

Boston Theological Institute

Andover Newton Theological School • Boston College Department of Theology & IREPM • Boston University School of Theology
 Episcopal Divinity School • Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary • Harvard Divinity School • Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
 Saint John's Seminary • Weston Jesuit School of Theology

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Reconciliation of Peoples: A Challenge for the Church:

Part 1

By Rev. Dr. Protopresbyter George C. Papademetriou
 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

The challenge of recent events of conflict
 Numerous conflicts have challenged the Church in recent history. Some of the most recent have been the tragedies of Rwanda, Croatia-Bosnia-Kosovo, and the ongoing tragedy the Middle East. How are we to respond or react in such circumstances? Jesus provided us with examples of sacrificial love. Before we even begin to worship, we are told to reconcile with our neighbor. (Matthew 5:23) Our "brother" is not meant to be merely a fellow Jew, Greek, Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant or Muslim. Rather, "brothers" and "sisters" are all persons created by God in whose image we are. So we hear, "love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44.), a love depicted in the parable of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10: 29-37)

As Orthodox Christians, we must take to heart the teaching of Christ about the other. As Wells writes: "Jesus' teaching stands as a sharp rebuke to all who call themselves Christians, attend worship, receive the sacraments, yet nurture in their hearts a hateful ethnicism, racism, or a feeling of religious superiority." (Herald Wells, "The Theology of Reconciliation: Biblical Prospectus on Forgiveness and Grace," The Reconciliation of Peoples: Challenge to the Churches. Ed. Gregory Baum and Herald Wells. New York: Orbis Books 1997, p.6.) Jesus demands non-violence for His followers (Matthew 5:39). It is the preferred way for overcoming evil. Instead we often construct our own theology and philosophy of violent strategy rather than choose the option of Jesus to resist violence. Jesus emphatically commands us to love others unconditionally. (Matthew 22:40) The words of Jesus must be accepted as example for us as Orthodox Christians to stand up in a courageous manner to witness to non-violence with love, justice, and peace for all. We need courage to recognize our ...

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'Is Jesus the Only Way?': A Dialogue at ANTS

Wednesday, October 23, 2002: 12:00-1:00pm

Theologians Mark Heim and Gabriel Fackre will dialogue on the question "Is Jesus the Only Way?" at a "bring-your-own-brown-bag lunch sponsored by The Evangelical Fellowship at Andover Newton Theological School. The event will take place in the Peck Room of Worcester Hall on the Andover Newton campus located on Herrick Road in Newton Centre, MA. For more information, please contact Cindy Bolshaw at Franklin Trask Library, Andover Newton Theological School, tel. 617.964.1100, ext. 251, email cbolshaw@ants.edu or evfellowship@yahoo.com

Religion and the Feminist Movement Conference

November 1-3, 2002

On November 1-3, 2002: (11 am-9:30 pm Fri; 7:30 am-5:30pm Sat; 7:30 am-12:30pm Sun), the American Academy of Arts and Science will host a conference focused on the interconnections between religion and second wave feminism. This event is sponsored by the Women's Studies in Religion Program at Harvard University. For further information, please contact Natasha Goldman at 617.384.9076, email Natasha_goldman@harvard.edu

CUME: Symposium on Racial Reconciliation

Thursday, October 31, 2002: 7:00pm

The Center for Urban Ministerial Education at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary invites you to attend a "SYMPOSIUM on RACIAL RECONCILIATION" This symposium is led by Chris Rice author of "More Than Equals & Grace Matters" and will take place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 209 Ashmont Street, Dorchester, MA 02124. For more information call the Mentored Ministry Department at CUME: 617-983-9393x28

BU: Christian Spirituality and Public Life

TODAY at 3:00 pm

Professor Philip Sheldrake, Research Professor at the University of Durham (UK) and Visiting Scholar at the Boston University School of Theology, will lecture on "Spirituality as a Way of 'Living Publicly.'" The lecture will be given as part of the Church and Theology in the Contemporary World project at the Boston University School of Theology, and will take place in Room B-19 of the School of Theology Building, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. For further details, please contact Dr. Claire Wolfteich, Co-director of the Church and Theology project at 617.353.6496, email cwolftei@bu.edu

Reconciliation of Peoples: A Challenge ...

