

10TH ANNIVERSARY

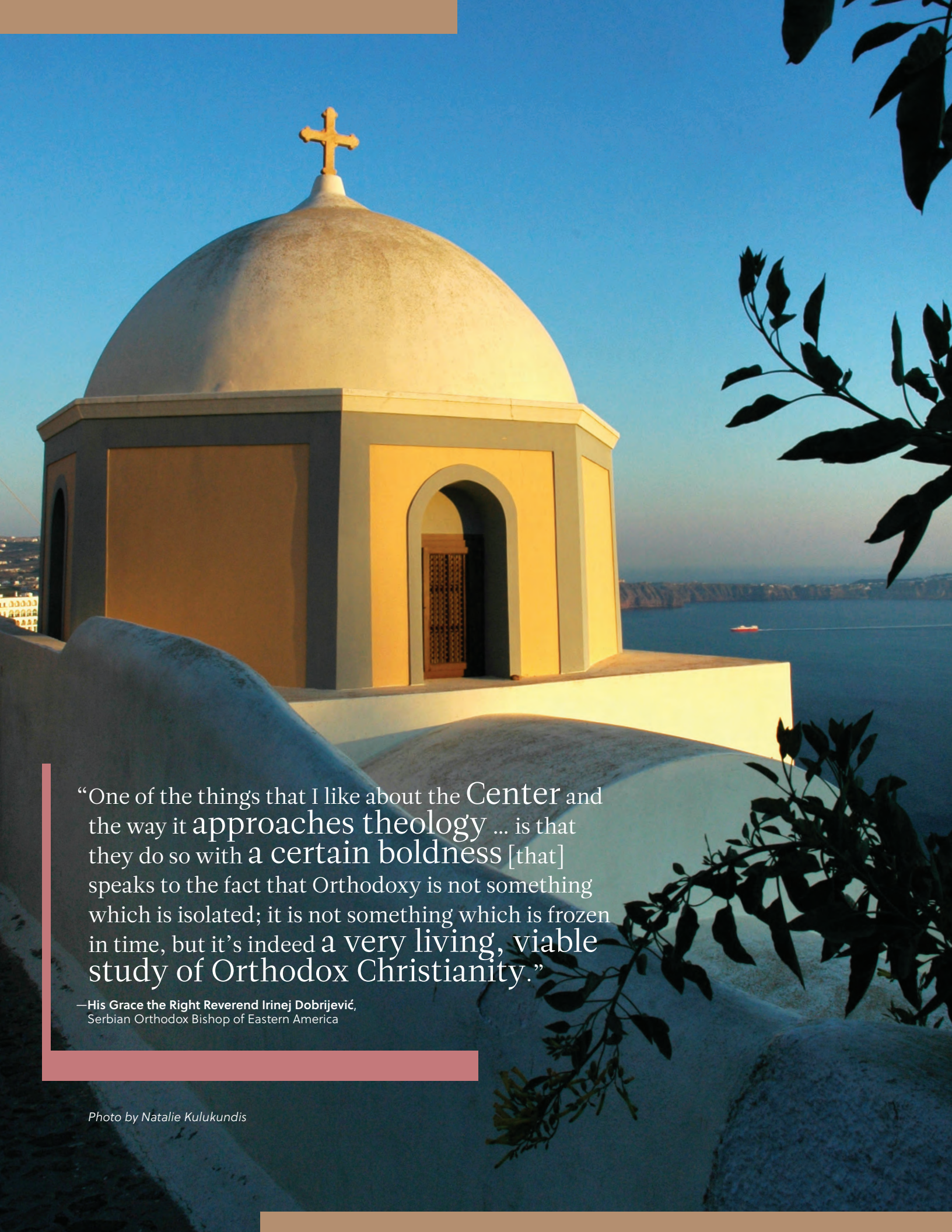


ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
STUDIES CENTER
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

The Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University

Celebrating 10 Years of Scholarship and Community

FORDHAM
THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



“One of the things that I like about the Center and the way it approaches theology ... is that they do so with a certain boldness [that] speaks to the fact that Orthodoxy is not something which is isolated; it is not something which is frozen in time, but it’s indeed a very living, viable study of Orthodox Christianity.”

—His Grace the Right Reverend Irinej Dobrijević,
Serbian Orthodox Bishop of Eastern America

Photo by Natalie Kulukundis

10TH ANNIVERSARY



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
STUDIES CENTER
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

A Vibrant Community

Advancing scholarship and public discourse on the history, thought, and culture of the Orthodox Christian world

The Orthodox Christian Studies Center is unique in all the world. As part of a Jesuit, Catholic research university in New York City, we are prominently positioned to engage students, faculty, and the global community in our mission: to explore and preserve Orthodox Christianity through bold inquiry, cutting-edge scholarship, and supportive fellowship.

Fordham has long had a special relationship with Orthodox Christian communities—from the 1960s, when the Very Rev. John Meyendorff brought his ecumenical vision to the Fordham faculty; to 2009, when His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew preached in the University Church; to 2012, when the University's Orthodox Christian studies program, founded in 2007, blossomed into the Orthodox Christian Studies Center.

Over the past 10 years, our influence has grown tremendously thanks to the generous support of foundations and individuals who recognize the value of our work and community.

Today, we offer the only Orthodox Christian studies minor for undergraduates in the United States. Our fellowships fund award-winning research. Our virtual and in-person events engage thousands of people. And our thriving community initiates critical dialogue on issues of vital importance, from human rights and environmentalism to nationalism and war.

As we mark our 10th anniversary, we reflect on our roots, our growth, and where we are headed. With continued support from scholars and patrons like you, we will deepen our commitment to communicating the value and relevance of a vibrant Orthodox Christian tradition well into the future.

Building a Diverse Community of Faith and Scholarship



As I reflect on the Center's 10th anniversary, I am most struck by and thankful for the many layers of community that we have formed—with students, faculty, parents, and donors, and with academic, ecclesial, and public audiences beyond Fordham.

Through courses sponsored by the Center, more than 3,000 Fordham undergraduates from multiple religious backgrounds and a range of academic paths have been brought together through shared study of the art, architecture, history, literature, philosophy, and theology of Orthodox Christianity. These students have broadened their perspectives about diversity within Christianity, and they have come to understand how the Orthodox Christian experience continues to shape culture today in the Middle East, the Balkans, Russia, and elsewhere.

Because the Center serves as a bridge between Christian communities (Orthodox and Catholic, Chalcedonian and non-Chalcedonian), it has fostered conversation and community among Orthodox students of diverse backgrounds—Coptic, Armenian, Serbian, Greek, and Russian, to name a few. Together at a Jesuit, Catholic university, they have learned with and from students from a host of Western Christian traditions, especially Roman Catholicism.

