



## ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

32 East Ross Street

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Father George Dimopoulos

Residences: (570) 488-6577 and (610) 734-2050

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### Father George Dimopoulos

#### 55 Years of Love and Service to our LORD

Our most beloved Father George Dimopoulos, parish priest of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Wilkes-Barre, PA, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at his home in Upper Darby, PA. Father George was a graduate of Halki Theological Seminary in Constantinople and distinguished himself over his 55 year priestly ministry as a pastor and teacher, serving communities from Toronto, Canada, to New York, Upper Darby, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, PA. He also served on the faculty of St. Tikhon's Seminary for over thirty-five years.

Father George Dimopoulos was born in Polyrraxo, Greece to parents Nicholas and Eleni Dimopoulos, and was a brother to Apostolos and Olympia. After he graduated from Halki Theological Seminary, he married Thalia Efremides, and had two beautiful children, Helen and Athenagoras. Father George was ordained on August 31, 1957 by Metropolitan Iakovos of Iconium in the presence of Patriarch Athenagoras and continued his ministry for the next fifty five years. His first assignment was the Holy Trinity Church in Constantinople, and the following year, he was sent to become the first priest at the Church of the Annunciation in Toronto, Canada. While in Toronto, Father George performed 2,212 weddings and baptized 4,418 children. He then came to the United States and spent one year at St. Eleftherios in Manhattan, New York before he was moved to the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary in Scranton, Pa, where he spent the next twenty one years. Father George moved on to Upper Darby for the next twelve years at St. Demetrios where he and his congregation built a new Iconostasis to beautify the church in the name of the Lord. These last fourteen years of his ministry, Father George has been tending to his brothers and sisters in Christ at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he will be missed deeply.

For thirty years Father George taught at St. Savonarola Seminary and St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary. He is a Professor Emeritus at St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary and was presented at the testimonial dinner with an Honorary Doctorate Degree by Bishop TIKHON. Father George has authored and translated thirteen books and, throughout his career, wrote weekly columns for the Greek newspapers ATLANTIS, for the nationally syndicated Greek newspaper, ETHNIKOS KYRIX and PROINI. He also gave weekly sermons on the radio which were broadcast internationally.

Father George was deeply involved in missionary work in Kodiak, Alaska, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda, Africa, where he helped build clinics, provided doctors for free health care, and dug wells for drinking water. He helped build churches to spread the Orthodox faith and continued his missionary endeavors in Calcutta, India where he performed catechism for hundreds of people. In his latest writings this past week when Father George was reflecting on his life as a servant of God, he ended with, "When I had to move, I always followed the preference of the Church. Your Holiness, I will serve the Church of Christ wherever the Church will send me. Please pray for me."

Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, in his announcement of Father George's passing into eternal life wrote, "We pray that the Lord will strengthen and comfort the entire Dimopoulos family and the people of the parishes that Father George served so well, and we trust that Christ, the Resurrection and Life, will grant him rest with the Saints "where here is no pain, sorrow, or sighing, but Life everlasting."