



KYRILL

Archbishop of San Francisco & Western America
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

Your Imperial Highness
Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna!
Your Imperial Highness
Grand Duke George Michaelovich!

Hearing of the mis-fortune that has befallen You, I speedily wish to offer my sincere condolences to the grief over the repose of Your August Mother and Grandmother, the Grand Duchess Leonida Georgievna. What can be worse than the loss of one who is dearly beloved?

Death - is a great and terrifying mystery. The ancient philosopher Plato stated, "the soul of man is immortal". The Holy Gospel calls us all to repentance and, promises us a life of eternal joy in the Kingdom of God. St. Theophan the Recluse stated, "How comforting it is to know what a great number of souls await us there."

May our Lod God strengthen You with steadfastness and courage so that You may overcome this Divinely sent trial. Remember Job the Longsuffering, who the Lord rewarded in the afterlife a hundred-fold for his great patience.

All words of comfort are weak because of Your great grief! Yet, Christ said "I am the Life", and we will always remember that there is no death. "And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die" (John XI:26)

With love in the Lord,

10/23 May 2010