

St. Phoebe Center

FOR THE DEACONESS

orthodoxdeaconess.org

RENEWING THE MALE AND FEMALE DIACONATE IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Pan-Orthodox Conference

October 6-7, 2017

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church

4949 Alton Parkway

Irvine, California 92604

This conference will examine the theology, history, and purpose of the diaconate; both male and female. It will include four sessions: the present state of the diaconate; the ways men and women are engaged in diaconal service today; the opportunities to engage with both clergy and faithful on rejuvenation of the male and female diaconate; and the current challenges and future possibilities of the diaconate for the building up of the body of Christ.

FRIDAY, October 6
7 to 9:30 pm

Keynote address by **Rev. Archdeacon John Chryssavgis**, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on the "The Missing Link: A Fresh Look at the Diaconate"

Reception to follow

SATURDAY, October 7
8:00 am to 5 pm

Welcome: AnnMarie Mecera, President of Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess

Prayer Service: **Rev. Father Steven Tsiichlis**

Session One "The State of the Diaconate Today"

Introductions and moderator: **Rev. Deacon Dan Cunningham**

Panelists:

Dr. James Skedros, Dean, Professor of Byzantine Studies and Early Christianity at Holy Cross School of Theology, and Director of the GOA Diaconate Program

Rev. Father Anthony Roeber, Professor of Early Modern History and Religious Studies at Penn State and Spiritual Director to Deacons in AOCA Mid-Atlantic

Rev. Father Alexander Rentel, Professor of Canon Law and Byzantine Studies at Saint Vladimir's Seminary

Session Two "Serving the Body of Christ: Men and Women Engaged in Diaconal Work Today"

Introductions and moderator: **Teva Regule, Ph.D. (candidate)**, St. Phoebe Center Board Member

Panelists:

Dr. Demetra Velisarios Jaquet, Greek Orthodox pastoral counselor, spiritual director, and chaplain *on Pastoral Counseling*

Rev. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Orthodox Church in America; Member, Secretariat of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA; Trustee of St. Vladimir's Seminary *on Administration and Governance*

Rev. Deacon Paul Cherkas, Graduate of St. Stephen's House of Studies, serving the Ukrainian Orthodox Church *on Hospice and Homebound*

Session Three "Engaging the Clergy and Faithful About the Diaconate"

Introductions and Moderator: **Rev. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick**

Presentation on Orthodox Bishops and Synods: "Synods and Church Order: Testing the Spirits,"

Rev. Deacon Nicholas Denysenko, Director of The Huffington Ecumenical Institute at Loyola Marymount University, Associate Professor of Theological Studies

Presentation on Engaging with Clergy and Faithful: **Gust Mecera and Dr. Carrie Frederick Frost**, St. Phoebe Center Board Members

Session Four "Current Challenges and Future Possibilities of the Diaconate"

Panel One: Benefits and Difficulties of Ordaining Women Deacons

Introductions and moderator: **Dr. Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos**

Benefits: **Dr. Valerie A. Karras**, Professor of church history and patristics

Difficulties: *Not yet confirmed*

Panel Two: Benefits and Difficulties of Ordaining Male Deacons

Benefits: **Rev. Father Michael Courey**, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Redondo Beach, CA

Difficulties: *Not yet confirmed*