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Salt of the Earth

Orthodoxy and Otherness
in the Modern World

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International Conference

Thursday 3 November 2022

Audiovisual Hall, Faculty of Theology

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Remote online participation



Jointly organized by the School of Theology,
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)
and the international scholarly journal
Salt: Crossroad of Religion and Culture
on the occasion of the release
of the inaugural issue Nr 1.

The Dean's Office of the Faculty of Theology
of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
and the international theological journal
Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture
have the honour to invite you to an international Conference with the topic



Salt of the Earth

Orthodoxy and Otherness in the Modern World

The Conference will address issues of Cross-Cultural Theology, Dialogue, Anthropology and Mission.

The Conference will take place on 3 November 2022 in the Audiovisual Hall of the Faculty of Theology and online at the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/8199745806?pwd=V1FicExVZkJoK3Q3THB2c0MvemVMQT09>



Session 1

10:00–12:30 am (Athens time)

Theology at the Crossroads

Presentation of *Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture*

Presiding and opening welcome: Prof. Christos Karagiannis, Dean of the School of Theology, 10'

Greetings:

- Rector of the NKUA Prof. Meletios Athanasios Dimopoulos (Medical School), 5'
- Vice Rector of the NKUA Prof. Nikolaos Voulgaris (Geology and Geo-environment Department), 5'
- Representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch, 5'
- Representative of the Archbishopric of Athens, 5'
- President of the Patriarchal Institution of Orthodox Mission in the Far East, Prof. Sotirios Despotis, 5'
- Chair of the Department of Theology, Prof. Dimitrios Moschos, 5'
- Chair of the Department of Social Theology, his Eminence Metrop. of Nea Krini Prof. Kyrillos Katerellos, 5'

Speeches:

Dr **Evi Voulgaraki-Pissina**, ΕΔΙΠ [Lecturing] in Missiology, Editor-in-Chief of *Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture*

***Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture. An Orthodox Journal of Cross-Cultural Theology, Dialogue and Mission: An Orientation*, 15'**

This presentation will tell a story. The story of the meeting of Orthodox missiologists worldwide and the emergence of a new scholarly journal, much needed amidst the theological debates of our times. How an Editorial and Advisory Board were shaped, how objectives were formulated, how a website, saltalas.com, was built, how a publisher, Maistros Publications came to support, how the National and Kapodistrian University funded the printing of the Inaugural issue Nr. 1, how a non-profit scholarly Association (Remembering the Vanguard, Opening New Paths | mnimi-protoporia.com) came into being to further support *Salt* and Missiological Studies more broadly. The presentation will guide us through the sections and the pages of *Salt* and finally make a statement on the rich tradition and the future prospects of Missiological studies worldwide.



Evangelia Voulgaraki-Pissina (born 1964 in Athens) is lecturing in Missiology at the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She teaches "Missiology," "Interfaith Dialogue" at under-graduate level, and "Patristics and Mission," "Orthodoxy in Africa," "Witness, Diaconia and Politics" and "Identity and Otherness from

a Theological Perspective" at post-graduate level. She has been internationally active in the WCC, SYNDESMOS and the Balkan Orthodox Youth Association. She is now a member of the Steering Committee of the Missiology Group of IOTA, director of Production at Maistros Publications and Editor in Chief of *Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture*. She is the President of the Scholarly Association of Intercultural, Interreligious and Orthodox Missionary Studies "Remembering the Vanguard, Opening New Paths." Her latest book is *Persuasion and Coercion: Babylon versus Apollo. An Example of Religious Conflict in Late Antiquity*. Athens: Maistros, 2022 (in Greek).

His eminence Kyrillos (Katerelos), Metropolitan of Krini and Exarch of Malta

Theology of Religion: Traditional and Modern Approaches, 15'

It goes without saying that every religion makes a claim to truth and even absolute truth. Otherwise, there would be no reason for it to exist. A single absolute truth and at the same time a plurality of truths outside of it is, however, not logically possible. This presentation will discuss the problem posed by this antinomy, in the face of the plurality of modern society and the need for peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths, from the perspective of Christian and Orthodox theology. Inclusivism, exclusivism and religious pluralism are distinct tendencies that prevail in today's discussion. Interiorism is yet another school of thought, which was developed primarily in Germany. After discussing these main trends and their representatives, this presentation will turn an eye to the ancient patristic tradition and to Orthodox approaches within modernity, and propose criteria for a Theology of Religions and the formation of a global ethos.