When we established the Center in 2012, we formed the Orthodox Christian Studies Advisory Council to help us discern how we might be of the greatest service to our students, the church, and the broader public. The council comprises women and men from both Orthodox and Roman Catholic backgrounds; some are Fordham alumni and parents of Fordham students, but most are not.

The council's strength lies in its diversity, and in many ways, this group of dedicated individuals is a microcosm of the broader appeal of the Center. Some are drawn to our ecumenical work, others by the way we provide needed resources for the church community; some are excited by the Center's appeal to younger generations, others by the way we raise the profile of Orthodox Christianity in the broader culture. What unites all council members, however, is a strong belief that the Center's various academic and public initiatives build upon one another for a greater good.

—**George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D.**
Co-Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center
Professor of Historical Theology
Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of
Orthodox Christian Studies

“Dr. Demacopoulos and Dr. Papanikolaou’s herculean efforts and accomplishments have elevated Eastern Orthodoxy’s standing within academia and provided an insightful voice towards fruitful dialogue that unites us as Christians. The Center fulfills St. Paul’s admonition: ‘Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.’ ”
(2 Corinthians 13:11)

—**Drake Behrakis,**
Orthodox Christian Studies Advisory Council
Member Emeritus



As an undergraduate at Fordham during the 1980s, I learned valuable lessons from my mentors at the University: Fr. John Meyendorff, a towering Orthodox presence on campus who embodied ecumenical openness; and Mrs. Stella Moundas, director of the Office of the President for more than four decades, who opened her home to Fordham's Orthodox students and initiated connections between the Fordham leadership and the Greek community.

My experiences with Fr. John and Stella are still an inspiration to me and help shape the Center's work to this day. Through their teachings, I see the fruits of nurturing a community of scholars, laity, clergy, and individuals across Orthodox jurisdictional and ecclesial boundaries.

To build a worshiping community means to create a space that is trusted and diverse, where people can engage in open dialogue while remaining faithful to our Orthodox tradition. The Center's ongoing commitment to community through discourse with one another and our faith has led us to create multiple venues for intellectual inquiry.

Through initiatives such as the *Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies*, the Orthodox Christianity and Contemporary Thought book series, *Public Orthodoxy*, and the world's only fellowships specifically devoted to Orthodox Christian studies, Coptic Orthodox studies, and Armenian Orthodox studies, we help all people—academics, clergy, and lifelong learners—explore important questions about faith, gender, race, culture, and the world today.

I look forward to witnessing our worshiping community's continued growth, as we engage the next generation of Orthodox scholars and parishioners to critically engage their faith and create trust and communion with one another.

—**Aristotle "Telly" Papanikolaou, Ph.D.**

Co-Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center

Professor of Theology

Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture

Study and Service

At the root of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center's growth is a pioneering commitment to supporting students, academically and spiritually, and to fostering ecumenical unity and understanding.

Undergraduate Minor in Orthodox Christian Studies

Established in 2007, the University's thriving Orthodox Christian studies minor—the only program of its kind in the United States—predates the founding of the Center by five years. This interdisciplinary minor focuses on the faith and cultural significance of the Orthodox Christian tradition, offering insights and historical context for undergraduate students of any major.

Students pursuing the minor explore the human condition—both past and present—through a rich trove of artistic, cultural, historical,

literary, philosophical, and religious resources. They learn about the connections between and among religious traditions, and gain a greater familiarity with the range of modern Orthodox cultures—from Baghdad to Moscow and beyond—that is essential in today's global environment.

Students also tailor their minor to their interests and goals with elective courses across several disciplines, including art and music history, classics, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy, and theology.



“I think it’s really fruitful to study Orthodox Christianity alongside art history, specifically with Byzantine artifacts. You understand both art and culture more if you understand the faith backgrounds that support it.”

—Kassandra Ibrahim,
Fordham College at Rose Hill
Class of 2022

3,000+ students
have taken courses in
Orthodox Christian
studies at Fordham
since 2007



“I was slightly nervous before attending college that I would lose my connection with God and the church, but Orthodox Christian Fellowship has helped me grow in my faith beyond any other Orthodox activity that I have ever experienced.”

—**Floriana Boardman**, Fordham College at Rose Hill Class of 2021

Orthodox Christian Student Fellowship

Like the minor program of study, Fordham’s chapter of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) predates the founding of the Center. It’s a student-led organization of college students from all Orthodox traditions who host liturgies on campus and meet regularly for community and support. Center co-directors George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou serve as faculty advisers to the group, which is supported by Fordham’s Office of Campus Ministry.

During the academic year, OCF welcomes esteemed speakers and hosts bimonthly LOGOS gatherings where students pray together, talk about the week, and try to grow together in faith. Students also engage in charitable outreach to local communities, including at Emmaus House of Harlem, a center serving homeless families.

Student Scholarships and Awards

The Susan M. Jannace Endowed Scholarship Fund was established in 2014 by William Jannace, a 1996 Fordham Law graduate and adjunct professor at the law school, to support a Fordham student minoring in Orthodox Christian studies or active in the Orthodox Christian Fellowship.

Each year, the Center also honors undergraduates with the Fr. John F. Long, S.J., Award and the Stella Moundas Award, recognizing academic excellence and personal commitment to the service of others, respectively.

FR. JOHN F. LONG, S.J., AWARD RECIPIENTS

Robert Bendelius (2022)
Kate Larson (2021)
Tina Thermadam (2020)
Joanna Theophilopoulos (2019)
Nicholas Peters (2018)
Vasiliki Patsiogiannis (2017)
Caroline Hanna (2016)

STELLA MOUNDAS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kassandra Ibrahim (2022)
Floriana Boardman (2021)
Maria Mirones (2020)
Katina Smith (2019)
Anthony Ladas (2018)
Maria Kovoros (2017)
Alexandra Coritsidis (2016)

Research and Fellowships

Over the past decade, the Center has advanced awareness and knowledge of Orthodox Christianity through thoughtfully considered research.

The Center has been awarded major external grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Henry Luce Foundation, Leadership 100, and the British Council, to name a few, allowing it to convene international cohorts of scholars, public intellectuals, journalists, and policymakers.

Through this support, the Center has provided fellowships to dozens of scholars at various stages of their careers and research. Their work has contributed to seminal understanding in the fields of Byzantine history, Orthodox Christian tradition, and contemporary geopolitical issues, as well as the full landscape of Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy.

NEH Faculty and Research Fellowships

Since 2017, the Center has supported at least one faculty member and one dissertation candidate in Orthodox Christian studies through NEH faculty and research fellowships. These fellowships are open to scholars from all humanities disciplines whose projects focus on some aspect of the history, thought, and culture of Orthodox Christianity and contribute to fostering Orthodox Christian studies as a discipline in its own right. While in residence at the Center, participants have access to Fordham's vibrant academic community, creating space for intellectual exchange and broadening public scholarship.

The NEH fellowship program was started through a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and three-to-one matching support from dozens of individual donors and family foundations.



