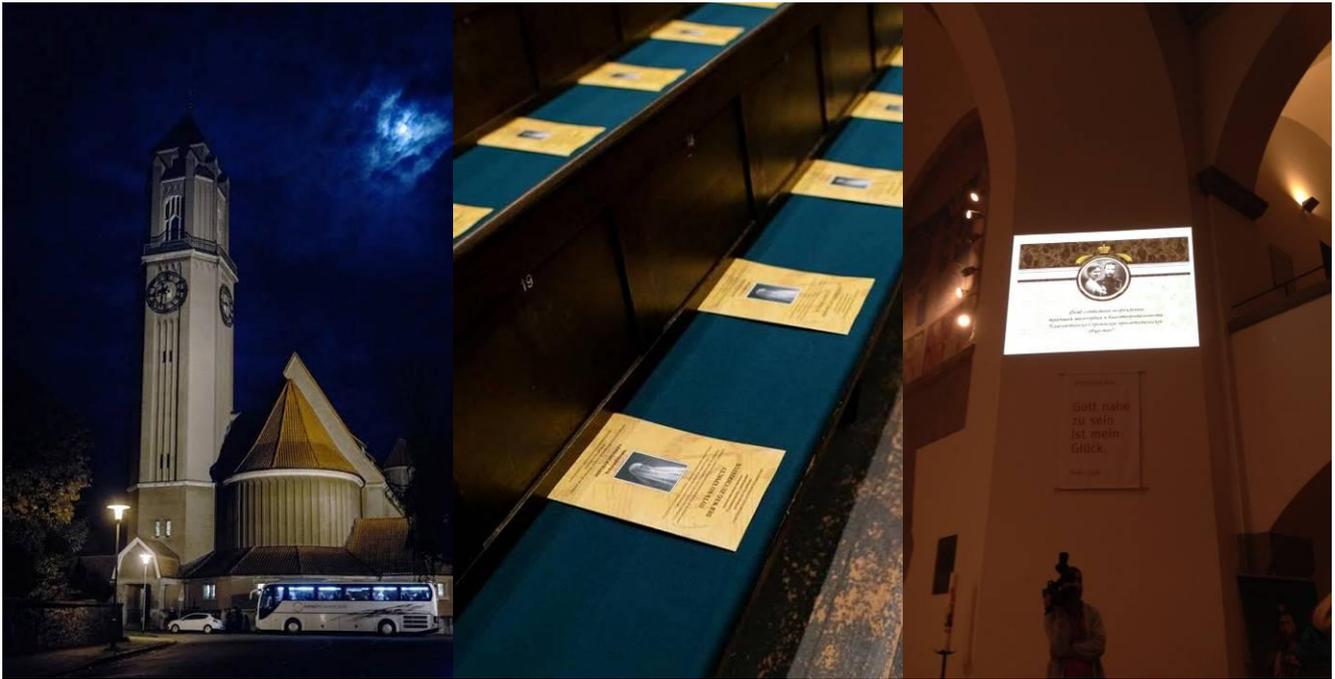
EINTRITTSKARTE

DER WEG ZU CHRISTUS
02.11.2014 um 19.00 Uhr
Ticketpreis: 25 EUR

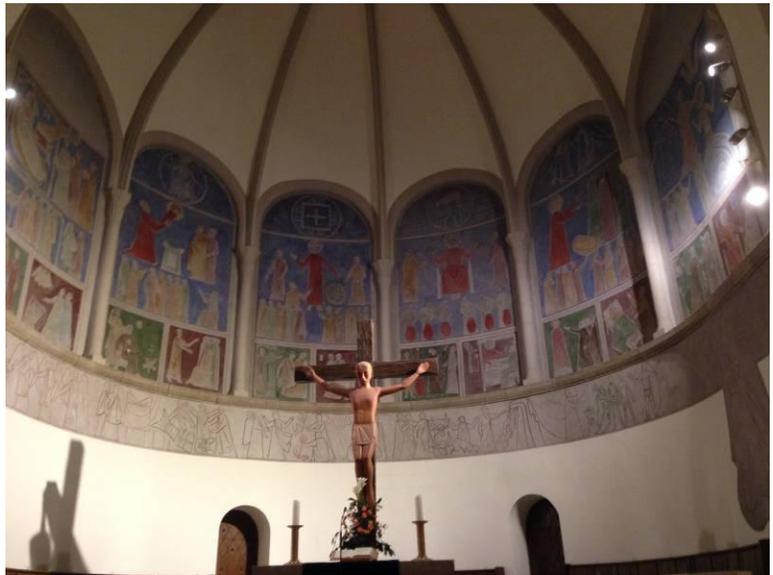
*Ein der Veranstaltung angemessener (klassischer) Kleidungsstil ist erwünscht.
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Veranstalter in Russland: Gemeinnützige Bildungsgesellschaft der hl. Elisaweta und Sergij (Moskau)*

The concert - "The Way to Christ"

In the evening the Catholic cathedral of St. Paul in Darmstadt held the world premiere of the musical work "The Way to Christ", specially created for the 150th anniversary of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. It is chants in the style of XVI-XVII centuries, created by Ph.D, Professor, Honored Artist of Russia Anatoly V. Konotop.



A. V. Konotop talked about how to create a unique piece of music of XVI - XVII century - a period of the highest art of singing. From this period, he selected one tradition - the tradition of Suprasl monastery, studied the manuscript of hymns, prepared in 1498 for the centenary of the monastery. It was extremely rich in variations and comprises all the traditions of liturgical singing. But when he started to write the music, he could not get inspired. Arriving in Darmstadt, he asked the Orthodox Church Abroad to help. He was given a service already written for glorifying Saint Elisabeth Feodorovna. It was beautiful and inspired him, and then he learned that the author of the liturgical texts glorifying Martyr Elisabeth was written by Archbishop Mark of Berlin.



The name of the concert draws a parallel with the scenic painting "Steps to Christ" - so called is the central painting placed in the opening above the arch in the Church of Martha and Mary Convent. Mikhail Nesterov was invited to paint the church personally by the founder of the monastery, Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. The fresco depicts a crowd of worshipers, mostly of common people, men, women, children, who go in search of the path to salvation, for God's truth. The crowd is oriented to Christ, who comes to them in a light from birch trees, covered with a haze as in spring.



The "The Way to Christ" was performed by the Moscow Synodal Choir under the direction of Honored Artist of Russia Aleksei Puzakov and with choirmaster Olga Ushakov.

For one and half hours the sound of "angels" filled the church. The audience sat in awe, during this solemn and moving performance.



In the audience sat both Russians and Germans. After the concert the choir received a standing ovation. Anatoly V. Konotop went up to the choir and started to talk about his work, and then invited Archbishop Mark of Berlin to say a few words.

November 3rd conference continued

As Head of the International Center for Civil Society Studies Institute of World History, Ph.D., Anna Gromova started the presentations with a report about the identity of the Grand Duchess in Russian and foreign historiography.



Associate professor of the International Institute LINC, Ph.D., Dmitry Grishin, told about Moscow and Darmstadt in the life of the Grand Ducal couple". Member of the Russian Academy of Architecture, Doctor of Architecture Inessa Slyunkov talked about the Ilyinsk estate and the life of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Sergey Alexandrovich there. PhD Russian Academy of Arts Elena Rzhetskaya gave a presentation of artist's images of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna; the first vice-president of the Foundation of St. Andrew the First Called, and the Center of National Glory, a member of IOPS, Ph.D. Mikhail Yakushev talked about how was transferred a relic of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna from Jerusalem to Moscow, and others also gave a report.

The dean of the faculty of the Missionary Saint Tikhon's Orthodox University, Ph.D. theology professor, rector of the Church of St. Nicholas of Myra in Tolmachi at the State Tretyakov Gallery, Archpriest Nikolai Sokolov, told about an icon of Christ Pantokrator he found in the Tretyakov Gallery.

In the end he presented a copy of the icon to the Abess Elisabeth of Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy.



- Videos - 1) <http://www.tvc.ru/news/show/id/54184>
2) <http://russian.rt.com/article/57360>
3) <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=2094303>

The Hunting Palace Kranichstein

In the afternoon a tour to the hunting palace Kranichstein was organized. This hunting palace was built in 1572 and is located four kilometers northeast of Darmstadt. It is interesting for many reasons, but for the participants here, it is supposedly the places where was born Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

Now the castle is a hotel, restaurant, and a museum with 13 halls which exhibited samples of interiors XVI-XIX centuries, with a collection of weapons and hunting trophies.



