

## Three-Year Anniversary of the Repose of Alexander Colman (Kolimantzeros)

**O**N THE Ecclesiastical New Year, September 1/14, 2009, the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery held a special memorial service for the three-year anniversary of the repose of Mr. Alexander Colman, who died July 31, 2006 (New Style). A founding member of the Board of Advisors of the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies. Mr. Colman, whose father adopted, as did many immigrants in his day, an “Americanized” name when he came to the U.S. from Greece, was a pious and remarkable individual. Alexander, one of whose daughters is the Abbess of the Convent of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Sax-onburg, Pennsylvania, was a generous supporter of Orthodox institutions throughout the country.

Archbishop Chrysostomos had immense affection for Mr. Colman, with whom he travelled to Greece on a spiritual pilgrimage and whom, along with His Grace, Bishop Auxentios and Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, he often visited in his home in New York, just as Alexander visited the monastery in Etna. As His Eminence has written:

I had almost a brotherly affection for Alexander, to whom our monastery and the Center for Traditionalist Orthodox Studies are forever and profoundly indebted. His contributions—wholly unsolicited and given in an almost matter-of-fact manner—literally established the Center’s publication program and several times saved the monastery from devastating circumstances. He did this with no pretension whatever and never, despite the fact that I often felt that I should quite literally kiss his feet for his unselfish concern and generosity, did he expect the slightest consideration, in terms of our personal friendship, for his kindness. He was a giver whose one hand was oblivious to what the other hand did.

Alexander suffered from debilitating physical infirmities for a number of years and was, in his external behavior, known for a clear-

ly “no-nonsense” and even gruff style. But those who knew him well were aware of his disarmingly self-critical, caring, and even gentle side. Several times when I stayed with him, and also when he visited our monastery, I found him, in the very early hours of the morning, reading Matins and Scripture verses and Psalms, in both Greek and English, and commemorating a long list of people for whom he prayed daily. And at the various times that he confessed to me—often with tears—he showed astonishing and inspiring repentance, contrition, and faith.

Trained in the engineering sciences, Alexander worked, retired, and, after the death of his wife, lived a simple life unnoticed by most. But his spiritual legacy assuredly lives on in what he did for our monastery and study center, as well as in his true friendship, which have earned him, at least for me and our brotherhood, memory eternal.

The staff of Orthodox Tradition shares His Eminence’s sense of deep appreciation for Mr. Colman’s kindness and Christian witness, and we remember him as a benefactor. Αἰώνια ἡ Μνήμη! Memory Eternal!