NEH Faculty and Research Fellows

2021–2022

Michael G. Azar (Faculty)
Deacon, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Associate Professor of Theology/
Religious Studies, University of Scranton

Research: Examining the ways in which Orthodox Christianity's history, theology, and contemporary expression in Palestine and Israel can recontextualize the academic field of Christian–Jewish relations and general Palestinian–Israeli–European/American interaction

Michele E. Watkins (Faculty)
Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Diego, Executive Director, Society for the Study of Black Religion

Research: Black and womanist, patristic, and Orthodox theologies on faith, reason, and theosis; the political theology of Paul J. Tillich; and the post-theism of Friedrich Nietzsche and Delores S. Williams

Konrad Siekierski (Dissertation)
Ph.D. Candidate, Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London

Research: Examining the different forms that pilgrimage takes today in Armenian culture based on 10 years of ethnographic research

2020–2021

Ashley Purpura, Ph.D. (Faculty)

Elena Romashko (Faculty)

2019–2020

Joy Demoskoff (Faculty)

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz
(Dissertation)

2018–2019

Maria-Alina Asavei (Faculty)

John Zaleski (Dissertation)

2017–2018

Aram G. Sarkisian (Dissertation)

Coptic Orthodox Studies Research Fellowship

The Center's Coptic Orthodox Studies Research Fellowship supports current faculty, independent scholars, and advanced Ph.D. candidates completing their dissertations in any humanities or social science discipline with projects that focus on some aspect of Coptic Orthodox Christianity, whether in Egypt or abroad.

The Coptic Fellowship program is funded by annual support from an anonymous donor.

A Space for Women in the Tradition

Ashley Purpura used her 2020–2021 NEH Faculty Fellowship from the Center to work on a monograph tentatively titled *Patriarchal Women: (mis)Representing Gender Equality in Orthodox Christian Tradition*.

"I'm not trying to recover a tradition that hasn't been recorded, but just point to the spaces where the tradition that we have is problematic if we do theologically believe, as Orthodox Christians, that women are spiritually equal to men, made in the image and likeness of God," said Purpura, who earned her Ph.D. from Fordham in 2014 and is currently a professor of religious studies at Purdue University. "We need to talk about gender as something central to our theological understanding."

Armenian Orthodox Studies Distinguished Fellowship

Awarded in conjunction with the Zohrab Information Center at the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese), the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Armenian Christian Studies is a two-year research fellowship, with the option for a third year of support. The fellow also serves as the director of the Zohrab Information Center.

COPTIC ORTHODOX STUDIES RESEARCH FELLOWS

2021–2022

Samuel Kaldas, Ph.D.

Lecturer, St. Cyril's Coptic Orthodox Theological College (Sydney College of Divinity)
Anderson Junior Research Fellow, University of Sydney

Research: The theological dimensions of the "revival" or "reform" phenomenon that transformed the Coptic Church in the 20th century with liturgical theology as a case study

2020–2021

Febe Armanios, Ph.D.

Professor of History at Middlebury College

Research: "Coptic Orthodox Television: A Modern History" focuses on the history of Coptic channels in Egypt and the diaspora, as part of a larger book manuscript titled *Satellite Ministries: The Rise of Christian Television in the Middle East*.

2019–2020

Candace Lukasik, Ph.D.

2017–2018

Donna Rizk Asdourian, Ph.D.

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX STUDIES DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

2021–2022

Jesse Arlen

Ph.D. Candidate, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles
Interim Director, Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center

Research: Literature and intellectual history with attention to education, asceticism, and mysticism in Eastern Christianity and Islam from the late antique to early modern period

Cutting-Edge Scholarship

The Center fosters a commitment to publishing scholarship that encourages academics and the broader public to reflect on Orthodoxy—past, present, and future. Our pioneering efforts have led to the development of book and journal series, popular public forums through which we promote inquiry and lifelong learning, and a multiyear human rights project designed to bring expertise and insights to global leaders and policymakers.

Public Orthodoxy

5 Most Read Articles at publicorthodoxy.org

"A Declaration on the 'Russian World' (*Russkii Mir*) Teaching"

"Being Christian During a Trump Presidency"

"The True Meaning of Fasting in the Orthodox Church"

"Some Common Misperceptions about the Date of Pascha/Easter"

"Orthodox Christianity, Systemic Racism, and the Wrong Side of History"

Launched in 2015, the *Public Orthodoxy* website—publicorthodoxy.org—has quickly become one of the Center's best-known initiatives. This free, open-access editorial forum offers op-eds from scholars, bishops, parish priests, and engaged laypeople with the general public in mind.

The goal is to encourage a broad, non-academic audience to reflect on Orthodox Christianity and its place in and impact on the modern world. Topics bridge the ecclesial, the academic, and the political, including issues in Ukraine and the Middle East, sexual diversity, and systemic racism.



2,000,000+ Readers:

The site has reached more than 2 million unique viewers worldwide.

7 Languages:

Public Orthodoxy is currently available in English, Bulgarian, Georgian, Greek, Romanian, Russian and Serbian.

The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies

Since its inception in 2018, this double-blind, peer-reviewed scholarly journal has published leading scholarship on all aspects of the thought, history, society, politics, theology, and culture of Orthodox Christianity. The journal celebrates methodologically innovative approaches to both historical and contemporary topics from scholars in fields including anthropology, history, and political science.

Editors: George E. Demacopoulos, Fordham University;
and Vera Shevzov, Smith College

The Orthodoxy and Human Rights Scholars Project

Through this five-year initiative started in 2019, an international group of experts from diverse backgrounds convenes to further our understanding of Orthodoxy's relationship to human rights around the world.

Participating scholars are global authorities on theology, sociology, anthropology, and political science. Their expertise spans time periods, geographic regions, and Orthodox traditions. Together, they conduct innovative research and publish their work academically and in popular media to address questions about Orthodoxy and human rights pertinent to their own fields.

The project aims to foster greater public understanding of this important topic and to promote a more informed human rights foreign policy toward historically Orthodox countries.

Major support for this work is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation, with additional support from Leadership 100.

“Scholars are passionate about the Center because they see in it a place where they can have dialogue about what Orthodox Christianity means in the world—what it means socially, politically, and theologically—and how it’s impacted by and impacts different social structures in the United States and the world more broadly.”

