



## THE ICON OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS KNOWN AS “THE HEALER”

The icon of the Mother of God, “The Healer”, is one of the most ancient dating from the 6th century. Another icon with the same name was glorified by miracles in the 18th century. St. Dimitri of Rostov’s books, *The Fleece Bedewed*, contains the following account of a miraculous sign wrought by the Mother of God. It was the pious habit of Vincent Vul’vinensky, a clergyman of the church in Navarninsk, on entering and leaving church, to bow down before the image of the Mother of God and to utter the short prayer “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are You among women and blessed is the Fruit of Your womb, for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.”

One day, this pious clergyman fell ill of a dangerous malady: his tongue became gangrenous, and the pain from this was so great that he went out of his mind. When he recovered his senses, the sick man consciously recited his usual prayer to the Theotokos, and straightway beheld a most comely youth standing at the head of his bed. This was his guardian angel. Gazing at the ailing man with sympathy, the angel called upon the All-Holy Theotokos, addressing to Her a prayer for the recovery of his charge. Suddenly the Mother of God Herself appeared and in Her ineffable mercy provided a sign. The sick man sensed that he had completely recovered his health; went to church, and stood in the choir with the cantors.

