

Message from Bishop Maxim

Dear fathers, brothers and sisters,

For many years Fr. James Barfield served in Saint John the Baptist Mission Parish in Reno, Nevada. The presence of the Spirit was evident in the expressions on his face. He was not someone who observes the mystery of life as a neutral spectator; he participated in it with his being and became a sharer in the pain and the joy of the created world.

Fr. James lived and rejoiced “with all the Saints” (Eph 3:18), fortified by the liturgical life and grace which he offered to the faithful people.

The art of Fr. James’ priesthood, as a manifestation of liturgical experience and grace, was an offering of life and courage to all who suffer and are wounded. Fr. James baptized prisoners at Lovelock Prison in Nevada, while the Serbian prisoner Mladen Pecanac was kum/godfather. This humble priest has left many with awe of his faith and willingness to help others, especially those in prison and falsely accused.

In 2018, Fr. James established St. Sebastian Serbian Orthodox Mission Parish in Carson City, Nevada. Like St. Sebastian of Jackson, this man lived as a simple priest and like an angel spread fragrance over his flock with the grace of the Spirit which overshadows the humble.

He left his flock with a legacy of faith and servant leadership. He was showing that everyone, in East and West, has need of the fullness of Grace which is offered liturgically by the Orthodox Church and which saves man.

And so, with the passage of time which brought him to the sunset of his life, Fr. James articulated as an expression of gratitude the words, “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.”

While we pray to God to grant him the peace he deserves, we also pray that his parish grow and thrive on the foundation he left them as his legacy.

While we express our sympathies to his flock on this loss, we in the Western Diocese invite you to send you contribution so that this parish can build spiritually and with this foundation.

Let us help so that Fr. James’s mission does not end even with the end of his temporal life! May he give forth the same grace even after death.

For that reason, we ask for your prayers and for all those who are able to contribute financially to both the mission parish and to Popadija Nino during these difficult times.

Your contributions are greatly needed and greatly appreciated.

Donate to help the Mission Parish

1. Please make your check payable to St John the Serbian Orthodox Mission
2. Write “Popadija” on the memo line
3. Mail to Forerunner Books
Attention Treasurer
644 Plumas Street
Reno, NV 89509

Donate to help Popadija Nino Barfield

1. Please make your check payable to Western American Diocese
2. Write “Barfield Family” on the memo line
3. Mail to Western American Diocese,
1621 West Garvey Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803.
4. Online: <https://westsrbdio.org/donate>