The hunting palace Wolfsgarten to the north of Darmstadt and built in 1722, is maybe better known, as it was a favorite country retreat for Grand Dukes Ludwig IV (Ella's father) and his son Ernst Ludwig, and many photos with members of the Imperial Family are taken there. But Wolfsgarten was abandoned until the 1830s when the grand ducal family began to restore and expand the property. After the abolition of the monarchy in 1918, Wolfsgarten became the principal residence of the former grand ducal family, so today it is open only a couple of weeks each year for the public.

We had a tour of the Kranichstein palace and besides the interesting interior, and the hunting trophies, there were a couple of surprises. In the circular room overlooking the park was one window in the lower left corner scratched (with a diamond ring) with the signature of "Elisabeth, 1882". Another had her sister's "Victoria, 1882".



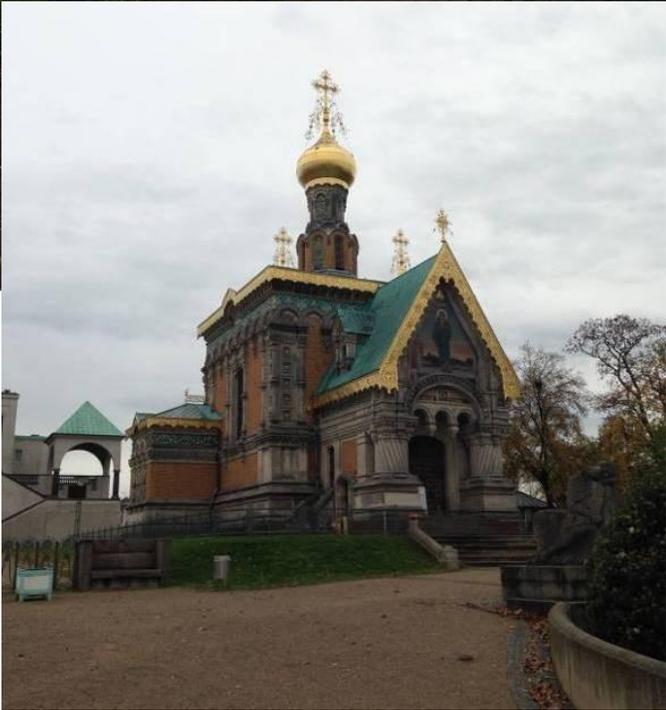
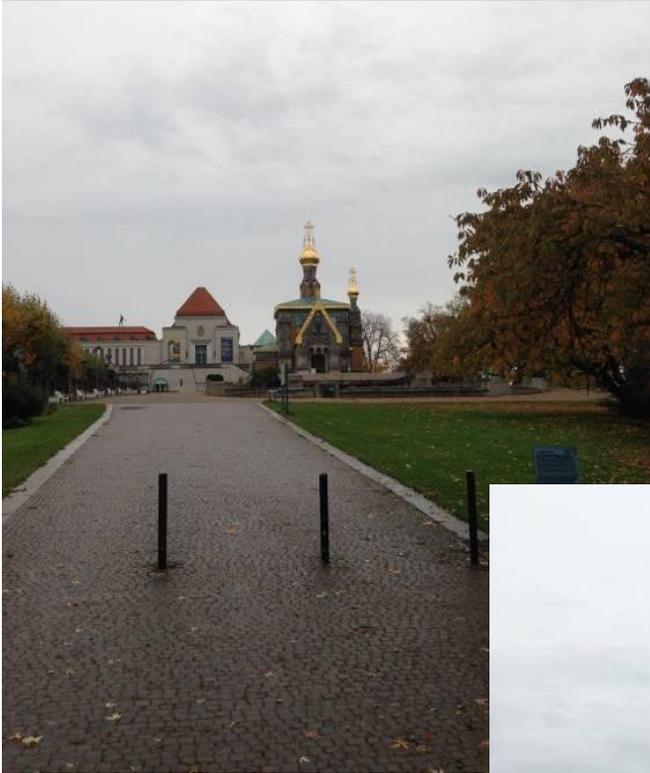
Our guide, the director of the Darmstadt Palace Museum, told us that it was not likely that Grand Duchess Elisabeth was born in this hunting palace. On 1st of November it would hardly have been used at all, as it would be very cold there, and it would certainly not be a place for a pregnant woman to be giving birth in. So the exact birthplace is still a mystery to be solved.

Gala Dinner

In the evening a Gala Dinner was held in the "Orangerie", a building from 1712, now used for concerts and meetings, and with a restaurant in an adjacent building. We got many speeches saying thank you for the "Elisabeth days" in Darmstadt. A balalaika orchestra from Moscow played all evening - also a version of "God save the Tsar" to which most of the guests were standing up.



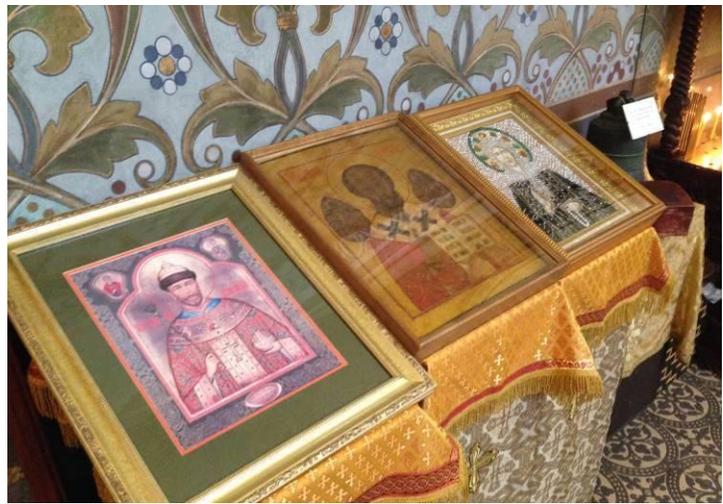
On the final day, November 4th, the Russian Day of Unity, there was morning service in the church of St. Mary Magdalene. We walked from our hotel to the church, up the hill along "Nikolaiweg" (Nicholas Street) and saw the church now much clearer already in the distance.