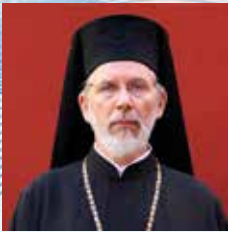
His Eminence Kyrillos (Katerelos, born Evangelos) is the Metropolitan of Krini and Exarch of Malta (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople). A theologian, church historian, and canonist, he is currently a Professor of Historical Dogmatics and President at the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, NKUA. He

completed his studies in law, philology, and theology at the University of Athens. He pursued graduate studies in theology in France and Germany, obtaining a master's degree from the University of Strasbourg and a Ph.D. from the University of Freiburg, as well as a second Ph.D. from the University of Thessaloniki. His pastoral ministry began in Church of Greece in 1983. He has served a number of parishes in Greece the Metropolis of Germany. The Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elected him to bishop of Abydos on February 7, 2008. On February 16, 2021, the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elected him Metropolitan of Krini and Exarch of Malta. He has a distinguished academic career, being invited to many Universities to teach. As of 2017, Katerelos is President Emeritus of the Society for the Law of Eastern Churches, after serving as its president for the better part of a decade. He is polyglot and a prolific author. His research interests include Historical Dogmatics, Primacy, Theology of Religions, and Liberation Theology.

His eminence **Cleopas (Strongylis) of Sweden and all Scandinavia**

Missionary Work in the Northern Lands: An Empirical Perspective, 15'

Missionary work is likely best known for the evangelization of populations living in third world countries and extreme poverty. However, the mission of the Church and its charge inherently extends to all peoples, irrespective of race, ethnicity, or financial status. This includes citizens and residents of "developed nations," an increasing number of whom are unchurched or in search of Christ's truth either due to being raised in other faiths or denominations, which they eventually abandoned, or a highly secularized environment hostile to the message of the Gospel. This presentation provides a brief overview of the missionary outreach conducted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate's northernmost eparchy, the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia, over the past eight years to minister to the various populations of the Northern Lands based on the empirical account of its local spiritual leader His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia.



His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia, Exarch of the Northern Lands, was born in Nea Smyrni, Athens in 1966. He studied Theology at the Universities of Athens, Thessaloniki, Durham (England),

the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, Harvard Divinity School, and Boston University. He was ordained a Deacon and Presbyterian by the ever-memorable Metropolitan Cleopas of Thessaliois. He served as a clergyman in the Holy Metropolis of Thessaliois, as well as the Holy Archdioceses of Thyateira and America, as well as a university professor at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Queens College, and the University of Massachusetts. Eleven of his studies have been published in Greek and English, as well as numerous papers in theological journals in Greece and abroad. He was elected Metropolitan of Sweden on May 5, 2014 and ordained to the episcopacy by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on May 21, 2014.

Rev. Prof. **Andrew Louth**

Patristic Tradition and Christian Mission in Modern Times, 15'

If we look back to patristic tradition for some guidance on Christian mission in modern times, immediately we face something like a contradiction. The NT, with Jesus' last earthly command (Matt. 28: 19), the (selective) account of the spread of the Church in Acts, fleshed out in the Apostle Paul's letters, makes mission central; yet by the end of the fourth century—St John Chrysostom is an example—mission as conversion of pagans is not at all emphasized; the Gospel *has* been proclaimed to the whole inhabited world, the *oikoumene*, and we now await the return of Christ. Furthermore, recent historical scholarship on Christian mission suggests that a grand narrative, with saintly bishops proclaiming the gospel, often at the cost of a martyr's death, overlooks the real importance of the spread of the faith by lay Christians, e.g., merchants, and reveals that the complex interplay between politics and mission, familiar in early modern experience of mission as muddying the picture, is of long standing. My brief contribution will reflect on these *aporiai*.



