2022 PATTERSON TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

NICAEA, CONCILIARITY, AND
THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
STUDIES CENTER
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, MAY 31 – FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN CENTER CAMPUS
140 WEST 62ND STREET, NEW YORK
The Council of Nicaea (325) is considered to be the first ecumenical council in Christian history, and its decisive impact continues to reverberate throughout the Christian world today. The Orthodox Christian Studies Center is dedicating the sixth Patterson Triennial Conference to mark the 1,700-year anniversary (2025) of the Council of Nicaea. Twenty-one scholars from the U.S. and abroad explore the contemporary relevance of the Council of Nicaea for Christian thought and practice.

Every three years, the Orthodox Christian Studies Center hosts the Solon and Marianna Patterson Triennial Conference on Christian Unity. Previous conferences include "Faith, Reason, Theosis" (2019), "Tradition, Secularization, Fundamentalism" (2016), "Christianity, Democracy, and the Shadow of Constantine" (2013), "Orthodox Constructions of the West" (2010), and "Orthodox Readings of Augustine" (2007). Conference proceedings are published in the Center’s series *Orthodox Christianity and Contemporary Thought* with Fordham University Press.

Conference support is provided by the Patterson Triennial Conference Endowment.

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

*All lectures are held in McNally Amphitheater, 140 West 62nd Street*

**TUESDAY, MAY 31**

4:30 – 6 P.M.  KEYNOTE #1  
John Chryssavgis (Ecumenical Patriarchate)  
“The First Council of Nicaea: Golden Standard or Squandered Opportunity?”

6 – 8:30 P.M.  ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES CENTER 10TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION  
Skadden Conference Center, Fordham Law School, 150 West 62nd Street  
Your conference registration includes admission to the 10th Anniversary Reception

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1**

9 – 9:30 A.M.  COFFEE

9:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.  SESSION #1  
Leslie Baynes (University of Missouri), “The Council of Jerusalem and the Council of Nicaea”  
John Behr (University of Aberdeen), “Under the Shadow of the Samosatene: From Antioch 268 to Nicaea 325”  
Emanuel Fiano (Fordham University), “Nicaea and the Dogmatic Order of Late Antiquity”

12 – 2 P.M.  LUNCH BREAK

2 – 3:30 P.M.  SESSION #2  
Alexis Torrance (University of Notre Dame), “A Symbol of the Whole: The Nicene Creed and Dogmatic Minimalism”  
Karen Kilby (Durham University), “History, Creeds, and the Nature of Systematic Theology”

3:30 – 4 P.M.  BREAK

4 – 5:30 P.M.  SESSION #3  
Bishop Maxim Vasiljević (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology), “Re-Reception of the Faith of Nicaea Then and Now”  
Edward Siecinski (Stockton University), “Nicaea, Pelikan, and the Legitimacy of Doctrinal Development”

5:30 – 6 P.M.  BREAK

6 – 7:30 P.M.  KEYNOTE #2  
Cyril O’Regan (University of Notre Dame), “The Fragility of Orthodoxies and the Necessity of Newman”
THURSDAY, JUNE 2

9 – 9:30 A.M.
COFFEE

9:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.
SESSION #4
Erin Galgay Walsh (University of Chicago), "Mary in Canon and Verse: An Examination of Evidence from Narsai and Jacob of Serugh"
Stephen Meawad (Caldwell University), "Nicaea and the Legacy of Truth: Bounded Virtue and Ascetical Spirituality"
Jaisy Joseph (Villanova University), "Palliyogams and the Synod of Diamper: A Rupture of Synodality in the Syriac Orient"

12 – 2 P.M.
LUNCH BREAK

2 – 3:30 P.M.
SESSION #5
Demetrios Bathrellos (Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies) "Nature, Will, and Grace: The Ontological Presuppositions of Conciliarity"
Bogdan Bucur (St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary) "Christophanic Exegesis and the Nicene Faith: Patristic Authors and Scholars of Patristics"

3:30 – 4 P.M.
BREAK

4 – 5:30 P.M.
SESSION #6
Brandon Gallaher (University of Exeter) "God with Us: A Contemporary Sophiological Reading of Nicaea"
Christophe Chalamet (University of Geneva) "The Future of Nicaea"

5:30 – 6 P.M.
BREAK

6 – 7:30 P.M.
KEYNOTE #3
Kathryn Tanner (Yale Divinity School) "Nicaea as a Task for the Future"

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

8:30 – 9 A.M.
COFFEE

9 – 10:30 A.M.
SESSION #7
Leonora Neville (University of Wisconsin-Madison) "Civic Religion in the Long Roman Empire"
Caroline Schroeder (University of Oklahoma) "Nicaea’s Digital Afterlives"

10:30 – 10:50 A.M.
BREAK

10:50 A.M. – 12:20 P.M.
SESSION #8
Vincent Lloyd (Villanova University) "Nicaea, Democracy, and Negative Theology"
Francesca Murphy (University of Notre Dame) TBA

DEMETRIOS BATHRELLOS
Father Demetrios Bathrellos lives in Athens, Greece, with his family, where he serves as the priest of a small parish. He has taught theology at several universities in Europe and the United States and is currently a visiting professor at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, U.K. He is the author of four books and many academic articles in the areas of patristics and systematic theology, especially Christology and ecclesiology. He is finishing a book on the sinlessness of Christ to be published by Oxford University Press.

