

Saint Bede Welcomes

ICONOGRAPHER

**SISTER ELISEEA
PAPACIOC**



Sister Eliseea is an amazing woman, especially if you know her background. Her childhood was one of crushing oppression under the communist regime. Her father, an Orthodox priest, did not survive imprisonment and her uncle, a bishop, had his health broken. She, her mother and her brother endured severe ostracism and deprivation. After the fall of communism and the rebirth of the church and the arts she was discovered by the Smithsonian and brought to America for her first visit. Then, crossing denominational lines she had several exhibits at the John Paul II Cultural Center. When Father Kauffmann was pastor at Saint Benedict's Church in Richmond, he commissioned Sister Eliseea to create two icons for the ambo. In Sister Eliseea's icons faith and talent are in communion with each other. Her gifts, however, are distinct from her faith. Were she not in religious life, not an iconographer, whatever she turned her attention to would be extraordinary. She has an eye for the subtleties of surface quality and a remarkable hand.

When her work recently returned from the international tour a New York critic, Maureen Mullarkey observed, "Sister Eliseea eclipses pious sentiment and rises to compelling sacred art. She is not a copyist, not merely replicating older work. Rather, she inhabits the icon tradition infusing historic patterns with a quality of concentrating precision, and refinement distinctly her own. It is said that to write an icon is like standing in prayer. Looking at her work you trust the truth of these words."

The entire community is invited to attend this event.

Monday October 9
10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. | Nave