Andrew Louth is Professor Emeritus, University of Durham, Honorary Fellow of the St Irenaeus Orthodox Theological Institute, Radboud, Nijmegen, Fellow of the British Academy, and Archpriest of the Diocese of Sourozh. His publications include *Denys the Areopagite* (1989), *Maximus the Confessor* (1996), and *St John Damascene* (2002), and, more recently: *Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology* (2013) and *Modern Orthodox Thinkers: From the Philokalia to the Present* (2015).

Discussion (55')

Coffee Break (30')

Session 2

13:00–15:00 am (Athens time)

Our Worldwide Neighbourhood

Round-Table Reflections
on the Future of Missiology
and World Christianity

Presiding: Dr Alison Kolosova, Missiology

Prof. **Brian Stanley**. Prof. of World Christianity, University of Edinburgh

World Christianity in the 20th and 21st Century and the Study of Missiology,15'

Professor Stanley will reflect on important trends in the evolution of missiology or 'the science of missions' (Missionswissenschaft) since its origins in late 19th-century Germany, and relate these to the more recent emergence of World Christianity as a multi-disciplinary area of study that gives particular attention to the growth of both historic and new forms of Christianity in the global south.



Professor Brian Stanley has been Professor of World Christianity in the University of Edinburgh since 2009. From 1996 to 2008 he was based in the University of Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of St Edmund's College, and Director of the Currents in World Christianity project, based in the Faculty of Divinity. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of ten books, including *The World Missionary Conference, Edinburgh 1910* (2009), and *Christianity in the Twentieth Century: A World History* (2018). His numerous articles include 'The Changing Face of Mission Studies since the Late Nineteenth Century' in *The Oxford Handbook of Mission Studies* (2022).

Prof. **Mika Vähäkangas**, director of the Polin Institute for Theological Research of Åbo Akademi University, Finland

The Future of Missiologies in the 21st Century, 15'

The planet has perhaps never needed more understanding on human encounters than today, including those between people of different faiths. The complex problems of the world require interreligious and -cultural cooperation. Mission studies is a discipline that specializes on such encounters. In that sense, one could imagine that mission studies would be in high demand everywhere. Yet, chairs and programs of mission studies are being closed down due to the fact that in much of academic world, the concept Christian mission has got contaminated by its colonial and triumphalist connotations. In part, the missiologists themselves are to blame for failing to keep a healthy critical distance between their discipline and the mission it studies. In part, the modern secular mindset has painted a simplistic somber picture of Christian mission and the study of it. There are three prospects for mission studies: One is simply to disappear as a discipline and be carried out by other fields of study such as general history or intercultural studies. The other alternative is to change the name to a less contaminated one and the third one is to reclaim the concept mission to a decolonial new use. All the three solutions are in use in different parts of the world. What appears as obvious is that no general consensus will emerge as to the meaning and nature of the concept of mission and subsequently mission studies.



Prof. Mika Vähäkangas is the director of Polin Institute for theological research of Åbo Akademi University, Finland and extraordinary professor at Stellenbosch University and University of the Western Cape (both South Africa). He has formerly served as Lund University (Sweden) professor in mission studies and ecumenics and president of the International Association for Mission Studies as well as lectured systematic theology at Makumira University College (Tanzania). His publications include *Context, Plurality, and Truth: Theology in World Christianities* (Wipf & Stock 2020), *Contextual Theology: Skills and Practices of Liberating Faith* (edited with Sigurd Bergmann, Routledge 2021) and *Faith in African Christian Theology: Bridging Anthropological and Theological Perspectives* (edited with Karen Lauterbach, Brill 2020).

Dr **Alison Ruth Kolosova**, Research Fellow, Tartu University, Estonia. Co-Chair of the Missiology Group of IOTA (International Orthodox Theological Association). Assistant Editor in *Salt*

A Demanding Branch of Theology: Why Study Missiology?, 15'

This talk will provide a brief overview of the awakening of Orthodox missiology in the 19th-20th centuries against the background of emigration and diaspora, Orthodox mission in Africa and Asia, new forms of witness in post-Communist societies, and Orthodox engagement in ecumenical missiological reflection. It will highlight the challenges facing missiology, and especially Orthodox missiology in the contemporary world: the negative connotations and wide variety of understandings of the term and practice of mission, lack of clarity as to how missiology relates to other theological disciplines, the neglect of missiological teaching and research in Orthodox theological institutions, the interdisciplinary nature of missiology. The speaker will argue, however, that there is a pressing need to improve the profile of missiology at all educational levels for both clergy and laity in order to raise awareness of the missionary dimension of the Church's entire being and her missionary heritage throughout history, and to promote vision of a Church which exists not for herself, but for the life of the world.