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... failures in the past to defend the powerless, oppressed, and persecuted.

Religious Plurality

The human condition is manifested in theological language, the symbols of the faith, and the liturgical worship of the Church. The approach for reflection on theology today must be peaceful in its method as is demanded by the pluralism of today's democratic society. There are philosophical applications for "inter-human" relations that depend on their own subjective analysis or philosophical "cognitive postures" and methodology. These philosophies "obscure and suppress the inter-human" as specific events of social interaction or patterns of social organizations." (Edward Farley, *Good and Evil: Interpreting a human Condition*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990, p. xx.) Though we can learn from philosophy on the human condition, we, as Orthodox Christians, need to develop a sense of self-criticism and theological reflection that is both prophetic and courageous.

Sin and the darkness of evil seem to prevail in our world. Even though the Christian is baptized, he/she continues to sin. For that reason, there is a need for "reconciliation, restoration, and reintegration." (Sergei Hackel "Paths to Reconciliation: Some ways and by-ways from the Orthodox Past," *Sobornost*. Vol.2, No1 [1980], p.9.) Thus, the Church instituted the sacrament of "penance." No one is forced to be reconciled, but one is compelled by the inner stirring of the spirit first to recognize the "sin," and then to seek reconciliation or healing. (See also Metropolitan Emilianos Timiadis, *Priest and Renewal: Concepts for Pastoral Effectiveness*. Edited by George K. Duval. Brookline: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1994, pp. 160 ff.)

The alien is strange and frightens us because of our unfamiliarity of the other. Professor Zizioulas says it well, "When the fear of the other is shown to be the fear of otherness, we come to the point of identifying difference with division." (Metropolitan John Zizioulas, "Communion and Otherness," in *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, Vol.38, No.4 [1994], p. 350.)

The fear of the other as different results in fanaticism and hatred of the other. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew says, "Fanaticism is a perverse phenomenon, is a threat to every person, for it does not limit itself to the religious sphere, though it always combines the desire for power with a psychologically 'religious' absolutism. It can manifest among atheists and believers, progressives, and conservatives. It roots itself in anguish and in pride: the anguish is feeling that the historical forms, to which one is accustomed and which provide one's identity, are threatened;

the pride that comes from belonging to a small group of the elect, who therefore have the right to reject and punish those considered responsible for these upheavals". (Olivier Clement *Conversations with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I*, trans. by Paul Meyendorff (Crestwood: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997), p.192.) The Orthodox must avoid these acts of fanaticism that result in violence and destruction. Religious plurality is not a threat to our faith; rather it is a challenge of knowing ourselves by interacting with the other. Religious pluralism is a good thing. In a pluralistic society, all "faiths" and persons of other faiths co-exist in peace. Each recognizes the "rights" of the other to preach its own message and to worship in its own form. The tolerance of the other means the tolerance for us. When we deny someone else's right to be in our midst, that can boomerang and deny us our own freedom of action and worship.

(to be continued)

Also, in its longer version this article is to be included in the volume of papers from the 5th International Congress of Orthodox Schools. Belgrade, 2001. Printed here by permission of the author.

