

# Odoiporikon

## Orthodox Mission in the East

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PATRIARCHAL FOUNDATION  
OF ORTHODOX MISSION IN THE FAR EAST  
Issue 79 April-June 2022

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***I am not afraid of death.***

***My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better (Phil. 1:23).***

***What I fear and think about every day is my apology before the only righteous Judge the day of my judgement.***

***† Metropolitan Pisidias Soterios***



**T**his issue of Odoiporikon in hand is dedicated to the Metropolitan of Pisidia, the former Metropolitan of Korea, the late Soterios (Trampas), who departed for the Lord on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 4:15 a.m. This short tribute is a minimal recognition to everything that he offered for many decades in order to bring the Gospel to those who are near and far. The spread of Orthodox witness was the life and breath for the late great Missionary. The words of the apostle Paul, who was His role model and guide, "If I preach the gospel, this is not for me a cause for boasting, but is imposed on me as a necessity. Woe if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16), had become His dynamic slogan. That is why from His youthful years until His last breath He never stopped preaching, with every chance he found, the word of Truth.

With this tribute, of course, our debt to the late Elder Soterios does not end. We will continue in the following issues of the Odoiporikon, the publication of which he was the inspirer and assisted its publication in various ways, with references to his life and sermons (teachings, for the edification and consolation of the members of the Church.



# **The Metropolitan of Pisidia Sotirios (Trampas) Has Fallen Asleep in the Lord**

The Metropolitan of Pisidia, (previously of Korea) Sotirios (Trampas) died today June 10th at 4:10 am at the age of 93 in Seoul.

He was the wise Hierarch of the Ecumenical Throne with the genuine ecumenical and ecclesiastical mind, the sense of moderation and order in life and in his multidimensional work.

The rector of the living Missionaries, the chalcedony worker of the Lord's Vineyard, who spent his whole life in the work of evangelizing the people, from his youth until his last breath in Greece, Korea and Asia Minor, has rested from his toils.

The late Hierarch was forbearing, disinterested in money, meek, peace-maker, daring and courageous in missionary "openings", never calculating his personal cost.

Because of his love and compassion, his adaptability and his humility, he became the spiritual Father of countless

Greeks, Koreans, Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians and other Slavic speakers.

Starting today, a new Saint is in the Heavenly Homeland to mediate extensively for all of us.

Looking face to face with the Savior Jesus Christ and living together with his paragon, the Apostle of the Gentiles, he can repeat St. Paul's confession: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..." (2 Ti. 4:7-8)

May your memory be eternal, our blessed Father and loving Shepherd of our souls.

Now that you are in the heavenly Altar, remember of your Flock in Greece, Korea and Asia Minor.

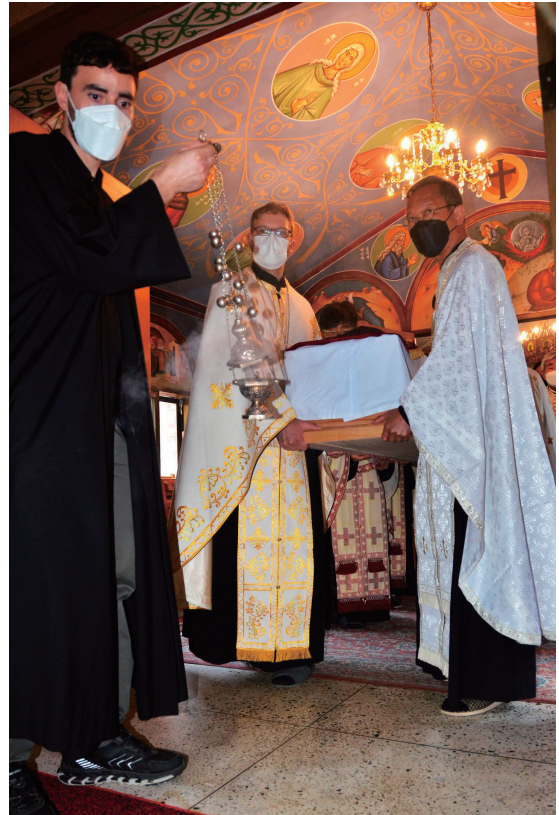
"Well done, good and faithful servant... You, who bore the weight and the heat of the day you bore patiently... Enter into the joy of your Lord". (Matt. 25:21) Amen.

# The Funeral Service of the Late Metropolitan of Pisidia and Former Metropolitan of Korea Soterios

Following the repose of the venerable Metropolitan Soterios of Pisidia, on Friday June 10, 2022 at 4:15am in Seoul, the body of the deceased hierarch was transferred, per his request, to the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Gapyeong.

Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea, assisted by the Rev. Fr. Antonios Woo and Fr. Jeremiah Cho, prepared his body according to the monastic order and dressed him with his cassock (anteri) and his clerical habit (exorasson). His Eminence Soterios of blessed memory had written in his Will that he wished to wear only his stole (epitrachelion) and his clerical shawl (omoforion), as well as his wooden egkolpion, which he wore during the daily services at the Holy Monastery, fulfilling his pastoral duties.

After the completion of the preparation, the body of our sleeping spiritual Father was transferred to the Holy Church of the Monastery and the first Trisagion prayer was held for the repose of his soul. Immediately after the Trisagion, the reading of the four Holy Gospels began by the priests and the laity. The reading of the holy texts



lasted all day and all night until the next morning, when the Service of Matins (Orthros) for All Souls Day (psychosavaton) began. The eagerness of the Korean faithful to take turns reading the Gospels, during which they were often weeping, was a moving witness to their love.

On the morning of Saturday of Souls, following the Service of Matins (Orthros) and the Divine Liturgy, the Funeral Service of our much-lamented Metropolitan Soterios was held with the participation of all the clergy of the

Orthodox Metropolis of Korea, along with approximately two hundred believers, in an atmosphere of intense sadness as well as joy. No speeches were made, because Metropolitan Soterios of blessed memory had explicitly stated in his Will not to deliver any speeches. Instead, Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea read the following letter written by His Eminence Soterios, which contains his spiritual advice to the nuns:

*To the beloved Sisters*

*Of the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Lord, in Gapyeong*

*On the day of Holy Pentecost, when we kneel down and recite the God-inspired Prayers, we address the great, eternal, holy and philanthropic God as follows: “Oh, Lord, raise our bodies on the day You have arranged, according to Your holy and truthful promises. There is no death for your servants, O Lord, when we go forth from the body and come unto you, but a change from things most sorrowful unto things most blessed and sweet and joyous.”*

*I ask you, my dear sisters, with this faith and with these feelings, to face our apparent separation, since with our rewarding prayers we will not cease as members of our holy Church to maintain the spiritual communion between us. In this way you will show others that what you read in the Bible and in the*

*liturgical books of the Church you truly believe and keep in your life.*

*Once again, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your great love, your efforts and pains, and everything you did, do and will do until the end for my sake.”*

*May you always have the rich blessings of our Lord.*

*†Fr. Soterios*

*Monday of the Holy Spirit,*

*June 8, 2009.*

The burial of the late Metropolitan Soterios took place in the tomb he had prepared several years prior in the courtyard of the Monastery. There was a pervasive atmosphere of resurrection, with all the people loudly chanting “Christ is Risen” in Korean. After the burial, a lunch reception (makaria) was offered to all in attendance. May his memory be eternal and may we all have his blessing.



# BIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE METROPOLITAN OF PISIDIA, THE FORMER METROPOLITAN OF KOREA

## SOTERIOS E. TRAMPAS

The late Metropolitan of Pisidia, Superior and Exarch of Sidi and Antalia, Elder Sotirios (Trampas) was born in Arta in 1929 and departed to the Lord in Seoul on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 4:15 a.m. After graduating from High School in Arta, he studied at the Theological School of the University of Athens and received his degree in Theology in 1951.

During the last period of his military service (1953-1954) as an Officer and Theologian, he served in the Religious Service of the Third Army Corps. While in that position, his main task was to visit all the military Army Units in Thessaloniki and preach the Gospel, as well as other Units in Easter Macedonia and Thrace, to the Outposts of Evros. He had also taken up the broadcasting of the Religious Service of the Third Army Corps of the Military Radio of Thessaloniki.

After fulfilling his military obligations, he worked in Athens as Preacher and Catechist. In June 1956, he was tonsured a monk at the Monastery of Lemon in Lesvos, he was ordained Deacon by the Metropolitan of Mithymna

Constantine (Kardamenis) and was appointed Preacher and General commissioner of the Metropolis of Mithymna. In 1960 he was ordained to the priesthood and later he became Archimandrite by the Metropolitan of Tricca and Stagoi Dionysios (Charalambous). He re-established the Catechetical Schools of the Metropolis, he saw to the construction of a Spiritual Center, next to the Cathedral Church of Kalloni, where meetings of the “Spiritual Assosiation” took place for the educated as well as for young working persons. In addition, speeches were held for men and women, and artistic exhibitions and special celebrations were organized. Every week he went to two other towns of the Holy Metropolis (Agia Paraskevi and Mithymna) for Catechism Lessons and Sermons. Twice a year he toured all the Parishes of the Metropolis for the preaching the word of God and hearing Holy Confession. He served at the Holy Metropolis of Mithymna until the end of 1964.

