

The Mother of God of Borkolabovskaya

Christ is born, give glory!

The story of the icon *The Mother of God Borkolabovskaya* is connected with the history of the Mogilev region. In 1635, when Russia was at war with Rzeczpospolita, the voivode of the Russian forces, Prince Pozharsky, coming to the territory of the Polish Kingdom, found there the icon of Our Most Holy Lady. Since that time he always took this sacred image with him to all the battles.

When the war with the Poles came to an end he was returning to Moscow through the Mogilev lands. Passing the Borkolabov Ascension Convent, according to the legend, the carriage with the holy icon of the Queen of Heaven stopped right opposite the convent's gates. People urged the horses mercilessly but could not make them go.

Seeing this, Prince Pozharsky went to the Mother Superior of the nunnery, Photinia Kerkirovna, and said to her, 'Please take the icon of our All-Holy Lady to your nunnery as the Mother of God would like to stay here.' With great honour the Mother Superior and the nuns accepted the icon.



The holy image stayed at the Borkolabov Convent up to the time that the convent was closed down in the 20th century. The commemoration of the icon of "The Mother of God Borkolabovskaya" was set on the 11th (24th) of July, being the feast

day of Saint Olga, Equal to the Apostles, and the date when the holy icon came to the Borkolabov convent.

At present, the miraculous icon is kept at the church of the Holy Trinity in Bykhov, in the Mogilev region, as the Borkolabov Convent is currently being restored.