—**Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Ph.D.**, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, Arizona State University; 2019–2020 Dissertation Fellow, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, Fordham University; and author of *Between Heaven and Russia: Religious Conversion and Religious Apostasy in Appalachia* (Fordham University Press, 2022)

Scholars

Shaun Casey, *Harvard University, United States*

Davor Džalto, *Stockholm School of Theology/Sankt Ignatios College, Sweden*

Effie Fokas, *Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Greece*

Brandon Gallaher, *University of Exeter, England, UK*

Michael Wahid Hanna, *The Century Foundation, United States*

Slavica Jakelic, *Valparaiso University, United States*

Pantelis Kalaitzidis, *Volos Academy for Theological Studies, Greece*

Fr. Isidoros Katsos, *University of Cambridge, England, UK*

Fr. Philip LeMasters, *McMurry University, United States*

Lucian Leustean, *Aston University, England, UK*

Candace Lukasik, *Mississippi State University, United States*

Vasilios Makrides, *University of Erfurt, Germany*

Ina Merdjanova, *Trinity College Dublin, Ireland*

Ezekiel Olagoke, *Waynesburg University, United States*

Elizabeth Prodromou, *Tufts University, United States*

Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, *Arizona State University, United States*

Fr. Anthony Roeber, *Pennsylvania State University, United States*

Christopher Sheklian, *Radboud University, the Netherlands*

Vera Shevzov, *Smith College, United States*

Andrey Shishkov, Ss. *University of Tartu, Estonia*

Kristina Stoeckl, *University of Innsbruck, Austria*

Vasileios Syros, *The Medici Archive Project/University of Basel, Switzerland*

Mariz Tadros, *Institute for Development Studies, England, UK*

Samuel Tadros, *Hudson Institute, United States*

Nathaniel Wood, *Fordham University, United States*

Journalists

Sergei Chapnin, *former head of the publishing house of the Moscow Patriarchate*

David Gibson, *Director of the Center on Religion and Culture, Fordham University; former national reporter, Religion News Service*

Paul Glader, *The King's College, New York*

Beth Knobel, *Fordham University*

Mark Silk, *Trinity College, Connecticut*

Christian Arabic Texts in Translation Book Series

Through this series, published by Fordham University Press, the Center seeks to make a rich literary heritage more widely available to English-speaking readers. Selections are drawn from Christian Arabic texts from the rise of Islam to the present and include biblical commentaries, church canons, histories and chronicles, theological and ascetic treatises, saints' lives and sermons, liturgical documents, philosophical works, and scientific handbooks.

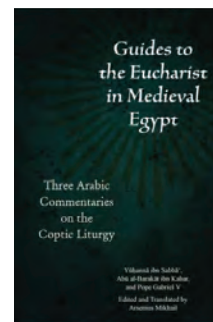
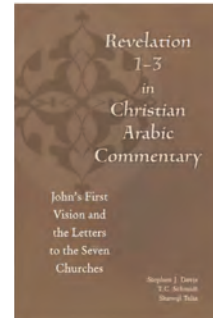
These books are ideal for the general population and undergraduate teaching, while accompanying introductions and notes also make the volumes useful for graduate-level research.

Series Editor: Stephen J. Davis, Yale University

Current Books in the Series

Revelation 1-3 in Christian Arabic Commentary

Guides to the Eucharist in Medieval Egypt: Three Arabic Commentaries on the Coptic Liturgy



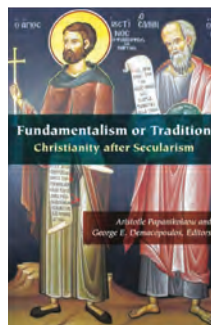
“The Center is very attuned to the place of Orthodox Christianity in the modern world and the implications that go well beyond theology and intersect with politics and social issues.”

—**Stephen J. Davis, Ph.D.**, Professor of History and Woolsey Professor of Religious Studies, Yale University

Orthodox Christianity and Contemporary Thought Book Series

This Fordham University Press series seeks to connect Orthodox Christianity with contemporary forms of thought. Through interdisciplinary research and scholarship, these books explore questions ranging from traditional theological and philosophical themes of God and human identity to cultural, political, economic, and ethical concerns.

Series Editors: Aristotle Papanikolaou, Fordham University; and Ashley M. Purpura, Purdue University



Books in the Series

The Moralists International: Russia in the Global Culture Wars by Kristina Stoeckl and Dmitry Uzlaner, 2022

Orthodox Christianity and Human Sexuality edited by Thomas Arentzen, Ashley M. Purpura, and Aristotle Papanikolaou, 2022

Between Heaven and Russia: Religious Conversion and Political Apostasy in Appalachia by Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, 2022

Women and Religiosity in Orthodox Christianity edited by Ina Merdjanova, 2021

Anarchy and the Kingdom of God: From Eschatology to Orthodox Political Theology and Back by Davor Džalto, 2021

Welcoming Finitude: Toward a Phenomenology of Orthodox Liturgy by Christina Gschwandtner, 2020

Orthodox Readings of Augustine edited by George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, 2020

Fundamentalism or Tradition: Christianity after Secularization edited by George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, 2019

The Garb of Being: Embodiment and the Pursuit of Holiness in Late Ancient Christianity edited by Georgia Frank, Susan Holman, and Andrew Jacobs, 2019

Dynamis of Healing: Patristic Theology and the Psyche by Pia Sophia Chaudhari, 2019

Colonizing Christianity: Greek and Latin Religious Identity in the Era of the Fourth Crusade by George Demacopoulos, 2019

Liturgical Theology after Schmemmann: An Orthodox Reading of Paul Ricoeur by Brian A. Butcher, foreword by Andrew Louth, FBA, 2018

God, Hierarchy, and Power: Orthodox Theologies of Authority from Byzantium by Ashley M. Purpura, 2017

Christianity, Democracy, and the Shadow of Constantine edited by George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, 2016
Winner of the 2017 Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award in Humanities

Orthodox Christianity and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Southeastern Europe edited by Lucian N. Leustean, 2014

Orthodox Constructions of the West edited by George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, 2013

Toward an Ecology of Transfiguration: Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Environment, Nature, and Creation edited by John Chryssavgis and Bruce V. Foltz, 2013

Speaking the Truth in Love: Theological and Spiritual Exhortations of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew edited by John Chryssavgis, foreword by Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, 2010

