

A TRIBUTE TO THE VERY REV'D CHARLES DAVID LYNCH

1936-2008



SEVENTY-two years ago the Very Reverend Father Charles David Lynch was born in Indiana into a Christian community formed under the direction of Frederick William III (1770–1840) in an ecumenical effort in German Protestantism). In due course Charles entered the Episcopal Church and became very active in the Anglo-Catholic parish of The Incarnation located in Detroit in the Diocese of Michigan. He graduated from the University of Michigan and turned to the Episcopal Seminary of Nashota in preparation for the Episcopal ministry. He was deeply committed to the Anglo-Catholic community, becoming a member of the American Church Union, the Society of the Holy Cross, and the support group for the Walsingham Shrine.

Most significantly, he became a member of a British Anglican group, The Anglo-Orthodox Society, concerned with the revival of Orthodoxy within the Church of England. For many years Father Charles served as North American Convener of this society. He studied the Orthodox Church throughout his pastoral life and associated closely with clergy and laity in American Orthodoxy. One of his daughters enrolled as a student in St. Vladimir's Seminary and graduated. Ultimately, Father Charles joined the Orthodox Church and having become engaged with the Western Rite Vicariate of the Antiochian Archdiocese, applied for acceptance as a priest.

Following ordination, Father Charles, taking the name of David, served as pastor of St. Augustine's parish, Denver, Colorado. He served the Church in many important capacities until family health issues made the Denver area overly challenging and necessitated his retirement from parish work. Nonetheless, he continued to serve in local churches near his residence in Crystal Lake, Illinois. For some time, he assisted at All Saints Church in Chicago under the pastorate of Father Patrick Reardon. In addition, he acted as Missioner for the Western Rite Vicariate visiting individuals and centers in response to inquiries and in order to further training and education of clergy and laity alike. Additionally, he focused his expertise in western liturgy by editing and revising service books of the Rite. Both his parish work and his invaluable work following his tenure at St. Augustine's underscore how tirelessly Father Charles gave of himself in the name of the Church. Immediately prior to learning hospitalization would be required for his unfortunate fall, he had arranged to spend a portion of two months training applicant communities for admission to the Archdiocese!

Father Charles was an understanding, compassionate person and exemplary pastor. A successful leader as well as a scholar of great capacity, he radiated Christian love with a spirit of deep piety. While it is often difficult to pair superior managerial ability with qualities that convey true Christian spirituality, Father Charles most definitely illustrated that both strengths can rest comfortably in one person. Always tied to his scholarly pursuits, the liturgy and its needs held his attention and added to the many prominent qualities of this most exceptional priest. He was an important figure in the Western Rite Vicariate of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese and will be missed by all of those fortunate to have been able to work closely with him for so many productive and happy years.

To his wife, Martha, and their two daughters, their husbands and their five grandchildren we ask the blessing and comfort of our Heavenly Father in this time of felt loss and turn to prayer for the blessed spirit of Father Charles David with the wish of Memory Eternal!

The Very Reverend Archpriest Paul W. S. Schneirla, V. G.
Western Rite Vicariate

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of New York and All North America