During the years 1965-1968 he served as a military preacher at the Military Division of Evros. While there he organized the Office of Religious Service of the 99 Military Administration in Evros, which later evolved into a Division. Every month he visited all the military Units and outposts for speeches, Confession, Liturgies and other Divine Services. For the family members of the Officers of the army Division he held weekly assemblies at the Didymoteichon Army League, with speeches, slide projections, discussions on



**Holy Monastery of Limon on the Island of Lesvos**

various topics, but also group pilgrimages to holy places and visits to the critical Outposts, offering gifts for mental support of our homeland guards. He also had the responsibility of five weekly broadcasts in the Military Radio Station of Orestiada. He took care of the construction, the painting of frescos and regular liturgies of the Byzantine Church of Panagia Odigitria and Saint Barbara within the Artillery Camp in Orestiada for the needs of the army. (Today, after the abolition of the Camp, it still operates as a parish church). He also took care of the erection of Icon Stands along all the critical Outposts of the Greek-Bulgarian and Turkish borders.

In March 1968 he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Athens and Dean of the Cathedral Church of Athens. He restructured the services of the Archdiocese, based on Internal Regulations. He recommended the fragmentation of the Archdiocese of Athens in five Archdiocesan Districts, which later evolved into Metropolises. He introduced the establishment of the Family Support Centre, where he served as coordinator. He took care of the general renovation of the Metropolitan Church of Athens, the installation of central heating, the configuration of the ground floor areas of the Cathedral into two Chapels, in which divine Liturgies were held very early on Sunday morning, for the convenience of those who would travel or leave on excursions, etc.

In December of 1973, after his voluntary resignation from the position of Chancellor, at his request, he was appointed Dean

of the Church of Agia Skepi Papagou. During the two years of his priestly ministry there, he issued the monthly magazine for the parish named "OUR SHELTER". He took care of the smooth operation of Sunday Schools, and the "Youth Fellowship"; the preaching to prisoners of the area, organized series of lectures with selected speakers, the shipping of clothing to the then troubled Cyprus, which was going through rough times, etc. In November 1975 - at his request - he was dispatched to South Korea and was appointed Dean of the Church of St. Nicholas in Seoul and General Commissioner for the Far East. His arrival in Seoul was greeted with great enthusiasm by the members of the small community of Saint Nicholas. He worked for the reorganization of the Orthodox Mission there and the Orthodox Community of St. Nicholas in Seoul (which was unique in Korea at the time), he equipped St. Nicholas church and saw to its inauguration (24.9.1978). Moreover, he undertook the extension of the missionary effort in other parts of Korea as well. His constant concern was the translation of the liturgical wealth of the Orthodox Church into the Korean language. In collaboration with the Greek-speaking Koreans,



**The Welcoming of Father Soterios Upon His Arrival in Seoul (1/12/1975)**



**From the Ordination of Zela Soterios as Auxiliary Bishop (3-21-1993)**

all the basic Service Books were translated, and added music to the main hymns. Thus, today all the services in the Orthodox churches of Korea are celebrated in Korean.

In 1982 he was appointed Director of the “St. Nicholas Theological Seminary” in Seoul, from where alumni were ordained priests and serve to this day in Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and India.

In an effort to better organize the spreading of Orthodox witness in the Far East, he made the following recommendations to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in 1986:

1. The Synodical Committee on the External Regions of the Throne to expand “on the Foreign Mission as well”.

2. To establish the “Patriarchal Foundation of Orthodox Mission in the Far East” based in Athens, as a Legal Entity and

3. To establish an Orthodox Missionary Organization based in Seoul Korea, for the coordination and expansion of Orthodox witness in the countries of the Far East.

After the acceptance of the above recommendations and their materialization, he was appointed President of the Missionary Organization, established by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which was also recognized by the Korean authorities, under the name “Orthodox Eastern Mission” which was also active in other countries of S.A. Asia like Hong Kong,

the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and India, where Orthodox Communities were founded, holy churches were built, priests were ordained and liturgical books were translated into the local languages. He often visited those countries and organized Theological Seminaries, performing Holy Sacraments and coordinating the Mission work.

In 1993 he was elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Assistant Bishop of the



**From the Consecration Ceremony of the Holy Church of St. Nicholas, Seoul (9/24/1978)**

Metropolitan Dionysios of New Zealand, with the title of the Diocese of Zela. In 1995 he was appointed Head of the newly established missionary foundation "Exarchate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Korea".