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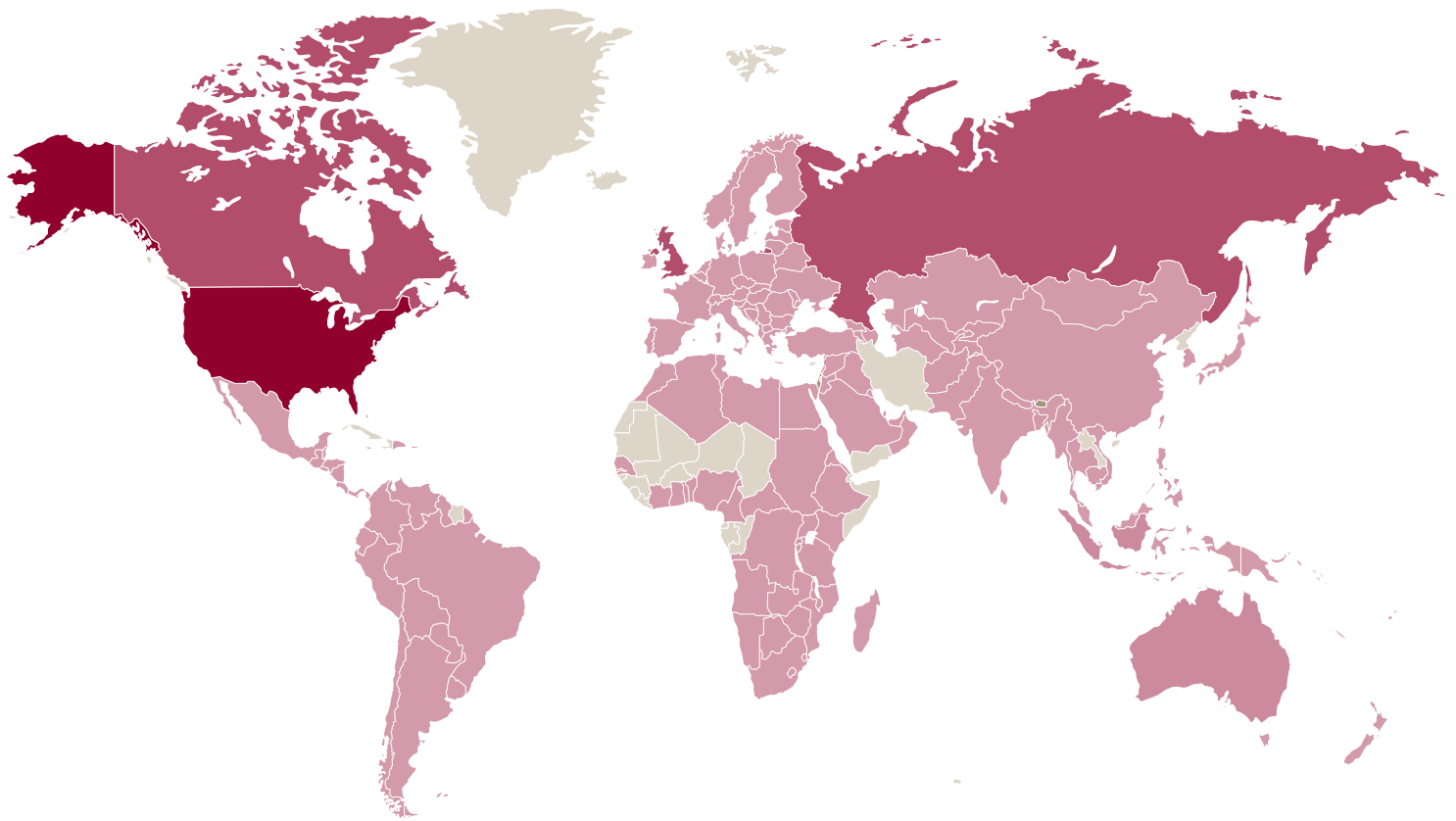
Orthodox Christianity around the World

Through *Public Orthodoxy* (publicorthodoxy.org), the Center reaches more than **2 million people** around the world. The online journal's articles have been referenced in publications as prominent and diverse as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*, *Moscow Times*, and *Euromaidan Press*, encouraging readers to **reflect on Orthodox Christianity** and its place in and impact on the modern world.

Public Orthodoxy Readership

Top Countries by Views

U.S. 1.2M	Australia 32K
Canada 99K	Romania 30K
Greece 99K	Germany 30K
U.K. 77K	Serbia 18K
Russia 35K	

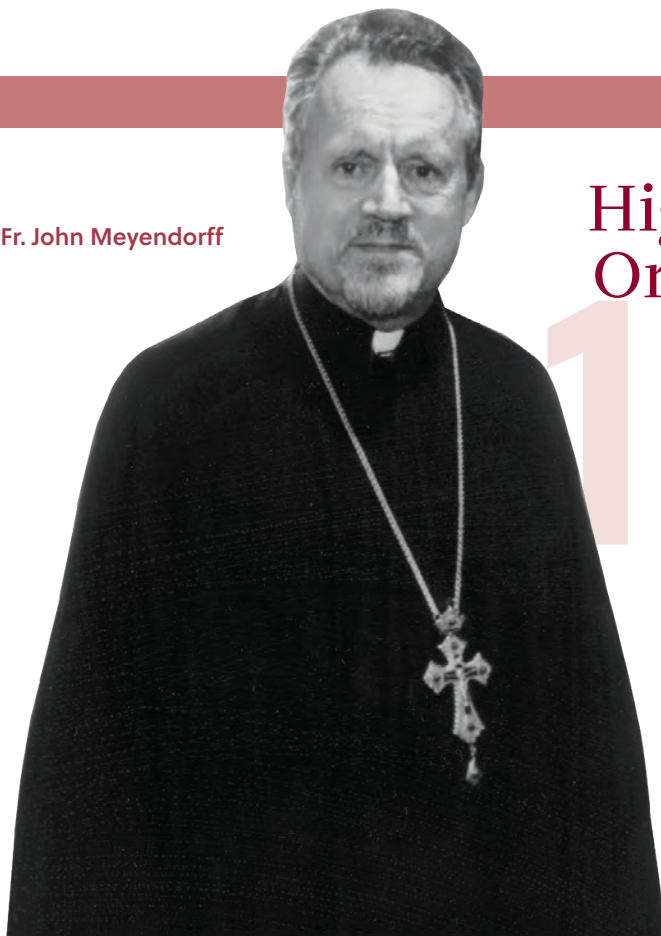


Global Population of Orthodox Christians

There are approximately 260 million Orthodox Christians throughout the world, according to a Pew Research Report published in 2017.

Russia: 101,000,000	Moldova: 3,410,000
Ethiopia: 35,710,000	Kazakhstan: 3,240,000
Ukraine: 34,870,000	Eritrea: 3,030,000
Romania: 18,740,000	Armenia: 2,680,000
Greece: 9,880,000	India: 2,320,000
Serbia: 6,940,000	United States: 1,820,000
Bulgaria: 6,070,000	Bosnia-Herzegovina: 1,420,000
Belarus: 5,900,000	Republic of Macedonia: 1,210,000
Georgia: 3,790,000	Germany: 1,110,000
Egypt: 3,710,000	

Fr. John Meyendorff



Highlights in the Growth of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham

A Spiritual Founding Father

Orthodox Christian theologian Fr. John Meyendorff joins the Fordham faculty as a professor of Byzantine history. Over the next two decades, he publishes several books, including *Living Tradition: Orthodox Witness in the Contemporary World* and *Vision of Unity*, and lays the spiritual and academic groundwork for the growth of Orthodox Christian studies at Fordham.

1967

Fall 2000 A New Era

Aristotle "Telly" Papanikolaou, Ph.D., a 1988 Fordham graduate who studied with Fr. Meyendorff, joins the Fordham theology faculty.