LESLIE BAYNES
Leslie Baynes is an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Missouri State University. She is a specialist in New Testament and Second Temple Judaism, focusing on apocalyptic literature, especially 1 Enoch and the Book of Revelation. She is author of The Heavenly Book Motif in Judeo-Christian Apocalypses 200 BCE–200 CE (Brill, 2012). She also maintains a lively interest and publishing record in C.S. Lewis studies.

JOHN BEHR
Father John Behr has been the Regius Professor of Humanity at the University of Aberdeen since the summer of 2020 and previously taught at St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, serving there as dean from 2007 to 2017. He is also a part-time Professor at Radboud University in Nijmegen, Holland. Father John has published numerous monographs with Oxford University Press and SVS Press, most recently a new critical edition and translation of Origen’s On First Principles, together with an extensive introduction, for Oxford University Press (2017), and a study of the Gospel of John (Oxford University Press, 2019). He has also published various works aimed for a more general audience, such as his more poetic and meditative work titled Becoming Human: Theological Anthropology in Word and Image (SVS Press, 2013). He has just completed a new edition and translation of On the Human Image of God (aka On the Making of Man) by Gregory of Nyssa (Oxford University Press, 2023). His next major project is a new edition and translation of the works of Irenaeus.

BOGDAN BUCUR
The Rev. Dr. Bogdan Bucur is associate professor of patristics at St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. Father Bogdan is a scholar of early Christianity, with a special interest in the link between reception history of the Bible and doctrinal developments in early Christianity and the Byzantine tradition. His books include Scripture Re-Envisioned: Christophanic Exegesis and the Making of the Christian Bible (Brill, 2019) and Angelomorphic Pneumatology: Clement of Alexandria and Other Early Christian Witnesses (Brill, 2009). Born in Romania, he studied Orthodox theology, biblical studies, and patristics at the University of Bucharest and completed his Ph.D. at Marquette University.

CHRISTOPHE CHALAMET
Christophe Chalamet teaches systematic theology at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He previously taught historical theology at Fordham University from 2003 to 2011. He has published studies on Karl Barth and dialectical theologians, on modern Protestant theology, as well as constructive essays on the theological virtues. Among his recent publications is (as co-editor) Theological Anthropology 500 Years After Martin Luther: Orthodox and Protestant Perspectives (Brill, 2021).
JOHN CHRYSSAVGIS
The Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, was born in Australia, completed theology in Athens, and pursued doctoral studies in Oxford. After several months in silent retreat on Mount Athos, he co-founded St. Andrew’s Theological College in Sydney, where he taught patristics and church history. He was a lecturer at the University of Sydney and later, a professor of theology at Holy Cross School of Theology. He is honorary professor at the Sydney College of Divinity and currently serves as theological advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch. A clergyman of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, he is senior theologian for the Office of Ecumenical Affairs. The author of numerous books and articles on the Church Fathers and Orthodox spirituality, his recent publications include Creation as Sacrament (Bloomsbury, 2019), and The Letters of Barsanuphius and John (Bloomsbury, 2022).

EMANUEL FIANO
Emanuel Fiano is an assistant professor of Syriac studies at Fordham University, where he teaches Syriac, Coptic, and early Christianity more broadly. He holds a B.A. in historic-religious sciences from Sapienza University of Rome, as well as an M.A. and a Ph.D. in religion from Duke University. Emanuel researches the intellectual history of late ancient Christianities, with a particular focus on Syriac and Coptic literature, on religious controversies, and on Christian-Jewish relations. His first book, Three Powers in Heaven: The Emergence of Theology and the Parting of the Ways, is forthcoming from Yale University Press.

