

Ordination to the Diaconate

With the blessing of Metropolitan Cyprian, Reader George Chee was Ordained to the Diaconate on December 23, 2002 (Old Style), the Sunday before the Feast of the Nativity and the Feast Day of the Ten Martyrs of Crete, at the parish Church of Sts. Cyprian and Justina in Etna, CA. The Liturgy was served by Bishop Auxentios of Photiki and Archbishop Chrysostomos, who was visiting from Romania for the Christmas holidays.

Deacon Father George is a native of Hong Kong and both he and his wife, Diakonissa Catherine, are retired high school teachers and the parents of ten grown children. Father George, a former stockbroker, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Oregon University and the Licentiate in Orthodox Theological Studies from the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies.

Following the Ordination, the parish community sponsored a fasting banquet in a restaurant in nearby Yreka, at which Archbishop Chrysostomos, Bishop Auxentios, Archimandrite Akakios (Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery), and Mother Elizabeth (Abbess of the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia) praised the newly-ordained Deacon and his Diakonissa for their faithful service to the parish and the two monastic institutions in Etna. Father George will be assigned to the Etna parish and will, from time to time, serve at the Dormition Church in Port Townsend, WA, near which he and Diakonissa Catherine have family. *(Below, serving clergy with Deacon Father George, his wife, and one of his daughters.)*