He oversaw the building of churches in Korea, chapels, a cemetery church, their equipment with wood-carved iconostasis etc., as well as for their frescos with volunteer icon painters from Greece, under the guidance of Mr. Sozos Giannoudis, Professor of the School of Fine Arts in Athens, as well as Missionary Centres in seven cities in Korea, where Orthodox parishes were later created.

He also undertook the operation of Youth Camps, the establishment of the Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior in the northeast of Seoul, the Centre for the Care of the Elderly in the city of Chuncheon and the Children's Day Care Centre in Busan.

In 1999 he was proclaimed Honorary Citizen of Seoul, for his 25-year service in Korea, in 2000 Honorary Citizen of Papagou, Athens and Honorary Citizen of Arta. He received the Prize of Priesthood of the Foundation "Georgi and Katigo Laimos", the bronze medal of the Academy of Athens and the prize of the Music-philological Association of Arta "SKOU-FAS". On May 21, 2016, he was awarded an Honorary doctorate at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston.



**From the Enthronement Ceremony of Metropolitan Soterios in 2004**

On April 20th 2004, he was elected first Metropolitan of the newly established Metropolis of Korea. He took care of dispatching material and machinery for the building of the Holy Trinity church in the North Korean capital Pyong-yang, where he celebrated the Divine Liturgy after the completion of the works. He visited North Korea two more times and cooperated there with the Orthodox Church Committee.

From September to November 2005 he was appointed by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,



**His Eminence Soterios Became Honorary Citizen of Seoul in 2000**



**Holy Church of Panagia Pisidiotissa in Alanya**

Patriarchal Commissioner of the Metropolis of New Zealand. During the two months of his ministry there, he toured all parishes, he officiated the Divine Liturgy in the churches and prepared for the reception and enthronement of the new Metropolitan, during which he represented His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

From March 2006 to February 2007 he was appointed member of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He introduced the affiliation of the islands of the Pacific Fiji, Tonga and Samoa in the Holy Metropolis of New Zealand and the extension of the missionary work to these islands. He accompanied HAH the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during His official visits to the Patriarchates of Russia and Romania and to the Metropolis of Chios.

He represented HAH the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the International Missionary Conferences in Melbourne, New York, Thessaloniki and Seoul. In 1991 he was invited by the late Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America and during the months of October and November he visited many Orthodox Communities in the U.S. and Canada, as well

as the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School in Boston and as well as St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary in N.Y., where he spoke about the missionary work in Asia. Also, following an invitation of the Archbishops of Cyprus and Creta, he toured their Holy Metropolises and spoke in various audiences concerning the Orthodox Mission. The same was repeated in various Metropolises in Greece.

After 20 years of successful ministry in the Church of Greece and 33 years of sacrificial offering to the Church of Korea, the late Metropolitan Soterios Trampas requested from the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to release him from the burden of his responsibilities and be limited to the duties of a Selebrant and Spiritual guide of the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration in Cappyong, in order to engage himself in the translation of hymns in the Korean language, for the enrichment of the sacred Services of Vespers and Orthros, for the whole ecclesiastical year.

His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew accepted his request and on May 27th 2008 the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elected him Metropolitan of the Holy Metropolis of Pisidia, Exarch of Side and



**Holy Church of St. Paul in the city of Side**



### The Community Center in Alanya

Antalya in the N.W. of Asia Minor, which since the persecution of 1922 and onwards, remained as an area “having shone in the past”, just as all the other Holy Metropolises of Asia Minor had, except for the region of Constantinople and the islands of Imbros and Tenedos.

His Eminence Sotirios, after his resignation from the position of Metropolitan of Korea and his election as Metropolitan of Pisidia, he remained in Korea residing in the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour and continued to embrace the Orthodox flock of the church of Korea with endless love and interest until his passing away.

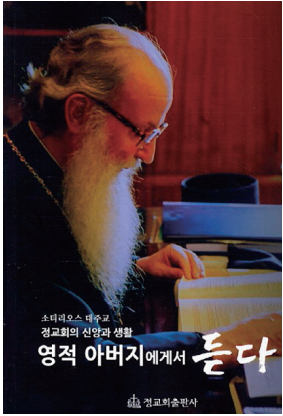
After his election as Metropolitan of Pisidia, he toured with a group of people from Asia Minor his new Metropolis following the footsteps of Apostle Paul from Antalya and Perge to Pisidia Antioch, the island of Lake Egirdir and Sparta. During the tour he offered prayers of supplications in favour of the people of Asia Minor who had unjustly died at the abandoned, and ruined Greek Churches.