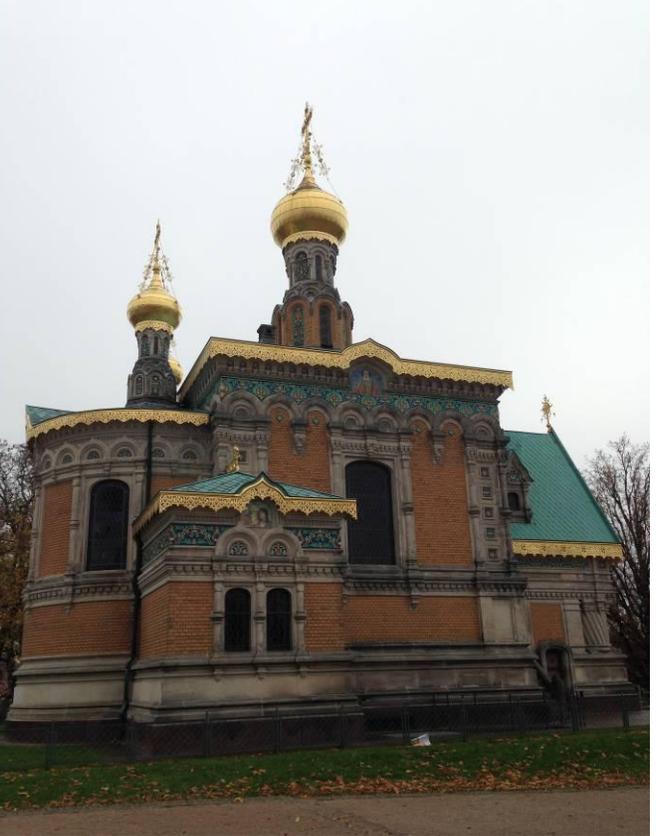
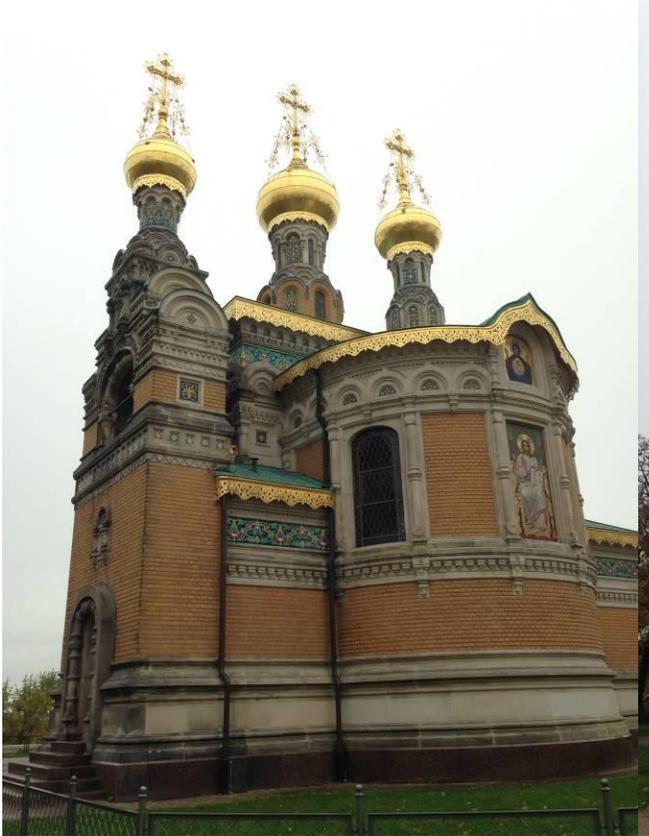
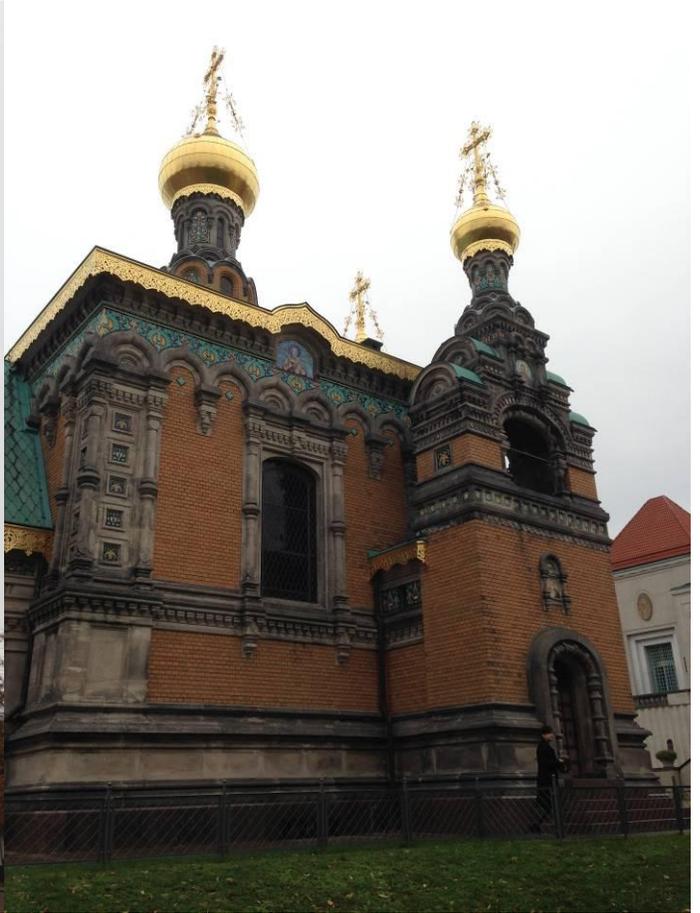
After the service Ludmila and I talked with Father Konstantin. He told us more about the church and that the religious work of art, in a wooden frame standing next to the heating, is made by Empress Alexandra Feodorovna. Some of its patterns are clearly inspired by details in the wall decoration of the church.



Ludmila and Paul Kulikovsky with Father Konstantin and artist Dmitry Belukin.



Walking around the church we took another look at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene.....





Patriarch Kirill in Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy

November 1, 2014. Press office of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia



At the entrance to the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy in Moscow, His Holiness met with the prioress of the monastery Abbess Elisabeth (Pozdnjakova) with her sisters. Primate of the Russian Church went to the Pokrovsky Church, where he led the worship. His Holiness was joined by two Bishops, 3 Archpriests and metropolitan clergy.

During the service deputy chairman of the Synodal Department of the monasteries and monks, prioress of the Monastery of the Conception Abbess Juliana (Khaled), prioress of the Martha and Mary Convent Abbess Elisabeth

(Pozdnjakova), and pupils of the Elisabethan orphanage and school at the Martha and Mary Convent were praying.

After the litany His Holiness prayed for peace in the Ukraine.

In his sermon at the Pokrovsky church Patriarch Kirill recalled *"the wonderful combination of gentleness, humility, and at the same time committed to the fundamental issues that manifest in the life of Elisabeth Feodorovna. She told her father, a Protestant, she was going to convert to Orthodoxy, she asked him to "send just one word in a telegram. Father did not send a telegram, but wrote a letter, which did not allow her conversion to Orthodoxy. And then, she said to her father, not to his will or someone else's pressure, it is not a coincidence and not for the beauty of the external rite of*



Orthodoxy, as what reproached her father, but the clear knowledge that through the Church of God will be carried out the fruit of her religious feelings. She accepted Christianity without the consent of the father".

After the service, Abbess Elisabeth (Pozdnjakova) welcomed His Holiness Patriarch: *"The whole history of our retreat was held under the patronage of the First Hierarchs of Moscow. Metropolitan Volodymyr (Epiphany), while the Metropolitan of Moscow and Kolomna, took an active part in the development of the charter and the rank of initiation sisters Martha and Mary Convent. He consecrated this church. May 7, 1918, when was approaching storm on the Russian Orthodox Church, in the day when the founder of the monastery of our Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna stepped on her way of the cross, His Holiness Patriarch Tikhon served prayer here and a few hours chatting with her sisters. He did not know that in a few hours, the Grand Duchess would be arrested, and she would*

never come back to this abode. In 1992, insulted and tortured abode was taken under care of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II. Your Holiness, sanctifies for the second time this church. And today, in this solemn day, you again with us. For us, it is particularly precious. "

Abbess Elisabeth then presented His Holiness with a picture of Martha and Mary Convent.

Primate of the Russian Church addressed the faithful.

"The image of the Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna, radiant extraordinary human and spiritual beauty - a unique phenomenon in the history of Russia" According to the Primate of the Russian Church, the contemporaries should know and remember the heroism of the holy life of the Grand Duchess. "Today we know about it a lot more than 10 or 20 years ago, but we need her to become a national hero, to become a role model". He was confident that the life story of Grand Duchess should enter into our literature, in art, in cinema and theater.

If a dignified way to highlight the image of Elisabeth Feodorovna, the "no competition not stand those who is struggling to make a hero and role model for the modern subject of the information society", Patriarch Kirill believes. "Who among them is St Elisabeth Feodorovna, left the palaces and moved to a convent cell, and all her skills, her connections, her charm, her diplomatic skills directed at helping the most needy and the outcast ?!" - said the Primate.

"What happened with Elisabeth Feodorovna, what happened to our Church, what is happening and will happen in our lives, we must perceive, peering into the image of Christ the Savior - said His Holiness.

"There is nothing new, and if we take up the cross the Lord's service, if taken on the responsibility to spread the word of the Savior into the world, we simultaneously take and the prospect of being subjected to all things which the Savior Himself was exposed and his faithful followers."

Therefore, the Primate of the Russian Church urged not to forget the martyrdom Elisabeth Feodorovna and many of our compatriots who gave their lives for their faith in Christ.

Turning to the sisters of Martha and Mary Convent, His Holiness said that they should "warmth and love to influence people's souls to them germinated sprouts of the ministry of those ideals which bore Martyr Elisabeth." "Your example must be contagious, and convincing evidence of the beauty of the image of Holy Venerable Martyr" - said in conclusion, His Holiness Patriarch.

Then His Holiness visited the Museum of the Martha and Mary Convent, where he saw the exhibition "Charity in history. Russian contribution. From the Crimean War to the Great", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, and the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Convention relative to the Red Cross.

The exhibition tells the history of the International Red Cross and the activities of the Russian Red Cross, about the history of the communities of Sisters of Mercy in Russia and their ministry in the rear and at the front of the Crimean, Russian, Turkish, Russian-Japanese War and World War I, as well as on the activities of the Orthodox Chaplains.

His Holiness Patriarch was accompanied with explanations by the organizer of the exhibition, the head of the International Center for Civil Society Studies of the Institute of World History, A.V. Gromova.