Fall 2002 Growing Expertise

George E. Demacopoulos, Ph.D., joins the Fordham faculty, making the University's theology department the only one in the U.S. with two graduates of an Orthodox seminary on its faculty. (He and Papanikolaou each earned a master's degree from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.)



Promoting Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Papanikolaou and Demacopoulos begin serving as faculty advisers to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, a student-led group that meets regularly to explore their faith and attend religious services in the Blue Chapel, a small sanctuary on the Rose Hill campus.



February 4, 2004 A New Forum for Orthodoxy in America

Archbishop Demetrios, primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, delivers the first Orthodoxy in America Lecture at Fordham: "The Dynamics of the Orthodox Faith in Contemporary America."



November 2004 The Relics of the Saints

In late November, George Demacopoulos travels to Istanbul with Vatican officials to participate in the ceremonial return of the relics of Orthodox church fathers St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory Nazianzen, which disappeared from Constantinople when Crusaders invaded the city in 1204. At the request of the Orthodox Church, Demacopoulos tracked the remains to St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, where they had been enshrined under side altars. During a ceremony at the Vatican on November 27, Pope John Paul II presented the relics to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew before they were transported to the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George in Istanbul.

“My role is only a by-product of Fordham’s commitment to the Roman Catholic and Orthodox relationship,” Demacopoulos says. “Fordham has historically been a place of cooperation between [the two religions], and this sets up Fordham to be the logical foundation for further improvement.”



June 2007 Building Bridges

Fordham hosts “Orthodox Readings of Augustine,” the inaugural Patterson Triennial Conference on Christian Unity, and bestows an honorary degree upon His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. “The archbishop has worked tirelessly to heal the division that exists between the Eastern and Western churches,” says Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham. “He is a master teacher, a teacher who yearns for, and who builds, the Kingdom with his every word and his every deed.”

Fall 2007

A Home for Orthodox Christian Studies

Fordham becomes the first U.S. university to offer a minor in Orthodox Christian studies. The program, co-directed by Demacopoulos and Papanikolaou, consists of two required courses, Byzantine Christianity and Orthodox Christian Ethics, and four electives.



October 27, 2009 The Ecumenical Spirit

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, leader of the world’s Orthodox Christians, visits Fordham bearing a message of openness and reconciliation—and praise for Fordham as a global center for Orthodox–Catholic dialogue and the study of Orthodox Christianity. During a ceremony in the University Church, Fordham bestows on him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree “for his remarkable service to the world community and for the principles that he continues to uphold.” The patriarch also

meets with members of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, who present him with the “Bartholomew Rose,” a bright red rose cultivar developed by horticulturalist Robert Neil Rippetoe and registered with the American Rose Society.

November 2009 Thought Leadership

Fordham University Press publishes *In the World, Yet Not of the World: Social and Global Initiatives of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew*, a collection of the patriarch’s major addresses and statements on human rights, religious tolerance, international peace, environmental protection, and more. It is the first book in the press’s Orthodox Christianity and Contemporary Thought series, which has grown to include more than 20 titles and is currently co-edited by Papanikolaou with Ashley M. Purpura, who earned her Ph.D. from Fordham in 2014.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

2012

‘The Strongest Possible Endorsement’

Fordham establishes the Orthodox Christian Studies Center, which earns a prestigious challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The \$2 million endowment raised by a 3-to-1 matching grant will fund the Center’s fellowship programs. “The NEH grant is the strongest possible endorsement that the work of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center is unique, valuable, and necessary,” Papanikolaou says, “not simply for Orthodox Christianity or Catholic–Orthodox relations but for the humanities writ large.”



November 18, 2013
The First Endowed Chair

Aristotle Papanikolaou is installed as the University's first Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture, an endowed position made possible through the generosity of Mary and Michael Jaharis and the Jaharis Family Foundation.



2014
Support for Worship

The Center commissions the artist Andreas Mantzioutas to create a set of liturgical items to be used on campus by the Orthodox Christian Fellowship.

Fall 2015
A Voice in the Public Square

The Center launches *Public Orthodoxy*, an editorial forum for scholars, priests, and laypeople to comment on issues of contemporary concern in a manner more suited for a broad, non-academic audience.

October 5, 2015

A Second Endowed Chair

George Demacopoulos is installed as the Fr. John Meyendoff & Patterson Family Chair in Orthodox Christian Studies, an endowed position made possible through the generosity of Solon and Marianna Patterson.



2017
Support for Scholars

The Center extends an invitation to Aram G. Sarkisian to become its first Dissertation Completion Fellow. A doctoral candidate at Northwestern University, he uses the fellowship to complete his dissertation, "The Cross Between Hammer and Sickle: Russian Orthodox Christians in Red Scare America, 1908–1924."

Donna Rizk, Ph.D., joins the Center as its first Coptic Orthodox Studies Research Fellow. She spends the year at Fordham conducting research that compares women's roles in the Coptic and Armenian Orthodox traditions.

March 2018
Orthodoxy and the Promotion of Human Rights

After securing two grants totaling \$610,000 from the Luce Foundation and Leadership 100, the Center undertakes a multiyear research project to promote human rights. They collaborate with scholars and journalists to create and disseminate comprehensive analyses of Orthodox Christianity and human rights that can be shared with Orthodox leaders, heads of state, and policymakers around the world.



Spring 2018
A New Academic Journal

The Journal of Orthodox Christian Studies is founded as an initiative of the Center. Published semiannually by Johns Hopkins University Press, the journal is co-edited by George Demacopoulos and Vera Shevzov. "Despite the ancient history of Orthodox Christianity, its study is no antiquarian exercise," they write in the journal's first issue.





Fall 2018

Welcoming Faculty Fellows

Maria-Alina Asavei, Ph.D., joins the Center as its first Faculty Research Fellow. She is a lecturer at Charles University's Institute of International Studies in Prague and the author of *Aesthetics, Disinterestedness, and Effectiveness in Political Art* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018).

February 2021

Orthodox Scholars Preach

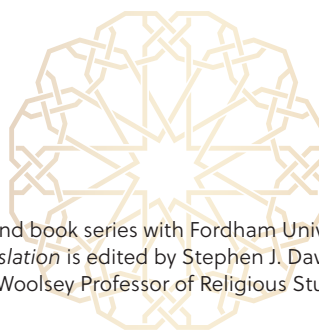
The Center launches the *Orthodox Scholars Preach* webinar series in partnership with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.



June 2021

An Armenian Connection

Jesse Arlen, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles, is named the Center's first distinguished fellow in Armenian Christian Studies. The fellowship is the result of a new partnership between the Center and the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.



January 2019

Texts in Translation

The Center launches its second book series with Fordham University Press. *Christian Arabic Texts in Translation* is edited by Stephen J. Davis, Ph.D., a professor of history and the Woolsey Professor of Religious Studies at Yale University.

