

## **St. Basil the Great - a Mystical Theologian?**

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### **Abstract**

This study is based on the opinion of A. Louth, after which the Christian mystical life presents the following defining characteristics: 1) the full seeking of the union with God, 2) contemplation, "view" of God does not exclude, but involves the active dimension of love, and 3) the community-ecclesial dimension that makes union with God not to be made strictly individual, separate from others, but in close contact with them.

These three criteria are then analyzed in the life and the work of St. Basil the Great, who was sitting by Patrolog Georges V. Florovsky among the ascetic and spiritual fathers.

Due to the temperament of St. Basil, his spiritual experiences are less obvious than in other Church Fathers; it is need to take account of the most "intimate" writings, letters.

There appears, however, another side of St. Basil the Great, not only the best organizer of the monasticism or intransigent hierarch in the rejection of heresies and toward social activism. Thus, reading the letters, we find all three defining features of a genuine ascetic-spiritual life, which reminds us that the Christian mystical life should not be simplified to a single mode of expression.