At the end of the visit, Elisabethan grammar school students gave a brief concert dedicated to Martyr Elisabeth.



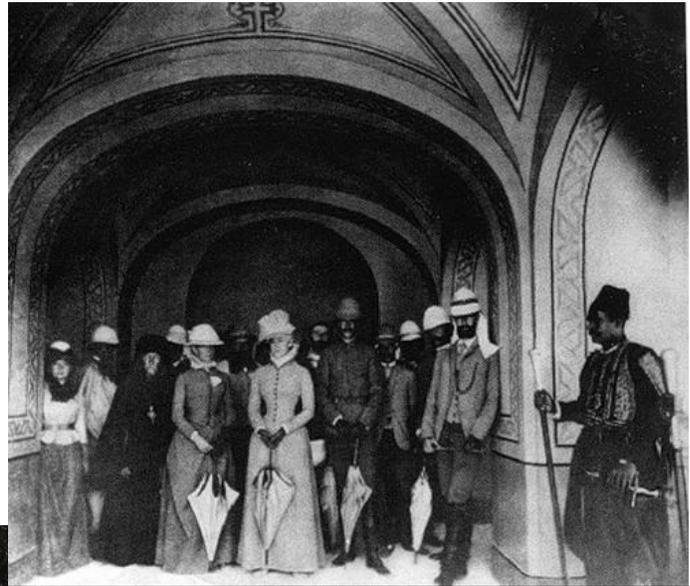
In the convent of St. Mary Magdalene in Gethsemane, Jerusalem, was celebrations

1 November. Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem

November 1, 2014, the day of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, in the convent of St. Mary Magdalene in Gethsemane, where her relics repose, festivities were held.

Divine Liturgy made Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission ROCA Archimandrite Roman (Krasovskii). During the service was offered a prayer for peace in the Ukraine. After the Liturgy was served a prayer at the relics of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

A plot of land on the slope of Mount of Olives, where there is now Gethsemane, was acquired as property of the royal family by Grand Dukes Sergei Alexandrovich and Paul Alexandrovich in 1881. Later on this site was built a church in honor of St Mary Magdalene, patroness wife of Emperor Alexander II's wife, Empress Maria Alexandrovna, who deceased in 1880. Solemn consecration of the church took place on the feast of the Holy Virgin in 1888. Attending the consecration was Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich and his wife Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich.



Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich at the St. Mary Magdalene.



The Majestic Russian church of St Mary Magdalene with golden domes, surrounded by greenery of cypress and olive trees, was a stunningly beautiful sight. Seeing this beauty and grandeur, the Grand Duchess Elisabeth said: "How much I want to be buried here". Her words came true.

18 July 1918 Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, her cell attendant Nun Varvara and five members of the royal family took their martyrdom, buried alive in one of the Alapayevsk mines. Three months later, on the orders of General Kolchak, their remains were taken to Beijing where they temporarily were buried in the Mission cemetery. But the final burial place of martyrs of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth and Nun Barbara became the shrine of St Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem, where their remains were moved to by abbot Seraphim (Kuznetsov) in 1921. To venerate the holy relics of the saints comes pilgrims of all Christian denominations. The Grand Duchess, German by birth, was the same with special love and reverence of the Holy Land.



Grand Duchess Elisabeth donated to the Church of Mary Magdalene in Gethsemane precious objects of church plate and vestments, brought from Russia. And today, the day of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth, Head of the Mission of the ROCA Archimandrite Roman (Krasovskii) conduct worship services in vestments donated once by the Grand Duchess. For a while it was vestments in the sacristy of the Trinity Cathedral RDM, and in the feast of the Ascension of 2013, it was transferred to the Chief RDM MP Archimandrite Isidor (Minayeff) and Gethsemane Abbess Elisabeth.



Video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8tW4bXWaul#t=25>



Charity concert in honor of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna

By Paul Kulikovskiy

November 1, 2014 at the Moscow International House of Music, was held a charity concert with the orchestra of Tchaikovsky in honor of "Grand Duchess Elisabeth. 150 years since her birth".

The concert was organized by the Martha and Mary Convent and the Orthodox aid service "Mercy".

The celebration of the anniversary of the Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna, the founder of Russia's first Convent of Mercy, was attended by Chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Hilarion, the chairman of the Synodal Department for Charity and Social Service, Bishop Panteleimon Nut-Zuevsky, and prioress of the Martha and Mary Convent Abbess Elisabeth (Pozdnjakova).

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The guests were welcomed by students of St. Dimitry School of Sisters of Mercy, who distributed cards for memory.



In the foyer of the House of Music was a photo exhibition dedicated to the life and works of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, as well as the social service "Mercy". There were presented personal belongings of the Martyr. Here, for example, one glove of Elisabeth Feodorovna. At the concert one could also purchased various materials about the Grand Duchess and her Convent of Mercy.



Before the start of the concert, Metropolitan Hilarion gave the audience a welcome greeting from His Holiness Patriarch Kirill. Then the Archbishop recalled the life path of Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna, who is glorified in the assembly of new martyrs and confessors of the Russian Church:



"The Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna - one of the brightest images in the history of our Church, our country's history. She has an amazing destiny, and today we will hear the story about the fate, to the sound of music. The unity of music and text will remind us of the bright appearance of the Grand Duchess. Her life came to a turning point in our history. As a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, a German by birth and upbringing as an English woman. She married a Moscow Governor-General, the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, when, apparently, there were no signs of trouble, when the country lived its life, develop the industry and

culture, seething life ecclesiastical and political life. But the circumstances were such that it was in the time when the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna lived in our country, in her eyes there was a change that led to the terrible catastrophe. And she was one of the victims of this disaster. Humanly her fate was deeply tragic, but Divine Providence, which operates in the destiny of entire nations, and in the fate of the Church and in the life of every individual, ordered her fate in a special way. It is unlikely that she could imagine it when traveling to Russia, such an end of her life. When ended the life of Elisabeth

Feodorovna, she could hardly imagine that today, 150 years after her birth, we remember and celebrate her as a Martyr and our patron saint.

Holy Grand Duchess Elisabeth was doing a lot of good before and during the First World War, as well as at the beginning of the Civil War. Her good deeds was interrupted when she was arrested and after Christ ascended to his Calvary.

We remember her as an outstanding example of Christian humility, Christian good works, Christian kindness. In our time, when we lack sometimes kind and affectionate words, when people fail in love, when we just do not have enough kindness and human warmth, the image of Martyr Elisabeth Feodorovna warms our hearts and serves as a guiding light for all who want to repeat her feat today and continue her service."



Then concert started. Artists of the Moscow Academic Mayakovsky Theater Mikhail Filippov and the theater actress of "Pyotr Fomenko Workshop" Pauline Kutepova read excerpts from the memoirs of Grand Duchess Elisabeth and her correspondence with her husband Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich.

There was performances of the soloist Katia Skanavi (piano) of the Moscow Philharmonic and Academic Choir named after Kozhevnikov. They concert included musical pieces of P.I. Tchaikovsky, M.I. Glinka, V.S. Kalinnikova, Schubert, Schumann, S. Rachmaninoff and D.D. Shostakovich.

All proceeds from ticket sales will be directed to the development of children's palliative service - one of the projects of the social service "Mercy", which acts at the Martha and Mary Convent. Doctors, nurses and social workers are to help the families with children suffering from severe incurable diseases. Its representatives are seeking to expand home care to provide children and parents a better quality of life and, as far as possible, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations. Today the services are helping 77 families with seriously ill children. During the year the service made more than 1,000 visits.



First International Forum "Mercy" in St. Petersburg



1.November. The St. Petersburg Metropolitan Church

In St. Petersburg, Russian State Pedagogical University named after A.I. Herzen held the first international forum "Mercy", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

The organizing committee of the event included representatives of the Committee on Youth Policy and Interaction with public organizations of St. Petersburg, Department for Church Charity and Social Service of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, the regional public organization "Center of Mercy" sisterhood Martyr Elisabeth, and society orthodox doctors of St. Petersburg named after the saint Luke (Yasenetsky).

Compassionate service covers various areas of social activity: it support, development and protection of the family, helping the elderly, the disabled, people suffering from serious illnesses, the homeless, orphans and children left without parental care, prisoners infected with HIV, the poor, migrants, people who are in

difficult circumstances, persons suffering from drug or alcohol addiction, as well as others in need of assistance.