BRANDON GALLAHER
Brandon Gallaher is senior lecturer of systematic and comparative theology at the University of Exeter in Devon, U.K. His publications include Freedom and Necessity in Modern Trinitarian Theology (Oxford University Press, 2016), The Patristic Witness of Georges Florovsky: Essential Theological Writings, eds. B. Gallaher and P. Ladouceur (T&T Clark-Bloomsbury, 2019), The Living Christ: The Theological Legacy of Georges Florovsky, eds. B. Gallaher and J. Chryssavgis (T & T Clark-Bloomsbury, 2021) and Orthodoxy and World Religions: Eastern Christian Theology and the Practice of Inter-Religious Encounter, eds. B. Gallaher, T. Cattoi, and P. Ladouceur (Brill, 2023). His recent research has focused on Sergii Bulgakov’s ecclesiology and Orthodoxy’s encounter with Western modernity.

JAISY JOSPEH
Jaisy Joseph will begin a faculty position in ecclesiology and theology of ministry at Villanova University in August of this year. Previously, she was an assistant professor of theology and religious studies at Seattle University. With interests primarily in ecclesiology and theological anthropology, her main areas of research involve understandings of unity and difference in the Catholic church, how these definitions have shifted over the centuries, and how erroneous expressions have wounded the bonds of communion between different peoples. She is also involved in the Lay ministry of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago, which spans across the United States to unite nearly 60 parishes and 30 missions. She earned an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Boston College.

KAREN KILBY
Karen Kilby is Bede Professor of Catholic Theology at the University of Durham. She is author of God, Evil and the Limits of Theology (Bloomsbury, 2020), Balthasar: A (Very) Critical Introduction (Eerdmans, 2012), The SPCK Introduction to Karl Rahner (SPCK, 2007), and Karl Rahner: Theology and Philosophy (Routledge, 2004), as well as several journal articles and book chapters on systematic theology. She completed her Ph.D. at Yale Divinity School and has also taught at the University of St. Andrews, the University of Birmingham, and the University of Nottingham.

FRANCESCA ARAN MURPHY
Francesca Aran Murphy is professor of systematic theology at the University of Notre Dame. She is the author of numerous books, including Christ the Form of Beauty (T&T Clark, 1995), God is Not a Story (Oxford University Press, 2007) and a theological commentary on I Samuel (Brazos, 2010). She earned an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Southern California and a Ph.D. from King’s College London.

LEONORA NEVILLE
Leonora Neville’s research explores authority, religion, history writing, gender, and the importance of the classical past for medieval Eastern Roman culture and society. In Anna Komnene: The Life and Work of a Medieval Historian (Oxford University Press, 2016), she explained how Anna Komnene’s reputation as a power-hungry schemer arose from modern misunderstandings of the rhetoric of Anna used in the Alexiad to portray herself as a good historian, even though she was a woman—and a good woman, even though she wrote history. To help open her field to broader study, she wrote a Guide to Byzantine Historical Writing (Cambridge University Press, 2018) and an introduction to Byzantine Gender (Arc, 2019). She is the John and Jeanne Rowe Professor of Byzantine History and Villas Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

STEPHEN MEAWAD
Stephen Meawad, Ph.D., is assistant professor of theology at Caldwell University. He received his B.A. in religious studies from New York University, his M.T.S. from Holy Cross School of Theology, and his Ph.D. in theology from Duquesne University. He is author of Beyond Virtue Ethics: A Contemporary Ethic of Ancient Spiritual Struggle, to be released 2023 with Georgetown University Press in the Moral Traditions series. His publications appear in numerous books and journals, including Studies in Christian Ethics, Modern Theology, and Bloomsbury/T&T Clark. He receives invitations to present locally and internationally on topics related to his expertise in Christian theology, spirituality, and ethics, which comprise the fields of his continued research.

CIRIL O’REGAN
Cyril O’Regan is the Catherine F. Huisking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He specializes in systematic and historical theology, with specific interests in the intersection of continental philosophy and theology, religion and literature, mystical theology, and postmodern thought. He received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from University College Dublin, and Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy, and doctoral degrees from Yale University. Some of his books include the recent Anatomy of Misremembering: Von Balthasar’s Response to Philosophical Modernity, Volume I: Hegel (Herder & Herder, 2014) and the earlier The Heterodox Hegel, Gnostic Return in Modernity, and Gnostic Apocalypse: Jacob Boehme’s Haunted Narrative (SUNY Press, 2001). He has published numerous articles on such topics as the nature of tradition, negative theology, the sources of Hegel’s thought and Hegel as a theological source.

