



OTSA Annual Meeting, May 29–31, 2025
Hellenic College Holy Cross

**Theme: “Human Experience:
How Does It Shape Theology and Church Life”**

Program (updated 5/20/25)

• **Thursday (5/29/25 – Feast of Ascension)**

(2:30 – 3:00 pm: Check-In and Refreshments)

• **3:00 pm**

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Fr. John Jillions, DMin, PhD, OTSA President

• 3:30 – 5:00 pm: **Human Experience: Theological Foundations** (Moderator – Jim Skedros)

- “Experience in Modern Orthodox Theology”
Aristotle Papanikolaou, PhD (Fordham University)
- “The Experience of the Holy Spirit in Fr. Dumitru Staniloae”
Nicolas Laliberté, MTh (Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology)
- “The Epistle to the Hebrews, Pastoral Experience, and the Evolution of Mercy”
Fr. John Jillions, DMin, PhD (Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies
Cambridge, UK)

• **5:00 – 6:00 pm: Opening Vespers**

• **6:00 – 7:00 pm: Dinner**

• 7:00 – 8:30 pm: **Human Experience and the Body** (Moderator – Teva Regule)

- “Embodiment and Communion: Exploring Ethics in the Body of Christ”
Ashley Purpura, PhD (Purdue University)
- “The Uncontainable Body: Orthodoxy’s Theology of Embodiment”
Dina Zingaro, MDiv, cand (Harvard Divinity School)
- “Ethnographic Research as Theological Method: Women’s Experience of Sexual Assault”
Rachel Contos, PhD, cand (Fordham University)

• 8:30 – 9:00 pm: **Our Experience**

Group Breakouts (*with Dessert*)

• **Friday (5/30/2025)**

• **8:30 – 9:00 am: Morning Prayer**

Breakfast Snacks

• 9:00 – 10:00 am: **Human Experience and Liturgy** (Moderator – Fr. Peter Baktis)

- “Re-Storying the Human Person: Narrative Liturgical Formation ”
Fr. Geoffrey Ready, PhD (Trinity College, University of Toronto)
- “Liturgy as Formation: Preparing for the Eucharist—The Cathedral Vigil as Celebrated at New Skete Monastery”
Teva Regule, PhD (Boston College)

- 10:00 – 11:00 am: **Human Experience and Science** (Moderator – Fr. John Jillions)
 - “Enriching Tradition: Monastic Wisdom meets Scientific Insight”
Br. Christopher Savage (New Skete Monastery)
 - “Apophaticism and Experience in Orthodox Theology and Quantum Mechanics”
Stoyan Tanev, PhD (Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada)
- 11:00 – 11:30 am: *Coffee Break*
- 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: **Identity and Experience** (Moderator – Jim Skedros)
 - “Axia Women: The Experience of Women in Church Life”
Rachel Contos, PhD, cand (Axia Women)
 - “Differently Abled and their Experience in Church Life”
Archdeacon John Chryssavgis, DPhil (Huffington Ecumenical Institute, Hellenic College Holy Cross)
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm: *Lunch*
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm: **Business Experience and Theology** (Moderator – Fr. John Jillions)
 - “Mammon and the Master: Can Business Be a Path to Holiness?”
Charles Lelon, MBA, MTS (Harvard Divinity School, Investment Professional)
- 2:00 – 2:30 pm: **New Member Introductions** (Moderator – Helen Theodoropoulos)
- **2:30 pm – 4:00 pm: OTSA Business Meeting** (Chair – Fr. John Jillions)
(*Open to members in good standing. Provisional members may attend but not vote.*)
 - *Memorial for Departed Members to follow*
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm: *Coffee Break*
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm: **Panel: “The Land of Israel: Symbol, Promise, and Politics in Jewish-Christian Dialogue”** (Moderator – Fr. Geoffrey Ready)
 - Fr. Geoffrey Ready, PhD (Trinity College, University of Toronto)
 - Fr. Michael Azar, PhD (Univ. of Scranton)
 - Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos (Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology)
 - Jenny Haddad Mosher, PhD (Cross Road Institute)
 - Inga Leonova (The Wheel Journal)
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm: *Dinner*
- **7:00 pm – 8:30 pm: Florovsky Lecture: The Church and the Temptation of Totalitarianism: Experience of the Past and Orthodox Witness Today**
Maliotis Cultural Center
(Moderator – Fr. Bogdan Bucur)
Rev. Archimandrite Vasily (Vitaly Permiakov), PhD (St. Vladimir’s Seminary)
- *Reception to Follow*

- **Saturday (5/31/2025)**
 - **8:30 – 9:00 am: Morning Prayer**
Breakfast Snacks
 - 9:00 – 10:30 am: **Totalitarianism and the Church** (Moderator – Fr. John Jillions)
 - “Theology Shaped by Human Experience Shaped by Theology:
The Case of N. Steinhardt”
Fr. Bogdan Bucur, PhD (St. Vladimir’s Seminary)
 - **Plenary:** “A Follow-on Conversation with Archimandrite Vasily”
 - 10:30 – 11:00 am: *Coffee Break*
 - 11:00 am – 12:30 pm: **Discussion and Workshop: Academic Freedom**
(Moderator – Fr. John Jillions)
 - 12:30 – 1:30 pm: *Lunch*