Before the start of the forum Kazan Cathedral held a prayer service, which was headed by Bishop Markell of Tsarskoye Selo, assisted by the clergy of the cathedral and participants in the clergy. Participants then proceeded to the Pedagogical University, changed in Soviet times to the Nikolaiev Orphan Institute. In the lobby next to the meeting room were two photo exhibitions: "Sisters of Mercy of the Romanovs" and "Life of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna Romanova."



Then Bishop Markell gave a greeting from Metropolitan Varsonofy of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, in which the ruling bishop stressed that the venue of the forum, Pedagogical University, was not chosen by chance: before 1917 there was a hospital. "In its walls, is embodied the covenants of the Lord's mercy, compassion, love of neighbor."

The bishop reminded the audience that among the martyrs were many noble and rich people - they had everything, but they chose death for Christ. A feat that made also Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

"The disciples went three years with the Savior, listen to him, but when the Savior was captured and crucified, they fled, the women were left alone. And when on Sunday he appeared to his disciples, they did not recognize Him. Only a woman did - Mary Magdalene. And now I look in the room and see almost all present are women. Thank you, woman! When it is hard, you're near!" - said the bishop. Addressing the audience, the Bishop wished them "to do good, genuine welcome. Saviour, be His will, would have long since corrected itself around the world, but he gave it to us. I wish all of us to strengthen the grace of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of the Church, to our neighbor."



The Acting Chairman of the Committee on Youth Policy of St. Petersburg Vladimir Sokolov said that compassionate service "is not tainted nor politics, nor about money" and invited everyone to the third "Dobroforum" at the end of November: "We are ready to transfer all our experience, the experience of St. Petersburg" .

Acting Rector of the university, Sergey Goncharov said that charity, help to your neighbor in our country have always been honored. He spoke about the history of the Foundling Hospital in St. Petersburg, on numerous charitable organizations under the highest patronage, which have existed in the second half of the XIX century and had a huge impact in the society.

At the plenary session were also the director of the integrated program "spiritual and moral culture of the younger generation of Russia", the head of the Pedagogical cabinet Moscow Theological Academy abbot Cyprian (Yaschenko), chief physician Professor Alexander Chuchalin, member of the Legislative Assembly of Leningrad region Veronica Katorgina,

musician Maria Safariants, Sister of mercy in the name of sisterhood Martyr Elisabeth, Nadezhda Slepko.

After the coffee break, the forum participants attended different sections - "The Spiritual Foundations of Mercy"; discussing the fundamental concepts of charity, showing the path of spiritual growth for compassionate service to people. - "Preparation for volunteerism and compassionate service of

students and youth": devoted to acquaintance with volunteer projects of students and the opening of new, bright ideas on the theme "For the future of Russia - together!". - "The current practice of medical and social service: problems and prospects"; Presenting diverse directions compassionate service to people suffering. - "Compassionate service physicians and other helping professions": Presenting the best of service to man in different historical periods of our country, professionals and students to work together to find answers to difficult questions of their professional activities, and compassionate service.

In Kazakhstan, a monument of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna Romanova



03.11.2014. News - Archdiocese

November 3, 2014, Monday, 22th Week after Pentecost, Alma-Ata diocese celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

The place of celebration of the glorious jubilee was the Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs, located in the village of Keys (Karabulak) Talgar district of the Almaty region. The church is a smaller copy of the church in honor of the Protection of the Mother of God in the Crimean city Oreanda associated with the fate of the Imperial House of Romanov. In the Protection Church in Oreanda served St. John of Kronstadt, and here fasted and communed the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

In memory of Martyr Elisabeth, with the blessing of Metropolitan Alexander of Astana and Kazakhstan, was held a procession from the village Zhetygen to the village Bayserke, anticipating the fulfillment festive Divine Liturgy. Participants in the procession were parishioners in the name of John of Kronstadt (in Zhetygen (Mykolaivka)), and the Church of the Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica (in Bayserke (Dimitrievka)), as well as church goers and Issyk-Otegen Batyrsky deaneries.

The Divine Liturgy was held in the Church of Royal Martyrs led by Metropolitan Alexander of Astana and Kazakhstan, concelebrated by vicar of Astana Diocese Bishop Nectarios Taldykorgan, Bishop of Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semipalatinsk Amphilochius, Almaty Archpriest Valery Zakharov, rector of the church in honor of the Mother of God "All the Afflicted" Archpriest Eugene Vorobiev, Pokrovsky cleric Archpriest Alexander Milovanov, Head of the Information Department of the Metropolitan District of Archpriest Eugene Ivanov, rectors and parish clergy and the Issyk-Otegen Batyrskogo deaneries, protodiakonsky and diaconal rank Ascension Cathedral Almaty.

Liturgical chants sang the male choir of Ascension Cathedral Almaty directed by A. Zubrevich. During the service, prayed prioress of the monastery Iverskogo Seraphim Abbess Love (Yakushkina) with the sisters of the monastery; Secretary of the Kazakhstan Metropolitan District, Honored Artist of Russia, O.N. Ovchinnikov; many pilgrims from the towns and villages of Alma-Ata region, as well as students of the Alma-Ata Seminary. To take part in the festivities arrived Consul General of the Russian Federation in Almaty A.M. Demin and his wife.

At the funeral litany all the innocent victims of the Orthodox faith were remembered - "in a time of fierce persecution of atheists, tortured and killed from hunger, cold, wounds and overwork dead."



After the Liturgy Metropolitan Alexander addressed the faithful. The head of the Orthodox Church of Kazakhstan congratulated archpastors, clergy, religious and laity with the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great ascetic and Martyr - Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. The hierarch spoke in detail about the life of Martyr Elisabeth, her deeds and sufferings.

In connection with the celebrated event, Metropolitan Alexander presented church awards to donors and patrons of the Church of the Holy Royal Martyrs.

After the ceremony was sung for Martyr Elisabeth and then hierarchs and all the worshipers marched into the square in front of the church, where was to be the opening and consecration of the monument to the royal ascetic and martyr.



The monument of the Saint is a slightly modified copy of the monument to Martyr Elisabeth at the Martha and Mary Convent in Moscow. It is set on the south side of the church. The monument is made of bronze by Kazakh company "Versailles" (artists and designers Juliet V. Muchak and Elena Y. Gress); work was carried out during 2 years under the direct supervision of the Director A.I. Abramov.

After the white veil was removed from the monument, Metropolitan Alexander read a prayer for the consecration of the monument. The head of the Orthodox Church of Kazakhstan sprinkled sculpture of ascetic holy water. There was proclaimed Many Years for the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch of

Moscow and All Russia Kirill; head and archpastors Kazakhstan Metropolitan District; President, government, army, and all the people of Kazakhstan; all who worked on the monument of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. Hierarchs was then singing glorification of Martyr Elisabeth and laid bouquets of flowers at the monument.



In Kurgan opened a diocesan museum dedicated to the history of Mercy



November 2, 2014

November 1, 2014, the day of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, the founder of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, a museum about the "History of mercy" was opened at the Church of Theotokos of Port Arthur in Kurgan. Consecration of the museum made Archbishop Constantine of Kurgan and Lufia.

The opening ceremony was attended by the abbot of the church in honor of the Theotokos of Port Arthur, Head of Charity and Social

Service of the Diocese of Kurgan Archpriest Vladimir Alekseev, Secretary of the Diocesan Council priest Konstantin Pavlyuchenko, cleric of Port Arthur Icon of the Mother of God, Priest Sergei Perminov, Chairman of the Board Directors defense enterprise "Kurganpribor" Sergei Muratov, and believers of Kurgan.

The museum was created through the efforts of the Sisterhood charity in honor of Grand Duchess Elisabeth at the Diocesan Social Department. The exhibition presents the history of mercy in Russia and the Kurgan region, as well as items devoted to the life and ministry of Archbishop Luke (Yasenetsky).

Currently the nurses actively carry their service on several fronts - the crew of "Mercy" goes to the homeless, families with many children, helps in medical facilities, the perinatal center, a hospital for war veterans, holding charity events and fairs.

An important goal of the opening of the Museum "History of Mercy" was an urgent need to awaken in the hearts of the people desire to do good, because in the modern world, there are many people who fall into despair, and we Orthodox Christians should be able to tell them a word of hope or do a good deed which will bring them out of hopelessness and give power back to the joyful, full of life.



Church-monument to Russian Sisters of Mercy appears in Yekaterinburg

November 5, Information Agency Yekaterinburg diocese

On Saturday, 1 November in the Sverdlovsk Oblast Medical College, in the Kirov district of the capital of the Middle Urals, Metropolitan Kirill of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye performed the rite of consecration of the corner stone and the cross on the construction site of the new church.



