

Ordination*

On account of his deteriorating health and difficulty in celebrating services, Father Gabriel Lee, pastor of the Dormition Mission in Port Townsend, WA (*see p. 33*), petitioned our Bishops to have an assistant Ordained to help him serve his small community. With the blessing of Metropolitan Cyprian, Dr. Joseph (Robert) Miller, one of the founding members of the mission, was selected as a candidate. He was subsequently Ordained a Subdeacon and Deacon by Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and, during the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem (the Sunday of Palms) at the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, was Ordained to the rank of Presbyter by Bishop Auxentios of Photiki and Confessor and blessed to wear the pectoral Cross (*see below; Father Joseph is at Bishop Auxentios' immediate right*). The Ordination was followed by a luncheon hosted by the local parish Church of Sts. Cyprian and Justina.



Father Joseph, a convert to Orthodoxy, is a retired psychologist and university administrator. He completed his undergraduate education in philosophy, education, and psychology at the Kansas State Teachers College, the Julliard School of Music, and Conception College. He pursued graduate studies in educational psychology, counseling, and psychotherapy at the University of Kansas, where he received his doctoral degree. A retired member of the American Psy-

chological Association, he has held professional posts at the Student Counselling Center of the University of California, Los Angeles; Washington State University, where he was Assistant Director of the Counselling Center; and at the Central Washington University, where he was Director of the Student Counselling Center and Dean of Student Services. He is at present writing his thesis for the Licentiate program at the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies on points of convergence in the teachings of the Desert Fathers and contemporary psychotherapeutic theory.

Father Joseph's wife, Presbyteria Barbara, has an equally distinguished academic background. She is a retired educator and experimental school administrator, as well as a former Fulbright exchange teacher in Great Britain. In remarks following the Ordination of Father Joseph, Archbishop Chrysostomos had the following to say about Presbyteria Barbara (*see Father Joseph and Presbyteria Barbara below*): "Metropolitan Cyprian once told a gathering of Priests' wives,



when he visited America, that few things are as important to a Priest as his wife. 'A good Priest,' he told them, 'can become ineffective because of a bad Presbyteria. By the same token, a mediocre Priest, helped by a good Presbyteria, can become an excellent Priest.' I have never forgotten these wise words; indeed, I have found them to be true. It is with a very special kind of satisfaction and joy, therefore, that I witnessed the Ordination of Father Joseph today. Not only does he have those qualities that make for an excellent Priest, but his wife, Presbyteria Barbara, is an insightful, genteel, exceptionally intelligent, and circumspect woman. If a good wife can render a mediocre Priest good, imagine what a gifted Priest with an exceptional Presbyteria can accomplish. How fortunate we are to have such individuals serving the Church."

Father Joseph and Presbyteria Barbara are the parents of three grown children and of four grandchildren. They reside on Bainbridge Island, WA.

* Source: *Orthodox Tradition*, Vol. XIX, No. 2 (2002), pp. 37-38.