From his first visit to the area, he realized that at the borders of his Metropolis thousands of Orthodox people had settled in recent years, mainly from Russia and

other Slavic-speaking Orthodox countries, which remained for two decades without an Orthodox church and a priest. The meeting with many of the thousands of these Russian-speaking economic immigrants who had not had the chance to attend church services moved him deeply and as a result it became the reason for the commencement of his new missionary work.

After a long period of prayer and meditation at the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour in Korea he arranged for the purchase of the only Orthodox church, which had remained in the property of a Turkish individual, in the city of Antalya, and oversaw for its radical reconstruction, its equipment and its regular operation with permanent priest. The inauguration of the Church, in the name of St. Alypius the Kionitis, was celebrated by himself in September 2011, with the participation of priests from Greece and a large number of believers, in an atmosphere of deep emotion and joy.

Because thousands of Orthodox faithful have also settled in the city Alanya, (130 km. S.E. of Antalya) he worked for the renovation of the Orthodox church of St. George of the Mountain there, where



monthly liturgies were performed - since Christmas 2012 - to the great satisfaction and joy of the orthodox faithful. He also made efforts to renovate other Orthodox churches in his Metropolis.

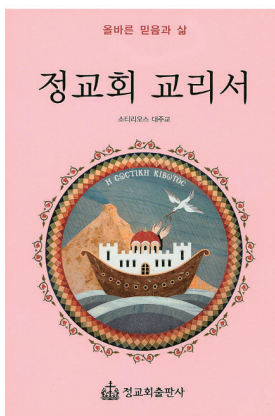
In 2015, he took care of the construction of the Holy Church of Panagia Pisidiotissa in Alanya, with adjacent multipurpose rooms underneath it for hospitality and other auxiliary areas. The church was fully equipped and from Sunday, November 15, 2015, after the inauguration ceremony was held by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, operates as a parish with a permanent priest.

In 2017, he arranged for the purchase of an old house, near the church of St. Alypios in Antalya, in order to be used as Episcopal and Cultural Center.

In 2020, the late Metropolitan Sotirios of Pisidia arranged for the purchase of a land property in Side, with the prospect of erecting a church in honour of St. Paul, with a multipurpose Hall and residence for the priest's family. On 5 August 2020 the contracts for the purchase of the land were signed and the foundation stone was laid on 5 July 2021. After

his saintly passing, the inauguration of the church of St. Paul was celebrated on July 4th 2022, by Assistant bishop Ambrosios of Evdokias.

While at the Holy

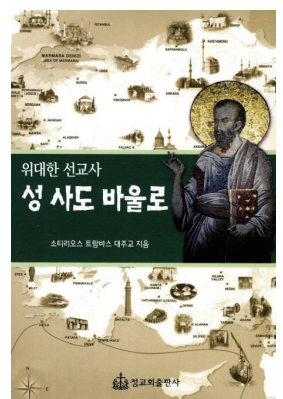
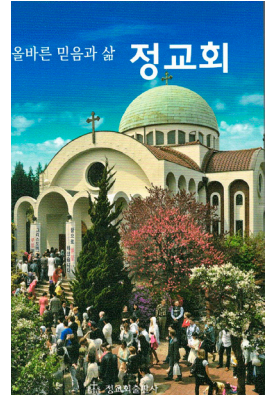


Monastery of the Transfiguration in Capyeong Korea, where he lived after his resignation from the post of Metropolitan of Korea, he exercised his spiritual and priestly duties for the Monastery and from time to time he visited his Metropolis in Pisidia and Antalya.

The late Metropolitan did not cease to take care of the guidance of the faithful until the end of his life by publishing books (13 in number) and writing speeches and sermons translated into English, Russian, Turkish, Georgian, Persian (Farsi), Romanian and some in Arabic.

The man, who was full of good deeds, the condescending, the kind, the beloved, the selfless, the devoted and humble worker of the vineyard of Christ, the great missionary, who for about half a century travelled between continents and seas to celebrate the Divine Liturgy of many earthly altars, many of which he himself had founded, so that people could be sanctified and glorify the name of the Lord in the world, departed for Heaven on Friday, June 10, 2022, where he will meet the Lord of Glory at the Holy Heavenly Altar and will enjoy the labours of his sacrificial love for the Church of Christ.

May the Lord rest his soul in the Land of the Living, the Righteous and the Saints and may we all have his blessing.





# Odoiporikon

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