Ministering in the 21st Century -- SERIES

Byzantine Facing Dilemma: War or Peace? – Lecture

5 November 2002: 7:00pm

Tuesday, November 5, 2002: 7:00pm, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in cooperation with the Onassis Foundation University Seminars will host a lecture by Professor Evangelos Chryssos on the topic "Byzantine Facing Dilemma: War or Peace?" The lecture is open to the public and will be held at the Maliotis Cultural Center on the campus of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts. Dr. Evangelos Chryssos is professor of Byzantine History at the University of Athens and Director of the Institute of Byzantine Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation. He is the author of many books and articles published in Greek, English, German and French. For further details, please contact Nikki Stournaras at 617.850.1213, email Nstournaras@hchc.edu

BTI Program in International Mission & Ecumenism

Anglican Global Ecumenical Studies ~~~ Luncheon Series

Thursday, October 31, 2002: 12:10 pm

Thursday, October 31, 2002: 12:10 pm, Anglican, Global, Ecumenical Studies Luncheon Series will present a lecture entitled "Environmental Partnerships," with Susan Youmanns, Executive Director, Environmental Partnerships, Inc. The event will be held in the Washburn Lounge, at Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact Penny Kohn at 617 868 3450 x325 or pkohn@episdivschool.edu.

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For further information please call 617.527.4880 or
send an email at mainoffice@bostontheological.org

BTI Program in Religion & Science

Stem Cell Research: Public Seminar

Saturday, November 2, 2002: 1-5 pm, the New England Center for Faith & Science Exchange and The Episcopal Working Group on Faith and Genetics, will co-sponsor a Public Seminar entitled "Looking at Stem Cell Research: Scientific and Ethical Issues." The event will take place at Boston College, Heights Room, 2nd floor, Lower Campus Dining Hall, Chestnut Hill, MA. The speakers will be Dr. Edward Furton, Ethicist and Director of Publications, The National Catholic Bioethics Center; Dr. Douglas Losordo, Chief, Cardiovascular Research, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center; Rev. Barbara Smith-Moran, Co-Chair of the Episcopal Church Working Group on Science, Technology and Faith; and Dr. Mugur Roz, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Decision Systems Group, Harvard University and MIT joint appointment.

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- 1. Religion and Natural Sciences**
- 2. Religion and Bioethics**
- 3. Religion and Ecology**

For additional information please call 617.527.4880 or
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OCAMPR Conference Holy Tradition and Modern Science

1 & 2 November 2002, The Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion in cooperation with Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology announce the annual conference on the interchange of Medicine Psychology and Religion. Dr. Paul Kymissis of New York Medical College will explore the question of how modern developments in medicine, psychopharmacology, brain research and psychotherapy are relevant in the life of an Orthodox Christian. Dr. Jeff Rediger, a Psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital, will present problems from clinical situations showing the interdisciplinary interface. Speakers will include also Dr. Jamie Moran of University of Surrey, Roehampton (England), Dr. John Demakis, Rev. Dr. George Morelli, Dr. Philip Mamalakis, Dr. John Chirban and others. For more details, please contact Michael Kallas at 617.850.1289.

Boston University – Brown Lecture Series

November 13-14, 2002

Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, Sr., Dean of the Chapel, Professor of Religion, College Archivist and Curator at Morehouse College, and Rev. Dr. Ruth C. Duck Professor of Worship Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, will present a lecture entitled: "The Words of Worship: Can We Be a Multicultural Church?" This lecture is a part of the Boston University School of Theology Brown Lecture Series. For more information, please contact Dean Lampros at 617.353.8972 or email sthalum@bu.edu.

Calendar of Events

- Lay Ministry in the American Catholic Church: Lecture
- Tuesday, October 22, 2002: 7:00pm, Roger Haight, S.J. will lead
- a lecture entitled "Lay Ministry in the American Catholic
- Church." (Roger Haight S.J., is a renowned theologian, Jesuit
- priest and professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at
- the Weston Jesuit School of Theology.) Tracing the history of
- lay ministry in the American Church, Roger will discuss new
- possibilities for the American Church in light of the present
- Church crisis. Topics will include a brief overview of salient fea-
- tures in the history of the American Church, Vatican II teaching
- on the laity, development of lay ministry after Vatican II, and
- theology of lay ministry. Parking validation available – call for
- details. Suggested goodwill offering of \$10 is appreciated. Pre-
- registration also is appreciated. This event will take place at the
- Paulist Center, 5 Park Street, Boston, MA. For more informa-
- tion, please call 617.948.2477.

