

Protopresbyter Father James Thornton Retires

The Very Reverend Dr. James Thornton, 71, retired from thirty years of Priestly service to the Church on February 1, 2013 (New Style). A convert to Orthodoxy from Roman Catholicism, after his Ordination to the Priesthood he established a small mission in Garden Grove, CA, dedicated to St. Athanasios the Great. He subsequently asked for a release to serve the needs of several parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, then our Sister Church, returning to the Synod in Resistance after the union of the ROCA with the Moscow Patriarchate in 2007. The next year, he was raised to the rank of Protopresbyter.

After his retirement, two years ago, from secular employment at the University of California, Irvine, Medical Center, and despite



his constant care for his chronically ill wife, Presbytera Elizabeth, Father James tirelessly devoted his time to pastoral activities. He has also worked, without remuneration, for the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies, where he is a Research Associate, and has written extensively for various conservative journals and publications. Eight of his books have appeared under the C.T.O.S. imprint, and he also co-authored a book on the Patristic understanding of love with His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos that was published by the Holy Cross Orthodox Press in Brookline, MA. His most recent publication, *Pious Kings and Right-Believing Queens: An Encyclopedia of the Royal and Imperial Saints of the Orthodox Church*, a monumental work, is forthcoming under the prestigious imprint of the Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

Father James holds a doctoral degree in Advanced Pastoral Studies from the San Francisco Theological Seminary, a member school of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. He and his wife, the parents of two married sons, live in Southern California. His son Alex is University Lecturer in Computer Science at the University of California, Irvine, and his son James is a businessman.