The consecration of the stone was attended by the Deputy Director of the Department of Medical Education and Personnel Policy in the Health Ministry of Health of Russia Irina Kupeeva, Chief Specialist in the management of nursing activities of the Ministry of Health of Russia, Director of the Institute of Nursing Education, Samara State Medical University Sergei Kollega, Minister of Health Region Arkady Bielawski, Director of the Sverdlovsk Regional Medical College Irina Levin, board members Russian medical college, teachers and students, priests, nurses, residents of the area.

This is the beginning of a church-monument to Russian Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, the founder of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy. That is why the first prayer service was held in celebration of her 150th anniversary.



Metropolitan Kirill expressed the hope that the church will be "a monument to all the Sisters of Mercy, whose presence is often unnoticed, who from year to year, in difficult times for our country, sacrificing their lives and their health, save and preserve our people."



The appearance of the church-monument would be similar to the main church of the Martha and Mary Convent. Besides the church, a part of it will be a museum, which will perpetuate the amazing experience of the services of Russian nurses. At a memorial plaque will be engraved the names of famous names from sisterhoods Sisters of Mercy, as a living history on the walls of the church. Similar commemorative projects are created in the Naval Cathedral St. Petersburg and Kronstadt, whose walls keep the memory of the exploits of Russian sailors.

The director of the Sverdlovsk Regional Medical College Irina Levin hoped that one of the chapels of the church will be consecrated in the name of the Mother of God "education" as an educational institution engaged in education, not only students, but also doctors undergoing training in medical school.

The parish priest Alexei Gizatullin told that the - "capacity of the church will be 350-400 people. The church is located in the medical college on Lavender Boulevard, 6. With the advent of another church in such a large district, not only the students and teachers, but also its inhabitants will be able to explore the Orthodox faith, the development and strengthening of spiritual and moral values. In Yekaterinburg exists a good tradition to open churches at educational institutions. So, there are Nicholas Church at Ural Mining University, and Kazan church at the Ural Institute of Business."

The construction period is not yet known. The main thing, the start has already been done" - said a spokesperson of the Yekaterinburg diocese Svetlana Kislova.

Lectures about Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna in Kazan

5 Nov. IPPO.

In Kazan, on the 150th anniversary of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna were organized public lectures by known Kazan historian, assistant professor of the Kazan Theological Seminary Prize laureate Makarii, active member of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society Anatoly Yeldash, in which he told the townspeople about the visit of the Grand Duchess in Kazan region in 1902-1915.

The meetings were held at various venues in the city: the club of fans of Art in the Museum of Fine Arts (October 23), in the exhibition devoted to the First World War at the Museum of Fine Arts (30 October), the club of fans of Kazan antiquities for historians and ethnographers (31 October), on the Orthodox fair in the city Palace of Sports (November 1), and at the event "Night of the Arts" (November 3). In total the lectures was attended by over 200 people.

Anatoly, the author of over 30 books, has long been studying the history of his native land, including gathering facts about the arrival of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna in Kazan, and has printed publications on this topic.



The townspeople were interested to learn that the future holy ascetic repeatedly visited Kazan and even initiated a construction on the 300th anniversary of the reign of the Romanov House a chapel on the spot where was the miraculous Our Lady of Kazan, which was built with her's assistance and care. Elisabeth Feodorovna herself chose the architect and approved the layout.

By the spring of 1913 the works were largely completed. On the very spot where the miraculous Our Lady of Kazan was arranged a richly decorated canopy, where is established the icon. Before this had she donated a silver lamp with ornaments of pearls and precious stones, on her first visit to the monastery. On Easter week April 20, 1913 the chapel was consecrated in the presence of Elisabeth Feodorovna. In Soviet times, the monastery was ruined and the cathedral and bell tower collapsed.

In the history of the Kazan region are many other memorable pages associated with pilgrimages of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna. Here she visited churches, temples, Kazan Mother of God Monastery, and Sedmiezernuyu Raifa Monastery.

Sunday school named after Anna Demidova was commemorated Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna

1 .11.2014. Press office of the Archdiocese of Vologda.



November 1 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, wife of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, the founder of the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, "the All Mother," as called her the loving Russian people. In Sunday school named Anna Demidova at Stepanovny Church of the Nativity in the city of Cherepovets was held talks, telling about the life and exploits of the Grand Duchess.

The head teacher of the school Larissa Mabuza told parents and students some interesting little known facts from the life of Elisabeth Feodorovna, revealing her amazing personality - selflessness, compassion, sacrifice, and patriotism. The teacher advised parents to study the life of the Holy Royal Martyrs, to teach children the example of her life, raising diligence, humility, obedience, love for the motherland, and compassion towards others. In addition was shown rare illustrations.

In the church there is an icon of the Nativity St Elisabeth and nun Barbara with particles of holy relics, so after class in the Sunday school, parents and children had the opportunity to venerate the relic.

In the Sunday school was decorated stands, telling about the life and exploits of the Royal Martyrs and Grand Duchess Elisabeth and quotes about parenting from Empress Alexandra Feodorovna.

"The Way to Christ" - In the Concert Hall of Tchaikovsky

By Paul Kulikovsky

November 4th, in the Concert Hall of Tchaikovsky in Moscow was the Russian premiere of the "musical icon" called "The Way to Christ", dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

The Moscow Synodal Choir had just returned from Darmstadt, where was the world premiere.

"This is the same musical work, which took place two days ago in Darmstadt, at her home, a musical offering, a musical icon, a way that reveals the beauty and sanctity of Elisabeth Feodorovna" - tells the artistic director and chief conductor of the Moscow Synodal Choir Alexei Puzakov.

"Elisabeth Feodorovna unites East and West, culture and our history. And the story of how glorious and tragic is our homeland. As you know, Elisabeth Feodorovna was born in Germany and later married Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, moved to Russia, adopted Orthodoxy. A German became a Russian Saint, A Saint, who is revered widely, by many, many people. Elisabeth Feodorovna was called the "White Angel of Moscow." She became famous for her charity work. After her husband was killed, Elisabeth Feodorovna dedicated her life to charity and set up in Moscow the Martha and Mary Convent " - says Alexei Puzakov.

"The most interesting chants glorifying the Russian saints, belonging to this century. I do not want to take another material intonation, even if it was better or worse. I wanted it to be in the context of the musical language, which are celebrated all the great Russian saints"- says Doctor of Arts, Professor Anatoly Konotop.

Restrained, strict ancient Russian chants almost visibly paint the appearance of the Grand Duchess. The author do not exclude that the service will be heard not only in concert halls, but also in the church during the Divine Liturgy.



Video report - http://tvkultura.ru/article/show/article_id/122166

Video of the entire concert, 1,5 hour long:
<http://meloman.ru/concert/pevcheskie-svyatyni-drevnej-rusi-04112014/>

"From repentance - the resurrection of Russia"

1. Nov. Gazeta Uhta

In the capital of Komi opened the II International Orthodox Exhibition-Fair "From repentance - the resurrection of Russia", which is arranged by the Syktyvkar and Vorkuta diocese and Exhibition Association "Ural Exhibitions" (Ekaterinburg).

During the exhibition, from October 31 to November 5, there is a shrine - the hand of Holy Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

There was shown the film "Alapaevsk Golgotha" for the celebration of the holy places where on July 18, 1918 was martyred Elisabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara, and princes of the house of Romanov. The film tells about the places that have preserved in the memory of them to this day. This includes the convent in honor of St Elisabeth Feodorovna, the School, where from May 20, 1918 were in limbo the Alapaevsk martyrs, the Holy Trinity Cathedral, where the prisoners were allowed to pray in worship,

and where in October 1918 in the crypt was their remains, the mine, in which were dropped Elisabeth Feodorovna and princes of the house of Romanov, now surrounded by unceasing prayer by inhabitants of the monastery in honor of the Russian New Martyrs and Confessors.

Lectures devoted to charity starts in the Martha and Mary Convent

10 Nov. Fund Espo

November 8, 2014 in the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, in the Blue room there was the first in a series of thematic meetings on issues of charity, as well as a presentation of the catalog of the exhibition "Charity in history. Russian contribution. From the Crimean War to the Great ", organized by the Fund Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society for the 150th anniversary of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.



The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Fund Elisabeth Sergius Educational society Anne V. Gromova opened the meeting awarding diplomas in gratitude to those who took an active part in the preparation of the exhibition: collectors, representatives from museums and archives. Collectors A. Melitonyan and A. Zharicov then talked about their unique findings, which are presented at the exhibition now.