Alison Ruth Kolosova studied theology at the St Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute, Paris, before completing her PhD at Durham University, UK on the impact of the missionary movement associated with Nikolai Il'minskii on the culture and history of the Turkic Chuvash of Russia's Volga-Kama region where she lives. She held a

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Institute of Cultural Research, University of Tartu, Estonia which enabled her to broaden her research to cover the Finno-Ugric peoples of the Mid-Volga. She serves on the International Governance Committee of the International Orthodox Theological Association, of which she co-chairs the Missiology Steering Committee and is the Dean of the Scholarly Association of Intercultural, Interreligious and Orthodox Missionary Studies "Remembering the Vanguard, Opening New Paths." She also serves on the European Board of the International Association of Mission Studies. She is currently a Research Fellow in Church History at the School of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia.

Eirini Christinaki, Prof. of Canon Law, NKUA

The Missiological Tradition and Heritage of the School of Theology, NKUA, 15'

It has often been claimed that the Orthodox do not have a missionary or a missiological tradition. This may have seemed partly true, due to historical circumstances, namely the abrupt interruption of the Russian missions in their heyday by the October Revolution (1917) and the vulnerability and weakness of the Greek state, as well as most Balkan states, concentrating on their national liberation struggles from the Ottoman empire. Nevertheless, historical adversities do not mean that there is neither mission nor missiological reflection among the Orthodox. The Faculty of Theology has a preeminent and leading role in raising missiological awareness and researching in the field of Missiology. Late Prof. Leonidas Fillipides was the first to include missiological classes in his Study of Religion main course. He was the key person who assisted the founding of a University seat. The actual founder of Missiology as an academic branch was the late Prof. Elias Voulgarakis, who with his extensive research linked modern Missiology to the ancient patristic tradition. At the same time, the Archbishop of Albania Anastasios Yannoulatos, a world-renowned personality was not only a Prof. of History of Religions but an active missionary, who gave mission, in praxis and in theory, a worldwide appeal. When the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion was founded as a "Pastoral Department" in 1983, these two Professors, along with the equally preeminent Prof. of the Philosophy of Religions, the late Nikos Nissiotis, founded within the Department the division of Study of Religion, Philosophy of Religion and Missiology, giving a new momentum to Missiological Studies. This presentation will discuss History and its many turns but will also reflect on the present and the future contribution of the Faculty of Theology.



Eirini P. Christinaki-Glarou is a lawyer and theologian, Full Professor at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, specializing in "Canon Law", and Legal Advisor to the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece. Since 1993 until today she has been practicing the profession of advocate and legal advisor to institutions and companies. She has been a member of the Board of Directors and General Secretary of the Vienna-based International Society for the Law of Eastern Churches for several years (2007-2017). Her research work is very extensive, in the fields of Theology and Law, with decades of books and hundreds of articles.

Rev. Prof. **Cristian Sonea**, Prof. in Cluj

The need for Missiology in Orthodox Theological Institutions, 15'

The presence of Missiology as an academic discipline in the faculties of Orthodox theology is a novelty if we compare Missiology with other theological disciplines. However, its necessity is observable in a world in continuous change, in which theology must rediscover the dynamism of Patristic thought and give living answers to the fundamental questions of human communities. For this reason, my paper will argue for the importance of Missiology as an academic discipline in the theological curriculum and the importance of the missionary perspective of all theological disciplines taught in Orthodox higher educational institutions.



Cristian Sonea is an Associate Professor for Orthodox Missiology at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology from "Babes-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, and an Orthodox priest from the Romanian Orthodox Church. Broadly,

his research concerns contemporary theology of orthodox mission and the common Christian witness. He is also interested in ecumenical theology and is actively involved in ecumenical dialogues. He is the director of the "Center for Mission and Nomocanonical Studies" ("Babes-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca) and the Europe representative of the International Association for Missions Studies.