VINCENT LLOYD
Vincent Lloyd is associate professor of theology and religious studies at Villanova University, where he also directs the Center for Political Theology. Lloyd’s books include Black Dignity: The Struggle Against Domination (Yale, 2022), the co-authored Break Every Yoke: Religion, Justice, and the Abolition of Prisons (Oxford, 2019), and the co-edited Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics (Orbis, 2017). He is part of the editorial collective of the journal Political Theology and serves as staff director of the Political Theology Network. Lloyd is current writing a book about abuse, connecting the personal, the political, and the theological.
EDWARD SIECIENSKI
A. Edward Siecienski is the Clement and Helen Pappas Professor of Byzantine Civilization and Religion and Chair of the Philosophy/Religion Department at Stockton University. His books include *Filioque: History of a Doctrinal Controversy* (Oxford University Press, 2010), *The Papacy and the Orthodox: Sources and History of a Debate* (Oxford University Press, 2017), and *Orthodox Christianity: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2019). His most recent book is *Beards, Azymes, and Purgatory: The Other Issues that Divided East and West*. He earned his B.A. from Georgetown University and his Ph.D. from Fordham University.

CAROLINE SCHROEDER
Caroline Schroeder is professor of women’s and gender studies at the University of Oklahoma. She works at the intersections of the cultural history of early Christianity, gender studies, and digital humanities. Her most recent monograph, *Children and Family in Late Antique Egyptian Monasticism* (Cambridge University Press), was a finalist for the 2021 American Academy of Religion book award for textual studies in religion. Schroeder also co-founded and is a principal investigator of the interdisciplinary online research platform Coptic Scriptorium, which produces digital editions, natural language processing tools, and other digital resources for the study of Coptic literature and the Coptic language. She received her Ph.D. in religion from Duke University under the direction of Elizabeth A. Clark.

KATHRYN TANNER
Kathryn Tanner is Frederick Marquand Professor of Systematic Theology at Yale Divinity School. Her research relates the history of Christian thought to contemporary issues of theological concern using social, cultural, and feminist theory. She is the author of *God and Creation in Christian Theology: Tyranny or Empowerment?* (Blackwell, 1988), *The Politics of God: Christian Theologies and Social Justice* (Fortress, 1992), *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology* (Fortress, 1997), *Jesus, Humanity and the Trinity: A Brief Systematic Theology* (Fortress, 2001), *Economy of Grace* (Fortress, 2005), *Christ the Key* (Cambridge, 2010), and scores of scholarly articles and chapters in books. She serves on the editorial boards of *Modern Theology, International Journal of Systematic Theology*, and *Scottish Journal of Theology*, and is a former co-editor of the *Journal of Religion*. She is also a past president of the American Theological Society.

ALEXIS TORRANCE
Alexis Torrance is the Archbishop Demetrios Associate Professor of Byzantine Theology at the University of Notre Dame, where he has taught since 2014. He has published in the areas of patristic, Byzantine, and Orthodox theology, and has held residential research fellowships at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and Dumbarton Oaks. His most recent monograph is titled *Human Perfection in Byzantine Theology: Attaining the Fullness of Christ* (Oxford University Press, 2020). His current work focuses on how the discipline of theology was understood in Byzantium, and how this might inform contemporary Orthodox theology. He is a Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne within the Archdiocese of Constantinople.

BISHOP MAXIM (VASILEVIĆ)
Bishop Maxim (Vasiljević) of Los Angeles and Western America earned his doctorate from the University of Athens in the field of dogmatics and patristics. He attended a one-year postdoctoral course on Byzantine history and theology at the Sorbonne in Paris from 2003 to 2004. At the same time, as a visiting professor at the French Academy of Fine Arts (Beaux-arts) in Paris, he dealt with the theory and practice of painting. He is currently teaching at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Besides scholarly articles, his bibliography includes *History, Truth, Holiness* (Sebastian Press, 2011), *Diary of the Council* (Crete, 2016), *Theology as a Surprise* (St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2018), and *Wonder as the Beginning of Faith* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2022).

ERIN GALGAY WALSH
Erin Galgay Walsh is an assistant professor of New Testament and early Christian literature at the University of Chicago Divinity School. She studies ancient and late antique Christianity with a focus on Syriac language and literature. She teaches and writes upon a variety of topics in New Testament literature, the history of Biblical interpretation, Syriac language and literature, embodied practices, religious poetry, and multilingualism in the late antique and early Byzantine east. Professor Walsh also serves as the executive editor for Christianity at *Ancient Jew Review*, a nonprofit web journal devoted to the interdisciplinary study of ancient Judaism. She received her Ph.D. from Duke University.

Connecting cultures, religious traditions, and academic disciplines to foster awareness and knowledge of Orthodox Christianity in public discourse

The Orthodox Christian Studies Center provides a space within a university setting for engagement with Orthodox Christianity by undergraduate and graduate students, participating faculty, and friends. It seeks to promote understanding of Orthodox Christianity in Western culture; to preserve and perpetuate a vibrant Orthodox Christian tradition in America; to articulate the value and relevance of the Orthodox Christian tradition; and to promote ecumenical dialogue and relations, especially with Roman Catholicism.