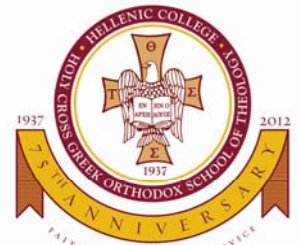




MISSIONS INSTITUTE
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

A MISSIONS CONFERENCE
at
Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek
Orthodox School of Theology



**Orthodox Theological Schools/Seminaries in America &
Their Role in the Global Missionary Movement**

“Orthodox Missions and the Resurrection of the Church of Albania”

Metropolitan John (Pelushi) of Korca

EFOM Missions Lecture - 7:00pm, Thursday, November 17



METROPOLITAN JOHN OF KORCA (Albania) grew up in the only country in the world that closed all churches and mosques and forbade any expression of religion from 1967-1991. Coming from a Bektashi (Islamic) family, he discovered Christianity and was baptized during one of the most dangerous periods in Albania’s communist history. He eventually emigrated to the USA, where he studied at Holy Cross and returned to Albania to serve as Dean of the Resurrection of Christ Theological Academy, and then Metropolitan of Korca.

“Historical Connection of Holy Cross & St. Vladimir Graduates in Missions”

9:30, Friday, November 18



REV. DR. MICHAEL OLEKSA has served as an Orthodox priest in dozens of native Alaskan villages over the past 40 years. He is recognized as an “elder” by the Alaska Federation of Natives, and is a specialist in cross-cultural education. He authored *Orthodox Alaska, Alaskan Missionary Spirituality*, and published a book in collaboration with Alaska School Boards entitled *Another Culture/Another World*



FR. LUKE A. VERONIS is the Director of the Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity at HC/HC, and has served with his family as a former long-term missionary for 12 years in Kenya and Albania. He has led 10 short-term mission teams in various places around the world. He is the author of *Go Forth: Stories of Missions and Resurrection in Albania, Missionaries, Monks and Martyrs: Making Disciples of All Nations* and edited *Lynette’s Hope*.

“From Holy Cross to the World: The Orthodox Christian Mission Center”

11:00, Friday, November 18



FR. MARTIN RITSI is the Executive Director for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) and has served as a long-term missionary, together with his family, in Kenya and Albania for more than 10 years. He has traveled the world over, helping to build up and strengthen the global church through his work and outreach with the OCMC.

“From Atheist Rocker to Faith to Serving the Poor in Sierra Leone”

1:00, Friday, November 18



REV. DR. THEMI ADAMOPOULO played in the rock band “The Flies,” which toured Australia with the Rolling Stones. His journey took him from existential atheism, back to his Greek Orthodox roots, into the priesthood. A graduate from HC, Harvard, Princeton and Brown, he went on to become a missionary for the past 20 years in Africa, serving in Kenya and now Sierra Leone. The secular media has called him *Australia’s Mother Teresa*, as he serves among the poorest of the poor.

Theological Schools Today and Their Involvement in the Missionary Movement”

2:00, Friday, November 18

Panel Discussion

MONDAY, NOV 14

5:00 pm - Fr. Themis Adamopoulos on “*Capturing the Mission Spirit*” (HC Chapel)

6:40 pm - Fr. Michael Oleksa speaking in Dr. Patitsas’ class *Theology of Beauty*

6:40pm - Fr. Themis Adamopoulos speaking in Fr. Clapsis class *Theology of Religions*

Metropolitan John of Korca will speak at St. Tikhon’s Seminary (Pennsylvania) on “*Orthodox Missions and the Church of Albania*”

TUESDAY, NOV 15

9:00 am - Fr. Themis Adamopoulos speaking in Dr. Patitsas’ *Ethics Class*

2:00 pm - Fr. Michael Oleksa and Fr. Themis Adamopoulos – “*Witnessing Christ to Non-Christians*” (World Religions Class)

5:00 pm - Fr. Michael Oleksa on “*American Saints*” (HC Chapel)

6:40 pm - “*Understanding Cultures, Missions and Missionary Outreach*” – Fr. Michael and Fr. Themis (Creating a Missions Minded Church class)

WEDNESDAY, NOV 16

2:10 pm - Metr. John speaking in Dr. Mamalakis’ class on *Servant Leadership*

5:00 pm - Metropolitan John of Korca speaking on “*A Journey of Faith*” (HC Chapel)

7:00 pm - An evening with Metr. John, and Frs. Oleksa and Adamopoulos.

THURSDAY, NOV 17

9:30 am – Missions Institute Board Meeting

9:00am - Metr. John speaking in Dr. Patitsas’ *Ethics*

12:00 pm - Lunch with Missions Institute Board and Guest Speakers – “*How Can the Missions Institute Prepare Seminarians for the Mission Field?*”

2:10 pm Fr. Themis and Fr. Michael in Dr. Mamalakis’ class on *Servant Leadership*

5:00 pm - Fr. Martin Ritsi “*The Call of the Nations*” (HC Chapel)

7:00pm **ANNUAL EFOM MISSIONS LECTURE**

Wine and Cheese Reception

Metropolitan John on “*Orthodox Missions and the Church of Albania*”

FRIDAY, NOV 18

ALL DAY MISSIONS CONFERENCE
“Orthodox Theological Schools and Seminaries in America and Their Role in Global Missions”

9:30 - Welcome by Fr Thomas Fitzgerald
Welcome by Fr. Luke A. Veronis

9:45 “*The Historical Role of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and St. Vladimir’s Seminar in the Global Missionary Movement over the past 75 Years*” (Fr. Luke A. Veronis and Fr. Michael Oleksa)

11:00 “*From Holy Cross to the OCMC*” (Fr. Martin & Presb Renee Ritsi)

12:15 Lunch

1:00 “*A Journey from Atheism to Faith to the Mission Field: Serving the Poorest of the Poor in Sierra Leone*” (Fr. Themis Adamopoulos)

2:15 “*What Our Theological Schools Can Do to Promote and Support the Missionary Movement*” A panel discussion with Metropolitan John, Fr. Themis Adamopoulos Fr. Michael Oleksa, and Fr. Martin Ritsi. Moderated by Fr Luke Veronis. Student questions and participation encouraged!

SATURDAY, NOV 19

9:00 Women’s Breakfast with Pres. Renee Ritsi former missionary to Kenya & Albania

7:00 Fr. Themis Adamopoulos speaking at St. Vladimir’s Seminary “*A Journey from Atheism to Faith to the Mission Field: Serving the Poorest of the Poor in Sierra Leone*”