Discussion (45')

Lunch Break (60')

Session 3

16:00–18:30 am (Athens time)

A Vast Spectrum of Perspectives and Methodologies

Presiding: Dr Evi Voulgaraki, Missiology

Rev. Archim. Dr Cand. **Athanase Kayembe Badibanga**

Is there Room for an African Voice in World Orthodoxy?, 15'

African society is called to receive the Gospel within the framework of its civilization, its social structures, and its currents of thought. This encounter was complicated by the fact that, nascent Christianity found itself having to live through two closely interwoven confrontations: [1] one, internal, due to the encounter between the Gospel and the host society; [2] the other, external, arising from the presence of an imported Christianity. In addition to the difficulties of rooting the Gospel in African societies, it needs to be taken into consideration that all aspects of life in these societies were already infused with religion. Consequently, could a Western Christianity that distinguished, or even separated, social activities from worship be acceptable as a system of thought and faith for those who united in their lives these two realities—social and spiritual? The problem still exists today, and in a more crucial way, since Christianity is considered a purely spiritual religion and material and social problems remain in the domain of other religious practices. This presentation will discuss the relation of culture and religion, from the perspective of Orthodox faith, taking also into consideration that in Africa, for some, the return to our cultures means the return to our traditional African religions. The aim of this presentation is to provoke an authentic encounter between the Gospel and culture.



Rev. Athanase Kayembe Badibanga is an archimandrite at the Holy Metropolis of Guinea and Director of the Patriarchal Library of Alexandria. Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he completed his basic studies in the Orthodox missionary school “Light of the Nations” in Kananga. He then studied Pedagogy in Mweka, Congo, and Psychology and Educational Science at the University of Kinshasa. He served as a teacher at the school “Light of the Nations” (2005-2008) and was tonsured a monk in Kananga (2006). Having received scholarships from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Greece), the Church of Greece and the Patriarchate of Alexandria, he continued his studies in Greece, respectively in Theology (NKUA), and subsequently he received an MPhil in “History of Doctrines”, Department of Theology (NKUA) (2016). He is now a doctoral candidate at the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion (NKUA). He was ordained a deacon in June 2015 and a presbyter in July 2015, when he also received the honorary distinction of an archimandrite. He speaks Greek and French fluently, as well as Lingala and Tshiluba.

Prof. Frances Kostarelos

The Orthodox Church in the United States in the Context of the SALT Project, 15'

In this account, I reflect and discuss conceptual and historical approaches framed in the first issue of *Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture* and wider SALT initiatives as they relate to reforming a declining Orthodox Church in the United States. I present empirical data on social forces giving way to Orthodox Church decline in the United States. I examine the cultures of ethnocentrism, religious fundamentalism, patriarchy, racial prejudice and discrimination, homophobia, globalization, neoliberal economics, individualism and unbridled consumption in the face of accelerated climate change, socio-economic inequality, and climate catastrophes shaping a contested system of beliefs and practices defining Orthodox Christian institutions, identities, and lived experiences in the United States. I conclude with a reflection on theological perspectives, concepts, and historical accounts articulated in the SALT project as resources for rethinking, reimagining, and planning for an inclusive and welcoming Orthodox Church in the context of a complex and dynamic plural and fractured society and religious landscape.



Professor Frances Kostarelos teaches in the Sociology and Anthropology and Political and Justice Studies Programs at Governors State University. She holds a doctorate from the University of Chicago in Cultural Anthropology. Her research interests include race, ethnicity, social class, religious fundamentalism, cultural ecology, environmental justice, and Orthodox Christian theology. She has conducted ethnographic research among American evangelicals and Orthodox Christians in the United States. Her current research includes religious pluralism, social forces shaping the Orthodox Church in the United States, cultural ecology and Orthodox theology, and the role of the Greek Orthodox Church in sustaining rural Greek communities. She has participated in several Lilly Endowment projects hosted by the Institute for the Study of American Evangelicals at Wheaton College and Christian liberal arts colleges across the United States.

