

SUMMARY

SPYROS KARYDIS – PANAGIOTA TZIVARA, *The convent of Saints Theodori at Stratia, Corfu, Historical route-Library-Archives*, Athens 2009.

Women's monastic life in Corfu during the venetian rule of the island, was developed outside the fortified city and in close vicinity to it. In the suburbs of Palaiopolis and Mantouki, starting from the 16th century and in the years that followed, four convents were organized: Virgin Mary Lampovitissa, Saint Euphemia, Saints Theodori and St.Nicholas called Katzinas. These convents were formed in order to cover a need for a spiritual quest for women who belonged to the community of Corfu, and had chosen the «monadic life», as they wrote in the contracts they signed upon entering the convents; they were formed also in order to cover a more concrete need which came as a result of a custom of that era, according to which certain daughters of noble families had to follow the monastic life, so that the paternal estate would be safeguarded and transferred to male descendants.

The convent of St.Theodori, ever since its foundation at the end of the 16th century and until today has never stopped to be active, and offers to students of corfiot orthodox monastic life a characteristic example of a nunnery with an organization and function that followed the historical fate of the island that hosts it.

The monastic rules that guided this convent are a valuable source of information for the study of nunneries in Corfu as well as in the Ionian area in general during the Venetian rule.

Its library, containing mostly liturgical printed books and manuscripts, was formed through purchases which covered the con-

vent's needs, as well as through some nuns' private libraries. The archives include a considerable number of documents regarding the administration of the convent and also the administration of its estate in the end of the 19th and in the beginning of the 20th century.

In this book an effort has been made to trace the historical route of the convent, through testimonies existing in the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, as well as in the convent's archives, till the present day. Also the rules of the monastic sisterhood are studied and the inventory of nuns from the foundation of the convent to the present day is reconstituted. In a separate chapter there is a presentation of the contents of the library and of the convent's archives; printed books and manuscripts that are stored in them are recorded. In the last chapter the more important documents that have to do with the convent, such as regulations, minutes regarding the election of superiors as well as book inventories are published.

The recording of manuscripts and printed books, stored in the convent, is a part of a larger project of recording the ecclesiastical libraries of Corfu and follows the same method of the already published inventories for the monasteries of Palaiokastritsa and Myrtidiotissa as well as of the inventory of the Platytera monastery library that is about to be published by the same writers.