Boston College Lecture: Concept of Holiness

- Wednesday, October 23, 2002: 4:30pm, Prof. Joseph Dan of
- Harvard University will lecture on "Conflicting Concepts of Ho-
- liness: Christianity versus Judaism and Islam." This lecture is
- sponsored by the Boston College Theology Department and
- will be held at Boston College McGuinn 5th Floor lounge. For
- more information, contact Francis X. Clooney, S.J.
- clooney@bc.edu.

Calendar of Events

Boston College Lecture: Catholic Pluralism

Tuesday, October 29th, 2002: 7:30pm, Prof Roger Haight, SJ, of Weston Jesuit School of Theology, will lecture on "Catholic Pluralism, Religious Pluralism: Rahner and Schillebeeckx on Religions," with a response by Prof. Louis Roy, OP. This lecture is sponsored by the Boston College Theology Department and will be held at Boston College Higgins 310. For more information, contact Francis X. Clooney, S.J. looney@bc.edu.

Boston University – The Luce Program Lecture

Thursday, October 31, 2002: 5:00pm, the Luce Program in Scripture and the Literary Arts at Boston University is hosting a lecture by Professor Claire Nouvet of the Department of French and Italian, Emory University. The lecture is entitled "Abelard or the Sins of the Magister," and will take place at BU School of Management (4th floor), 595 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. The lecture is open to the public, and will be followed by light refreshments. For further details, please contact Cristine Hutchison at 617.358.1754.

BC IREPM – Workshop

Saturday, November 2, 2002: 9:00am-12:30pm, Mary Ann Hinsdale, the IREPM Director, will lead a workshop entitled "The Church: Rekindling The Fire in Dark Times." This workshop aims to explore the historical development of Vatican II's Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentinum) and the various developments ecclesiology has taken since the Council. Attention will be given to the movements, which have both hindered and empowered the participation of the "faithful." For further inquiries, call IREPM at 617.552.8440, email irepm@bc.edu

Anglican Global Ecumenical Studies Luncheon Series

Thursday, November 7, 2002: 12:20pm, Anglican, Global, Ecumenical Studies Luncheon Series will present a lecture entitled "New Imperative of Inter-religious Realities" with Huston Smith, world

religions scholar and author of "Why Religion Matters." The event will be held in the Washburn Lounge, at Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact Penny Kohn at 617 868 3450 x325 or pkohn@episdivschool.edu.

Anglican Global Ecumenical Studies

~~~ Luncheon Series

Thursday, November 14, 2002, 12:10pm, Anglican, Global, Ecumenical Studies Luncheon Series will present a lecture entitled "The Peace Church in an Era of War," with Christie Risser, Mennonite Board of Missions on the Peace Churches and Reconciliation. The event will be held in the Washburn Lounge, at Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact Penny Kohn at 617 868 3450 x325 or pkohn@episdivschool.edu.

PEACE-ing It Together: Youth Skills in Conflict Resolution

Saturday, November 16, 2002: 9:30am-4:00pm, there will be a Youth to Youth skill shop for Conflict Resolution entitled "PEACE-ing It Together," designed for the high school youth. Erik Wissa of the American Friends Service Committee will facilitate this skill shop. This interactive and practical skill shop will cover: peer counseling/leadership techniques, decision making cross-cultural understanding. Co-sponsored by UCC Mass. Conference Youth Ministries. The Walker Center for Global Mission, 144 Hancock Street (mailing), 171 Grove Street (location), Newton, MA 02466, phone: (617) 969-3919, fax: (617) 244-0690, www.walkerctr.org.

Do you have items that may be of interest to the BTI community?

Please send all announcements to:

Marian Gh. Simion, BTI Newsletter Editor

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Please be aware that events happening at BTI schools have first priority, and that space and time limitations may dictate what information can be included in our pages. ***Unless otherwise noted, all events are open to the public.***

Volume XXXII

The BTI Newsletter

No. 7

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