Prof. Andrew Sharp

Can Interreligious Engagement of the Orthodox benefit the Formation of a Global Ethic?, 15'

This presentation will identify some of the compelling theological and sociological questions that animate an Orthodox approach to “ethical” issues having a global impact and suggest there is a need for a new paradigm in Orthodox thought and practice in order to address today’s global ethical challenges. It will argue that Orthodox leaders at all levels of influence (be it international, regional, national, or local) can most effectively respond to global issues by engaging in dialogue with those of other religious traditions and working together with them toward practical solutions. The speaker will suggest that, in an age when people across the globe question the effectiveness of governments and the United Nations, religion has a unique role to play in helping to meet today’s most vexing global challenges.



Andrew M. Sharp is a Lecturer and Project Manager at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University’s School of Public and International Affairs. He has a broad and diverse background in higher education – having served in faculty and/or leadership positions at the University of Virginia, College of William and Mary, University of Richmond, South University, and Virginia Commonwealth University – and in state and local government in Virginia and Ohio (USA). He received his PhD from the University of Birmingham (UK) and holds graduate degrees from the University of Virginia and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. He has worked with undergraduate and post-graduate students in the areas of theology, ministry, Islam, Muslim-Christian relations, global ethics, world religions, international studies, and public administration. He is author of *Orthodox Christians and Islam in the Postmodern Age* (Brill, 2012) – released also in Turkish (2016) by Tekin Publications – and several chapters and articles on Eastern Christianity, Islam, and Muslim-Christian relations. His chapter on, “Building a New Paradigm to Save the Planet: Lessons from Scientific Inquiry and Technological Innovation in Byzantine and Islamicate Civilizations,” will appear in the forthcoming edited volume from Brill on Eastern Orthodoxy and World Religions. He serves on the advisory board of *Salt: Crossroads of Religion and Culture* and is a member of the International Orthodox Theological Association and the American Academy of Religion. His current book project is about perspectives of key Muslim and Orthodox leaders in debates surrounding climate change.

Rev. Dr **Stephen Headley**

Anthropology and Faith: A Methodological, Cross-cultural Approach, 15'

The world wide spread of secularization has one advantage. It reminds us that there is something, someone missing. Our constitution, our anthropology as human beings is dialogical. If the separation of church and state was an excellent idea to prevent the church from instrumentalizing the state, the result was that the state found it in its own interest to contribute to a collapse of the Christian hierarchy of values in Western Europe. The exclusive ethos of citizenship that it has proved to be a moral disaster. What to do about it now that it is all over? This presentation will discuss harsh dilemmas of our times in a cross-cultural approach that bring together anthropology and faith.



Stephen C. Headley (1943-) is an Orthodox priest (Moscow Patriarchate) who studied theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (New York) and l'Institut St. Serge (Paris). After a BA and MA in oriental studies at Columbia University (1965-1969), a diploma in Sanskrit philology at the EPHE (4th section, Paris; 1972) and a doctorate in social anthropology at the EHESS (Paris, 1979), he did research at the CNRS (Paris) from 1981 to 2008. Currently, with two other priests, he serves in the Orthodox parish in Vézelay (France). He is the author of many books.

Prof. **Paul Gavrilyuk**, President of IOTA

Why Mission and Missiology are Priorities for Orthodoxy in the 3rd Millenium, 15'

The report proposes a new, missiological and catechetical approach to neopatristic theology. I argue that the approach of the Church Fathers to catechumenate and Christian rites of initiations has much to teach us today. Specifically, I look at the role of bishops as catechists and teachers in the fourth century. I also discuss the approaches of the Church Fathers to the Christianization of culture.



Dr. Paul Gavrilyuk is the Aquinas Chair in Theology and Philosophy at the University of St Thomas, St Paul, MN.

He is the author of several books, including, *The History of the Catechumenate in the Early Church* (original in Russian, with translations in French and Romanian). He is the founding president of the International Orthodox Theological Association -- a scholarly society which includes over 1,000 Orthodox scholars, church leaders, and professionals worldwide. The theme of IOTA's mega-conference in Volos, Greece in January 2023, will be all aspects of the church's mission. He is also the founding president of Rebuild Ukraine -- a non-profit that provides humanitarian aid to Ukraine's defenders, refugees, and children affected by the war.

Discussion (45')

Review of the key points of the Conference and Conclusion (30')



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