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# St. Phoebe Center

FOR THE DEACONESS  
[orthodoxdeaconess.org](http://orthodoxdeaconess.org)

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## Message from Metropolitan KALLISTOS of Diokleia on Upcoming Diaconate Conference



His Eminence Metropolitan KALLISTOS (Ware), in a video regarding the upcoming diaconate conference in Irvine, California, spoke about the revival of both the female and male deacon. [Watch the video here.](#)

Video courtesy of [Orientale Lumen Television.](#)

## Not a Novelty: The Eastern Orthodox Case for Deaconesses

by Carrie Frederick Frost

Published in the [June 2, 2017 issue of Commonweal](#)



I watched with interest in August 2016 when Pope Francis made good on his promise to convene a commission to study the female diaconate. I was especially attentive to this development because I am a supporter of the renewal of the order of deaconesses in my own church—the Orthodox Church. Later last year I was astonished when one of the self-governing churches of the Orthodox world, Alexandria, decided to revive the female diaconate in Africa and proceeded to consecrate five women as deaconesses this past February. These moves by the Synod of Alexandria surprised those of us in the United States working on this issue—we did not know the female diaconate was even under consideration by the African church. Rarely does anything

happen this fast in the Orthodox world. [Read more...](#)

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## A Pan-Orthodox Conference October 6-7, 2017

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church  
4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, California

Renewing<sup>the</sup>  
Male and Female  
Diaconate<sup>in</sup>  
the  
ORTHODOX  
CHURCH

**REGISTER**

### Make Plans Now to Attend This Thought-Provoking and Action-Oriented Diaconate Conference

**FRIDAY, October 6**

**7 to 9:30 pm**

Keynote address by **Rev. Archdeacon John Chryssavgis**, "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 St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess

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

**Session One** "The State of the Diaconate Today"

**Rev. Father Michael Courey, Dr. James Skedros, Rev. Father Anthony Roeber,  
Rev. Father Alexander Rentel**

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

**Dr. Demetra Velisarios Jaquet, Rev. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Rev. Deacon Paul Cherkas,  
Clio Pavlantos, M.A., C.M.A., M.Div. and B.C.C.**

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

Presentation on Orthodox Bishops and Synods: "Synods and Church Order: Testing the Spirits," **Rev. Deacon Nicholas Denysenko**

Presentation on Engaging with Clergy and Faithful: **Gust Mecera** and **Dr. Carrie Frederick Frost**

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

Panel: Difficulties and Benefits of Ordaining Women Deacons

Difficulties: **Rev. Protodeacon Brian Patrick Mitchell, MTh**

Benefits: **Dr. Valerie A. Karras**

Get all the information you need about the conference--location, agenda, speakers, travel, lodging, and more--at <http://orthodoxdeaconess.org/2017-conference/>

[CONFERENCE WEBSITE PAGE](#)

**REGISTER**

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## Share Your Service Ministry at the Diaconate Conference!

Share your service (diakonia) ministry at the upcoming diaconate conference with brochures/flyers. We will provide a display table showcasing the extraordinary ways people around the country/world are serving others and building the body of Christ.

Bring 25 brochures/flyers to the conference or mail them to us by September 29th. (Please email us at [stphoebecenter@gmail.com](mailto:stphoebecenter@gmail.com) to request the mailing address if you wish to mail your brochures to us.)

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