

Repose of Professor Jeremias L. Norman

On Tuesday, June 27, 2012 (Old Style), funeral services were held in Seattle, WA, for Reader Jeremias (Jerry) Norman, 75, who reposed on the Feast of the Martyr Fevronia. He was Professor *Emeritus* of Chinese in the Department of Asian Languages and



Literature at the University of Washington, Seattle, and an internationally renowned scholar. He was educated at the University of California, Berkeley, and held a post-doctoral appointment at Princeton University, before taking a professorial post at the University of Washington. His book *Chinese*, published by Cambridge University Press, is still a standard for the study of the Chinese language. Many of his writings on the Chinese language, the structure of Oriental languages, and Oriental philology are considered pivotal studies in these fields. He also wrote several important articles about the Orthodox Church in China for *Orthodox Tradition*.

Dr. Norman was a Reader in the Orthodox Church, having served for a short period at our now defunct Dormition parish in Port Townsend, WA. He converted to Orthodoxy from Roman Catholicism almost four decades ago. Present at the funeral were two of the clergy from the Church where he and his children were baptized, which was then a parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, as well as a clergyman from another Russian jurisdiction who kindly gave Reader Jeremias spiritual counsel and support after the closing of our Exarchate parish in Port Townsend. In his eulogy during the funeral service, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos graciously thanked these clergy for their spiritual service to the reposed Reader and for honoring him with their presence at the service.

Reader Jeremias had arranged well in advance for his funeral, which was conducted precisely according to his wishes. It was served in Greek, Slavonic, and English by His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, with His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos (in prayerful attendance), and Hierodeacon Father Photii, from the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, CA. They were assisted by Protopresbyter Dr. Joseph Miller, a longtime friend of the deceased. The choir was composed of six singers from the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess, also in Etna, CA, whose voices Dr. Norman especially appreciated. The Abbess of the convent, the

Very Reverend Mother Elizabeth, with her assistant, Mother Kypriane, also attended the service. The funeral and burial service were followed by a *makaria* (funeral meal) served by the family.

Dr. Norman is survived by his wife Stella, his daughters Ann and Grace Norman, Matushka Catherine van Opstall, whose husband is a Priest in the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, and one son, Justin Norman. We extend to the family our heartfelt condolences. Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη! Вечная память! Eternal Memory!

