

The Repose of Basil Byros, A Pious Orthodox Traditionalist

ON MONDAY, February 8, 2011 (Old Style), Basil Byros, a pious Orthodox traditionalist and a paradigm of Christian dedication and commitment, reposed in the Lord in his native Thessaloniki, where he lived almost his entire life. He was a tireless and constant supporter of our Synod's parish of St. John the Merciful in that city.



He will be fondly remembered by many visitors from America and Eastern and Western Europe who availed themselves of the inimitable and “Abrahamic” hospitality of his family when visiting Thessaloniki, the so-called “second capital” of Byzantium.

Basil was born in Thessaloniki in 1938. He earned his degree in theology at the University of Thessaloniki and, following graduation, taught religion at schools in Thessaloniki and other cities of Greek Macedonia. He retired from his final academic appointment as “Headmaster” of one of the city of Thessaloniki’s college preparatory schools (gymnasia).

In 1967, he married his beloved wife, Smaragda, together with whom he had four children: three sons and a daughter.

Basil played an important role in the “Zoe” Brotherhood of Theologians until 1972, when he returned to the Old Calendar, following his acquaintance with the well-known theologian and physician, Alexander Kalomoiros. In 1994, he embraced the Holy Synod in Re-

sistance and formed close ties with His Eminence, Metropolitan Cyprian, becoming an invaluable coworker of the Synod and the clergy and brotherhood of the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.

Basil was a man of deep spirituality, irenic in spirit, and a constant attendant at Church services. He served as a Reader. He was a man of great generosity and was hospitable, along with his wife and family, to the point of immense personal sacrifice. He served as Treasurer of the parish in Thessaloniki, where he was an indefatigable worker in every aspect of its life.

Despite the fact that, in recent years, he underwent constant dialysis, on account of kidney disease, Basil maintained his active participation in parish life and in the life of our Church, right up to the very eve of his death. To his very last, he struggled to maintain the traditions of Orthodoxy and to live the Faith with self-denial and fervor—a life in which his wife and children also participated with unflagging commitment—as a paradigm of piety and goodness to be emulated by all.

Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη! May his memory be eternal!