June 2019

Advancing Scholarship and Conversation

Together with the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, the Center brings together diverging voices from both sides of the Atlantic for a seminar titled "Contemporary Eastern Orthodox Identity and the Challenges of Pluralism and Sexual Diversity in a Secular Age."



June 2020

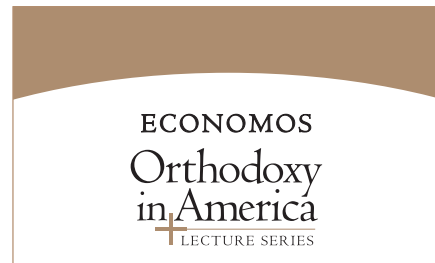
Women Scholars of Orthodox Christianity

The Center welcomes three women to serve as distinguished fellows for 2020–2021 and launches *Women Scholars of Orthodox Christianity*, a webinar series focused on the contributions and scholarship of Orthodox Christian women from across disciplines and jurisdictions.

September 2020

The Economos Lecture Series

The Center's signature lecture series is renamed the Economos Orthodoxy in America Lecture series in gratitude for Christ and Anastasia Economos' generous support. Speaking from the University Church, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America delivers a virtual address titled "The Future of Orthodox-Catholic Relations in the U.S.A."



10TH ANNIVERSARY



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
STUDIES CENTER
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

2022

May 31 to June 3

Celebrating the First Decade

The Center celebrates its 10th anniversary at a reception following "Nicea, Conciliarity, and the Future of Christianity," the 2022 Patterson Triennial Conference on Christian Unity.

“Having the Orthodox Center here at Fordham is a gift to the world. It is one of the few places where serious conversations between the Eastern and Western churches take place and take place regularly. They know that we take faith seriously, and they flock to us.”

—Joseph M. McShane, S.J., 32nd President of Fordham University

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Learning and Lectures

Each year, the Center sponsors a wide range of academic and public events to help build and sustain a community of intellectual inquiry and ecumenical understanding.

Our signature events—the annual Christ and Anastasia Economos Orthodox in America Lecture and the Solon and Marianna Patterson Triennial Conference on Orthodox/Catholic Dialogue—feature prominent public speakers and influential thinkers, such as His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Throughout the year, the Center also offers public lectures, webinars, conferences, and seminars that bring together members of our academic and ecclesial communities to discuss topics ranging from the role of women scholars in Orthodox Christianity to the relationship between religion and nationalism.

“Our lecture series has become a highly valued and anticipated opportunity for the greatest minds in and around Orthodoxy to share perspectives and insights that are truly unique, impactful, and wonderfully presented. The audiences are growing and they have come to expect to obtain new knowledge, appreciate deeper insights, and to gain a little spiritual inspiration at every lecture.”

—**Aris Chicles**, Orthodox Christian Studies Advisory Council Member





The Christ and Anastasia Economos Orthodoxy in America Lecture

The Economos Orthodoxy in America Lecture Series is the largest annual lecture on Orthodox Christianity and the only one housed within a university setting. It is also the only one to explore the Orthodox tradition as it intersects with the American religious experience.

Because it is held at Fordham, the Jesuit University of New York, this series provides unparalleled opportunities for advancing ecumenical conversations about issues facing both the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions. It is made possible through the generosity of Christ and Anastasia Economos, with additional support provided by the Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation Inc.

“I see the Center and its leaders as bridge builders. They are building bridges between Orthodoxy and Catholicism, clearly, but also beyond that, into the general community.”

—**Christ H. Economos**, Chair, Orthodox Christian Studies Advisory Council

Recent Economos Lectures

- 2021:** “Returning to Normalcy and the Sacrament of Penance,” by His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church
- 2020:** “The Future of Orthodox–Catholic Relations in the USA,” by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- 2019:** “Theological Education in the 21st Century,” by the Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, Father Georges Florovsky Distinguished Professor of Patristics, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary
- 2018:** “Presenting Byzantium in the Modern World,” by Helen Evans, Ph.D., Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator of Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art
- 2017:** “Orthodoxy in America and America’s Orthodoxies,” by David Bentley Hart, Research Fellow at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study
- 2016:** “Religion in America through Orthodox Eyes: The Travelogue of a Nineteenth-Century Russian Orthodox Thinker” by Vera Shevzov, Professor of Religious Studies, Smith College
- 2014:** Rowan Williams, 104th Archbishop of Canterbury and Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters, *honoris causa*, and presented the Annual Orthodoxy in America Lecture on September 30, 2014, University Church, Rose Hill Campus, Fordham University.
- 2014:** “Sharing the Good News in a Multi-Religious Country: Theological Reflections on Other Religions” by His Beatitude Anastasios, Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës, and All Albania
- 2012:** “How the Philokalic Tradition Came To Modern America—And What America Made Of It” by the Very Rev. John Anthony McGuckin, Ane Marie and Bent Emil Nielson Professor of Byzantine Christian Studies, Columbia University; Director, Sophia Institute, the William and Maria Spears International Center for Orthodox Thought and Culture
- 2011:** “A Reflection on Contemplation, Speculation, and Action in Orthodox Theology” by David Tracy, S.T.L., S.T.D., Professor of Theology at the University of Chicago
- 2010:** “Perceptions and Realities in Orthodox-Catholic Relations Today: Reflections on the Past, Prospects for the Future” by Robert F. Taft, SJ, Professor Emeritus of Oriental Liturgy at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome
- 2009:** “Discerning God’s Presence in the World,” by His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch
- 2009:** “The Future of Orthodox Christianity in America: A Normative Approach,” by Rev. Dr. Stanley Harakas, the Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology, Emeritus, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.
- 2008:** “Women’s Voices Bearing Witness: Biblical Memories in Ancient Orthodox Liturgy” by Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University
- 2007:** “Heart in Pilgrimage: St. Augustine’s Reading of the Psalms,” by Rev. Dr. Andrew Louth, Durham University
- 2006:** “In the World, Not of the World, for the Sake of the World: Orthodoxy and American Culture,” by Albert J. Raboteau, Henry W. Putnam Professor of Religion at Princeton University
- 2005:** “Ecological Crisis: Ecological Hope Our Orthodox Vision of Creation,” by His Grace Bishop Kallistos Ware of Diokleia
- 2004:** “The Dynamics of the Orthodox Faith in Contemporary America,” by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



The Solon and Marianna Patterson Triennial Conference on Christian Unity

Held every three years, this two-day conference of panels and lectures fosters contemporary conversation on Orthodox and Catholic relations for an international audience. The series premiered in June 2007, with a conference examining the place of St. Augustine in the Orthodox Church and the Latin doctor's potential to be seen as a bridge between East and West rather than an obstacle to ecumenical understanding. The sixth Patterson Triennial Conference will be held May 31 through June 3, 2022, on the theme "Nicaea, Conciliarity, and the Future of Christianity."

