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St. Phoebe Center

FOR THE DEACONESS

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orthodoxdeaconess.org

Please Donate to Honor the Commemoration of St. Phoebe the Deaconess



St. Phoebe the Deaconess Commemorated September 3

St. Phoebe is recognized as the first woman deacon, and is commemorated in the Orthodox Church on September 3. She is the prototype for female deacons just as St. Stephen is the prototype for male deacons.

The board humbly asks that you consider a donation to support our work in commemoration of her feast day so that we can educate more faithful Orthodox Christians about the history of the female deacon and the need for its revival. **We believe that this sacred role would strengthen the pastoral care of the faithful and connect them to the sacramental life of the Church.**

Please consider supporting our organization so that we can continue efforts to:

- educate the faithful,
- produce resources on the topic,
- host future conferences, and

- advocate for the rejuvenation of the ordained female deacon.

Your donation will help us move this mission forward for the benefit of the entire Church!

[DONATE HERE VIA PAYPAL](#)

Or mail a check to the St. Phoebe Center, 3136 Kingsdale Center #120, Upper Arlington, OH 43221.

Yours in Christ,

St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess Board

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Board Members to Make Presentations at OCAMPR Annual Conference

St. Phoebe Center board members will make presentations at the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion (OCAMPR) 2019 annual conference.



Helen Theodoropoulos, Ph.D. (left) will be part of a workshop titled "Building Bridges or Barriers? The Impact of Social Media on Connecting with Ourselves, Each Other, and God." Dr. Theodoropoulos is Adjunct Professor at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox School of Theology.

Founder and Chair AnnMarie Mecera (below) will present a paper titled "Healing from Adversity as a Woman in the Church Today."

Titled "Isolation. Violence. Hope and Communion," the conference will be held November 7-9 at Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview IL, a suburb Chicago.

This year's conference will explore how "Orthodox care providers can live and love as light in a violent world searching in vain for solutions."



OCAMPR works to 1) serve the Church through a number of ministries, managed at the committee level of its Executive Board, that enhance the collaboration of pastors and clinicians to better care for the Church's parishioners and patients, and 2) to facilitate Orthodox Christian fellowship, dialogue and education of professionals in religion, psychology and medicine.

More information on OCAMPR and the conference can be found at www.ocampr.org.

Board Members to Serve on OTSA Panel



St. Phoebe Center Board Member Teva Regule, Ph.D. (left) and Advisory Board Member Carrie Frederick Frost, Ph.D. (right) will participate in a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America (OTSA). The theme of the

2019 meeting is Orthodox Unity. The panel is entitled, "How important is unity and/or uniformity in the ministry and lives of women in the Church?"

The panel will explore how some ministries of women in the Orthodox Church have grown organically (such as the increase of women in parish leadership, as choir directors, and in catechetical roles), while other ministries continue to be discussed but not grown (except in certain pockets of the church) such as women in minor orders (readers) or tonsured positions (chaplains) or deaconesses. The panel will also address how some jurisdictions/churches have changed prayers and practices affecting women's lives (advice given on menstruation and communion,, and the content of the Forty Days after the Birth of a Child and Miscarriage prayers), while others have not. The panel will consider what is the significance of these variations across jurisdictions/churches, and how important is it that the Orthodox Church achieve unity and/or uniformity when it comes to the ministry and lives of women in the Church?

OTSA promotes and coordinates the work of Orthodox theology, cultivates fellowship

among Orthodox theologians and those engaged in related disciplines, serves as a resource for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, and engages non-Orthodox theologians interested in Orthodox theology.

More information about OTSA and the annual meeting can be found here:

<http://www.otsamerica.org/>.

Webinar Series in the Works



As previously reported, the St. Phoebe Center is planning a series of webinars to educate the faithful on the female diaconate and what reviving this ancient order could mean for the church today.

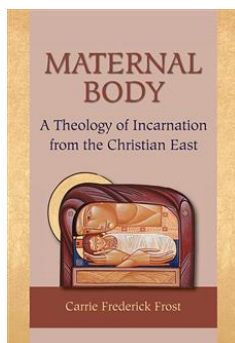
These webinars will be offered via Zoom in live sessions, but also recorded and posted on the website as valuable resources. Board members are working on building these webinars and supporting materials, but the process has taken much longer than anticipated, particularly due to the many commitments and responsibilities of each board member!

Watch for further details in these quarterly newsletters, on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/orthodoxdeaconess/>, and on our website:

<https://orthodoxdeaconess.org/>.

Newly Released "Maternal Body: A Theology of Incarnation from the Christian East" is Authored by St. Phoebe Center Advisory Board Member



Recently released and available from [Paulist Press](https://www.paulistpress.com/)

(<https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/5391-6/maternal-body.aspx>), "Maternal Body: A Theology of Incarnation from the Christian East," is written by Carrie Frederick Frost, Ph.D, a St. Phoebe Center Advisory Board Member.

The publication places Orthodox Christian sources on motherhood—icons, hymns, and prayers—into conversation with each other. In so doing, Dr. Frost brings an anchored vision of motherhood to the twenty-first century, especially the embodied experience of motherhood.

Dr. Frost addresses practices of the Church that have neglected mothers' bodies,

offering insight for others who also choose to live within truth-bearing but flawed traditions.

From the unexpected and fresh vantage point of the maternal body, Dr. Frost offers new ways of understanding our incarnate experience as humans and better cultivating a relationship with our Creator.

Board members of the St. Phoebe Center applaud Dr. Frost for her significant contribution on this topic.

"In this book, Carrie Frederick Frost has undertaken an act of quiet, powerful courage. Digging into the treasures of Orthodoxy's veneration of the Virgin Mary – its hymns, icons, and festal calendar – she seeks resources for theological reflection on the embodied experience of maternity."

Susan Ashbrook Harvey

Willard Prescott and Annie McClelland Smith Professor of Religion and History at Brown University.

"'Maternal Body' may well be the most significant book thus far written in America by an Orthodox woman. There is music, poetry, and visual beauty in it, true to the character of Orthodox faith and worship. Carrie Frederick Frost draws into her theology of motherhood liturgical hymnody, iconographic imagery, and the deep spirituality of the Orthodox Church; all of this deployed in a compellingly personal exploration of a subject sadly neglected by most feminist theology."

Vigen Guroian

Orthodox Christian theologian and former professor at University of Virginia and Loyola College of Baltimore; author of "The Orthodox Reality: Culture, Theology, and Ethics in the Modern World."

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