Prior to the completion of the exhibition (on February 2015) in the Blue room will be monthly meetings, interviews with historians and specialists in the study of the traditions of charity and philanthropy in Russia in the late XIX - beg. XX century. The series of lectures are devoted to current and historical issues of charity in Russia, including the relationship between the state and public organizations, the role of private initiative in charity, and the value of becoming a female professional in medical education in the early XX century.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 20 at 15.00. The lecture will be "From the history of the Moscow community of Sisters of Mercy" presented by Ph.D. E.N. Kozlovtseva, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of History Saint Tikhon's Orthodox University.

There was shown a video report from the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna in Darmstadt - "The Elisabeth Days in Darmstadt" , which took place in the birthplace of the Grand Duchess from 1 to 4 November.

A small concert in memory of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna was performed, which included poems of Prince Vladimir Paley and poet Nikolai Gumilev. Then followed a tour with the organizers and collectors for the exhibition "Charity in history. Russian contribution. From the Crimean War to the Great. "



The exhibition catalogue were handed out to all present

The exhibition - "White Angel of Moscow"

Nov. 7th, 2014

Museum of V.A. Tropinin opened the exhibition "White Angel of Moscow" about the life of Princess of Hesse-Darmstadt Elisabeth Alexandra Louise Alice von Hessen-Darmstadt und bei Rhein.

In Russia, she was known as Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, wife of Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich, uncle of the Emperor Nicholas II of Russia.

After the death of her husband, she on her own money created the Martha and Mary Convent of Mercy, which is in the vicinity of the museum.



The exhibition includes photographic reproductions from the personal collection of the writer and journalist Andrei Nikolayevich Ivanov, author of "lily bloomed as undercover" about Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

The exhibition runs until 15 December 2014.





"Russian presence in the Holy Land"

November 10, 2014 Cultural Center "Harmony" in Jerusalem hosted an exhibition of photographs "Russian presence in the Holy Land", organized by the Foundation named after St. Gregory the Theologian, Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem and the State Museum of the History of Religion.



The exhibition marks the 150th anniversary of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, who in 1905 was appointed chairman of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society and largely contributed to the Orthodox pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was engaged in spiritual enlightenment of the inhabitants of Palestine.



The exhibition was prepared with the support of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Moscow Patriarchate Publishing, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Elisabeth Sergius Educational Society, "Gazprom Urengoy" and studio "Click".

The opening ceremony was attended by Acting Chief of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem abbot Theophanes (Lukyanov), chief editor of the Moscow Patriarchate Archpriest Vladimir Silovyev, Deputy Executive Director of the Foundation named after St. Gregory the Theologian IV Lapshin, director of the State Museum of the History of Religion, LA Musienko, head of the Russian Cooperation in Israel, N.Y. Yakymchuk, head of the Russian Cooperation in Palestine S.A. Shapovalov, and a representative of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society in Israel P.V. Platonov.

In the center of the exhibition - photographs from the years 1885-1917 from the archives of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, which is stored in the collections of the State Museum of the History of Religion. The photographic exhibition allows visitors to get acquainted with the personalities of IOPS and the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, see Russian places in Palestine, to see the image of Russian pilgrims to Jerusalem and travel to the past century.

The exhibition is open to visitors from 10 to 23 November 2014.

Alapayeysk - The last steps of St Elisabeth Feodorovna - A photo report

November 1, 2014. Pravmir. Anna Halperin



By the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, celebrated by the Church in the face of the Martyr, you are offered a photo tour of the places of the last days of the Holy Martyr.

Alapayeysk, an Urals town has not changed much in the last hundred years. Most of the buildings is in one or two floors. Only paved streets in the middle. Almost 2000 km from Moscow - and it seems that not only in km-distance, but the whole era is separated from the capital.



We go on one of the outlying streets of the city, skirting thickets of nettles and thistles - to Lenin Street - to go the same route that once went here Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, and seven others.



On Lenin Street there is located the Field School, where in 1918 the arrested Romanovs including Elisabeth Feodorovna, nun Varvara and business manager of Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Feodor Remez were brought.

The school was called Field because is "on the field" on the outskirts of Alapayevsk. It still works as a school, as a polling station and as a memorial room for the Alapayevsk martyrs.



In the beginning the prisoners was "free" - they could move around the city, and next to the school they had a garden. The garden has also survived - it is now on the territory of the newly established convent in the name Martyr Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna.

The monastery is located in a former kindergarten. This is where you can stay during a pilgrimage to Alapayevsk.

On the second floor, in one of the rooms is equipped the home church of the monastery.



It is here, to the miraculous icon of Martyr Elisabeth and Varvara, Christina with granddaughter come. Christina's granddaughter was born with bad legs. "Ask mother about healing!" - she whispers. In the convent pilgrims are always welcomed - there are special rooms for those who come to worship Martyrs. Elisabeth Feodorovna and honor her memory in place of the death of the saint.





From the windows of the monastery is visible the Field School. "Can you see the linden and birch? They were put by Elisabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara" - tells one of the nuns.

In field school is it vacation time now. The desks are in the hallway, the classes are closed. Opened is only one room - that is where in 1918 lived in the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara. Now there's the memorial room.

June 21 from Yekaterinburg was received instructions to transfer the prisoners to a prison regime and "confiscated all their belongings - shoes, clothes, dress, pillows, gold, and money; leaving them only equivalent to a dress and shoes, and two changes of clothes..." writes in his book "The murder of the royal family, N.A. Sokolov. Prisoners were forbidden to walk to the city, make correspondence, and was put on limited food rations. From personal belongings is almost nothing left.





From the Field School - on the outskirts of the city - the road goes in the direction of the village of Lower Sinyachikha. It was here that night of 18 July secretly - one - have been transported all eight contained in the outdoor school.



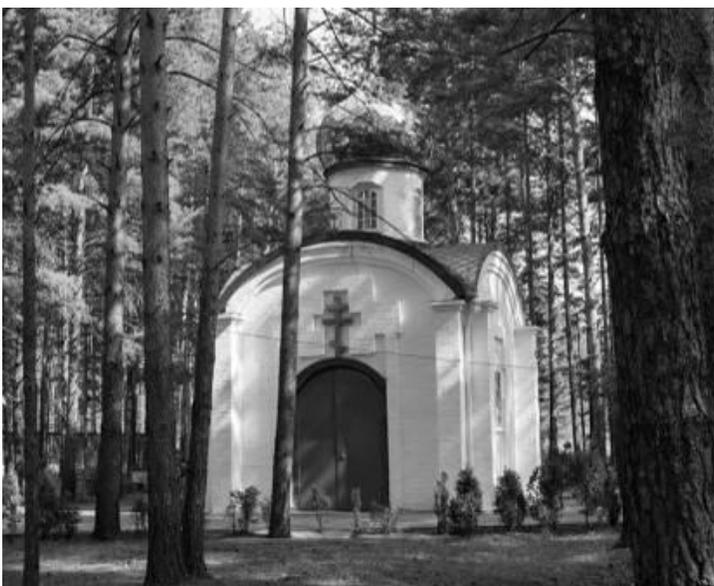
In the city were started rumors that the prisoners had escaped. But in fact it was not so. They were taken up 14 km from the city to the old mines: "We went into the building where the women were, through an unlocked door, woke them up and told them to immediately get dressed ... They obeyed without a murmur. We tied their hands behind their back, blindfolded them and brought them out, into a cart that waited near the school, and sent them to the destination. " (Memories of Vasily Ryabov, one of the murderers).



The prisoners were taken out of town to one of the abandoned mines of iron, the mine at Lower Selimskaja and after hitting an ax to the head they were dropped down into the shaft. Then they threw grenades, some of which did not explode, then logs, and earth. Now, the mine - a small pit, is overgrown with grass and trees.

Later, when the bodies were removed from the mine, it was found that some of the victims died almost immediately, while others were still alive after the fall, dying from hunger and their wounds. Elisabeth Feodorovna did not die immediately. She wounded and maimed, still assisted fallen beside her Prince John - with a piece of her wimple she bandaged the wound on his head.

In 1991, near the crumbling mine was set Worship cross. Next, in 1992, was built the Elisabethan chapel. In 1995, in this place was constructed a monastery in the name of Russian New Martyrs.





