

Inaugural
Orthodox Canon Law Society of North
America Conference
October 18–19, 2024
at the
Maliotis Cultural Center
Brookline, MA



PROGRAM

The Orthodox Canon Law Society of North America acknowledges the generous support of the Maliotis Cultural Center, Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Archon Michael Psaros (Chairman, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine), the Orthodox Christian Attorney Network, the Cantonis Family Foundation, Christos Linardakis, Arthur Dimopoulos of the National Hellenic Society, Roberta Tsempales, who contributed in memory of her husband, George Tsempales, and an anonymous individual donor for making this conference possible.

We acknowledge our debt to the Byzantine Studies Association of North America for providing an excellent model for the design of our program.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Registration

Atrium, Maliotis

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Book Exhibit

Holy Cross Orthodox Press

Atrium, Maliotis

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Opening Reception*

Atrium, Maliotis

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:00 am – 3:00 pm Registration

Atrium, Maliotis

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Book Exhibit

Holy Cross Orthodox Press

Atrium, Maliotis

7:00 – 8:00 am

Coffee/Breakfast

Atrium and Kafeneio, Maliotis

* Optional ticketed dinner at refectory beginning at 5:30.

8:00 – 10:00 am

Session 1: New Vistas in Canonical Research

Theater, Maliotis

Chair: Joan Berg

Physical Disability and Priestly Ordination

John Chryssavgis, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

Strait is the Gate: American Convert Groups' Discovery of Orthodox Canon Law in the
Twentieth Century

Greta Gaffin, Boston University

Thoughts on the Local Origins of Orthodox Jurisdiction in a Catholic Perspective

Xénia Sereghy, Katholische Privat-Universität Linz

10:00 – 10:15 am

Break

Atrium, Maliotis

10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Session 2: Questions in North America

Theater, Maliotis

Chair: Patrick Viscuso

North American Eastern/Oriental Orthodox and Catholic Mixed Marriages: Next Steps?

Anthony Roeber, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Reshaping Our Thoughts on Marriage: Finding Gaps in Orthodox Academia

James Purdie, Antiochian House of Studies

Gender and Ordination: Male and Female as Archic and Eucharistic Modes of Relation

*Brian Patrick Mitchell, St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Cathedral (ROCOR),
Washington, DC*

12:15 – 2:00 pm

Lunch Break

12:15 – 2:00 pm

Lunch and Legal Discussion

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Attorney Network

Atrium, Maliotis

Confidentiality of Confession in the Orthodox Canonical Tradition

Justin Bosl, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Session 3A: Oriental Orthodox Conference Panel

Theater, Maliotis

Session Organizer: Mary Ghattas

Chair: Philip Zymaris

The Therapeutic Nature of Canon Law in the Oriental Orthodox Churches

Mary Ghattas, Agora University

Syriac Canonical Tradition: Particularity Beyond Empire

Daniel Kakish, Agora University

The Armenian Canons on Divorce: Old Principles in New Times

Roberta R. Ervine, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, NY

Seeking the Lost Sheep: The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church's Mission to and
Reception of the Rastafari

Gebre-Kristos Nicholas Siniari, Coptic Orthodox Diocese of New York and New England

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Session 3B: Multidisciplinary Approaches in Canonical Research

East Wing, Maliotis

Chair: Bartholomew Mercado

An Historical Theology of the "Work of Christ's Diaconate" in the Vitae of St. Domnika

Laura Wilson, Antiochian House of Studies

Beautiful Tension: A Historical, Theological and Canonical Appraisal of Crossdressing
Saints

*Joseph Thornburg, St. Silouan Orthodox Church,
College Station, Texas*

Considerations of Self-Defense in Orthodox Canon Law in Light of American Law and
Culture

Kyle Sterner, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

4:00 – 4:15 pm

Break

Atrium, Maliotis

4:15 – 6:15 pm

Session 4: Historical Approaches to Canon Law

Theater, Maliotis

Chair: Lewis Patsavos

The Trullan Canons and the End of the World

David Olster, University of Kentucky

Honoring the Wife: The history of Titles and Honorifics for Wives of Clergy

Sarah Ann Wagner-Wassen, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Emperor Justinian's Legislation on Monks and Monasteries in Patriarch Nikon's book of
Kormchaia

Anna Vankova, Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences

6:30 – 8:00 pm

OCLS Business Dinner

Atrium, Maliotis