Past Patterson Triennial Conferences

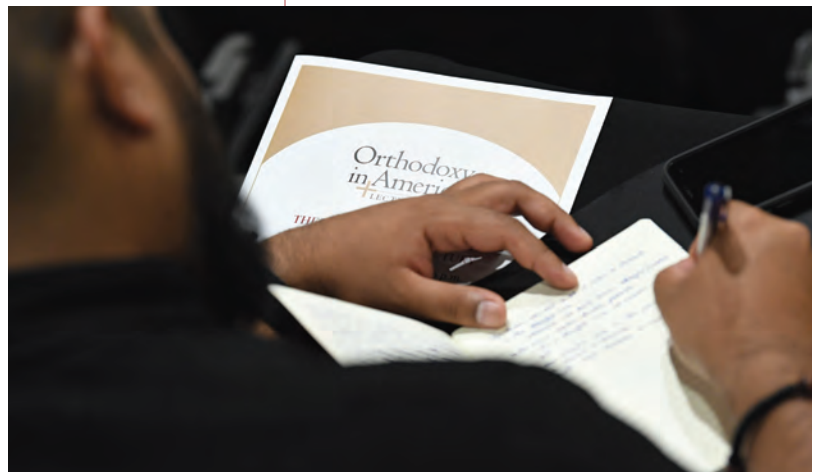
- 2019: "Faith, Reason, Theosis"
- 2016: "Tradition, Secularization, Fundamentalism"
- 2013: "Christianity, Democracy, and the Shadow of Constantine"
- 2010: "Orthodox Constructions of the West"
- 2007: "Orthodox Readings of Augustine"

The Patterson Triennial Conference is made possible through the generosity of Solon and Marianna Patterson.

Webinar Series Extend the Center's Global Reach

In 2020–2021, the Center launched three webinar series that have attracted viewers from around the world, including university students, professors, seminarians, priests, bishops, laypeople, and others.

After the launch of *Women Scholars of Orthodox Christianity*, the Center's YouTube channel had a **500%** increase in global viewership to **70,000**.





“The Center has without question established itself as a leading light for Orthodoxy today: for scholarship, theology, politics, and cultural issues; for conversation, dialogue, and fearless consideration of the future. It is a beacon of hope.

“The series on Women Scholars of Orthodox Christianity has been a game changer. The sheer breadth of scholarship has been noteworthy: across academic disciplines, time periods, geographical regions, methodologies, and with a truly international slate of guests. It is profoundly heartening to see the importance of women’s contributions to the study of Orthodoxy.”

—Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Ph.D., Professor of Religious Studies, Brown University

“The Orthodox Christian Studies Center is a unique and remarkable endeavor, providing not only scholarships and resources for those interested in pursuing further studies into all aspects of Orthodox theology and culture, but through their lecture series and the *Public Orthodoxy* website, facilitating an open space for serious, insightful, courteous, critical (in the proper sense of that word), and critically important discussion. There is nothing quite like it, and for this we are profoundly grateful.”

—The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr, Father Georges Florovsky Distinguished Professor of Patristics, St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary

Women Scholars of Orthodox Christianity focuses on the contributions and scholarship of Orthodox Christian women from across disciplines and jurisdictions. The series, launched in 2020, is funded by annual support from an anonymous donor and has brought greater awareness not only to the Center but also to the incredible work and experiences of these women, which include professors, diplomats, and theologians.

Episode 1: Susan Ashbrook Harvey (June 2020)

Episode 2: Nadieszda Kizenko (June 2020)

Episode 3: Dame Averil Cameron (June 2020)

Episode 4: Vera Shevzov (July 2020)

Episode 5: Mariz Tadros (July 2020)

Episode 6: Elizabeth Prodromou (August 2020)

Episode 7: Bissera V. Pentcheva (August 2020)

Episode 8: Kristina Stoeckl (September 2020)

Episode 9: Carrie Frederick-Frost (October 2020)

Episode 10: Elizabeth Clark (October 2020)

Episode 11: Effie Fokas (November 2020)

Episode 12: Febe Armanios (December 2020)

Episode 13: Tamara Grdzeldze (February 2021)

Episode 14: Lori Branch (April 2021)

Episode 15: Ina Merdjanova (December 2021)

Episode 16: Gabrielle Thomas and Elena Narinskaya (February 2022)

Episode 17: Romina Istratii (March 2022)

Episode 18: Sarah Riccardi-Swartz (April 2022)

Orthodox Scholars Preach, launched in February 2021, provides a space for Orthodox scholars and others interested in Orthodox spirituality to encounter the depth and richness of the tradition through stimulating, theologically informed discussion and teachings. The series is produced in partnership with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The Geopolitical Event series draws on the broad geographic reach of Orthodoxy, this series highlights topics important to Orthodox communities around the globe and emphasizes timely analysis. In fall 2021, for example, the Center held a webinar titled “The Migrant Crisis and the Orthodox Church in Belarus” and launched a book talk series devoted to all things Russia, hosted by Michael Ossorgin, Ph.D., director of the Russian program and advanced lecturer in Russian at Fordham University. More recently, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Center convened a panel discussion titled “Religion, Russia, Ukraine.”

For a complete list of past and upcoming lectures, visit fordham.edu/orthodoxy.

Vision for the Future

“We started off with high expectations about the Center, but they’ve really exceeded our hopes and accomplished so much in this first decade. This has been an exciting project for us to watch grow and come to where it is today. We think the future for the Center is tremendous, and we’re excited for what’s to come.”

—Solon Patterson and Marianna Patterson,
Advisory Council Members and Longtime Benefactors
of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center

Through its commitment to probing scholarship and open dialogue, the Orthodox Christian Studies Center has engaged a dynamic, multigenerational audience since 2012, and become a trusted source for learners around the world.

As we enter our second decade, we believe in the Center’s extraordinary potential to bring the resources of academic research and insight to more Orthodox Christian parishes throughout the United States and to an even broader global public.

As part of Cura Personalis | For Every Fordham Student, the University’s fundraising campaign to enhance the entire student experience, we have launched our own \$5 million campaign to create a permanent home for the Center in Loyola Hall on Fordham’s Rose Hill campus and a permanent research endowment for Orthodox Christian studies.

By continuing to educate students and support the world’s leading minds in this discipline, we will extend understanding of the history, thought, and culture of Orthodox Christianity—and how it can be harnessed to respond to some of the world’s greatest challenges.

We are deeply thankful to the countless students, faculty, visiting scholars, guests, and benefactors who have contributed their time, talent, and financial support to help make the Center what it is today. We look forward to your continued loyalty as we advance our mission into the next decade and beyond, fostering greater understanding and developing a deeper sense of community both near and far.

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* Deceased

FCLC Fordham College at Lincoln Center
FCRH Fordham College at Rose Hill
GABELLI Gabelli School of Business
GSAS Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
LAW Fordham Law School
PAR Parent of a Fordham student or graduate
PHA College of Pharmacy

10TH ANNIVERSARY



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