According to the researchers, the decision on the execution of prisoners was taken by Alapayevsk Bolshevik party independently, without the approval of the Ural Bolshevik party or the Ural Soviet. However, after questioning of Peter Startseva of the Cheka, who participated in the murder, it follows that "the murder of August prisoners was on orders from Yekaterinburg." The investigator N.A. Sokolov concludes that "Yekaterinburg and Alapaeusk murders is a product of one person's will." The decision of the General Prosecutor of Russia in 1998, to dismiss the criminal case number 18 / 123666-93 - "On clarifying the circumstances of the death of members of the Russian Imperial House and members of their entourage in the period 1918-1919" - listed the names of 22 persons and two unidentified workers, that organized and performed in the night of 17 to 18 July 1918, "the intentional killing of members of the Russian Imperial House and members of their entourage."

July 6, 1996 was the first stone laid in the construction of the monastery church.

The first Divine Liturgy in the unfinished church was held July 6, 1998, and November 4, 2000 was held the first service in the already fully constructed church.





July 18, 2001 the church was consecrated in the memory of all the Russian New Martyrs by His Eminence Vincent, the Archbishop of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye.

In the monastery church are brought from Jerusalem particles of Elisabeth Feodorovna and Varvara and St. Sergius (Srebryansky).



September 28, 1918 the White army took Alapayevsk. Admiral Kolchak gave the order to find the dead bodies of the princes to senior policeman T. Malshikovu. He was able to find a witness who on the "night of 18 July was returning to Alapayevsk and on the road around eleven or twelve met a "train" of horses heading towards the Upper Sinyachihinsky plant.

October 19 was found a cap of one of the princes, and then the bodies themselves, which took four days to get out of the mine.

After removing the bodies from the mine, they were sent to the morgue at the cemetery church of St. Catherine.



There was carried out the medical examination and forensic autopsy. In place of the mortuary, "katavernoy" as they called it then, is now put a worship cross.

After the identification, the remains was washed, put in a coffin and placed in the Church of St. Catherine.

According to "Russian newspaper" (Paris, 1924): "According to those involved in removing the bodies from the mine, only on the body Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich was a bullet wound in the back of the head at the bottom of the neck; all others were tortured and thrown into the pit alive and died from injuries sustained in the fall, and from hunger.

The body of the Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, despite the fact that all the bodies were in the mine for a few months, it was found absolutely incorruptible; on the face of the Grand Duchess was kept a smiling expression, the right arm was folded cross, as if blessing. The body of Prince John also succumbed only partially and very slightly (in the chest) to decay, all the rest of the bodies were subjected to a greater or lesser degree of decomposition."



October 31, 1918 in the Cathedral 13 priests celebrated a funeral vigil at the tomb.

The St. Catherine's church today is a farmstead monastery. A wooden church was built 1792 in the village Nevyansky and a stone church was built in 1915. In Soviet times, the St. Catherine church was not closed.



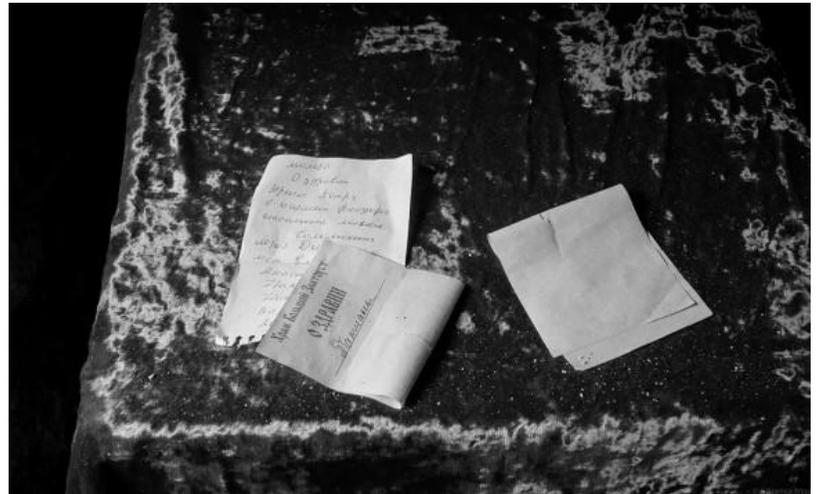
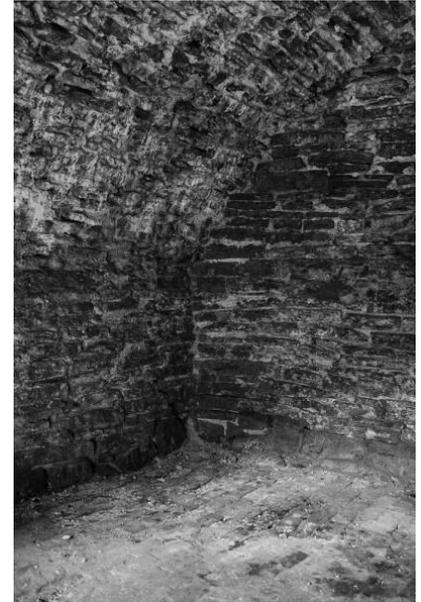
On the road from the church to the city - on November 1 went a procession to Holy Trinity Cathedral in Alapayevsk.

In Holy Trinity Cathedral was held funeral services after the arrival of the remains of the Romanovs, Nun Varvara and Fyodor Remez.



Here the dead were inveterate, and then their bodies were placed in a crypt arranged in the south side of the altar of the Holy Trinity Cathedral and the walled entrance brick up.



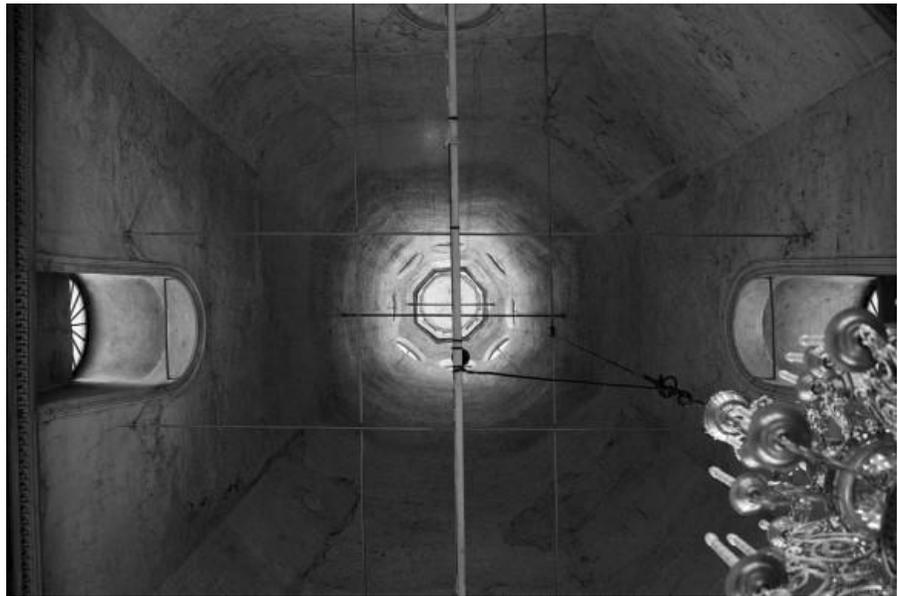


There were bodies of the martyrs stayed until July 14, 1919, when, due to the advance of the Red Army, it was decided to take out the coffins of Alapayevsk. Now in the tomb is an icon of Martyrs Elisabeth Feodorovna and Nun Varvara, and there are made prayers.

Holy Trinity Cathedral Alapayevsk is one of the oldest churches of the Yekaterinburg diocese. It was built in 1702 at the expense of the parishioners. In Soviet times, the cathedral was closed, and there was arranged a grain-crusher and a bakery.

Renovation work in the cathedral has been conducted since 1991. However, lack of funds has not yet allowed a complete repair.

August 8, 1999, the cathedral was re-consecrated by the Archbishop Vikenty of Yekaterinburg and Verkhoturye. Since 1992, the Holy Trinity Cathedral is the hierarchal farmstead.



In 1918-1919 Alapayevsk was made known to the whole world. It was here that ended the earthly lives of Grand Duchess Elisabeth Feodorovna, Nun Varvara (Yakovlev), Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Prince of the imperial blood Konstantin Konstantinovich, Prince Imperial Blood John Konstantinovich, Prince of the imperial blood Igor Konstantinovich, Prince Vladimir Paley and business manager of Grand Duke Sergei Mikhailovich, Feodor Semenovich Remez.



