

ODOIPORIKON

ORTHODOX MISSION IN THE EAST

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PATRIARCHAL FOUNDATION

OF ORTHODOX MISSION IN THE FAR EAST

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**His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos of Messogaia and
Lavreotiki with Archimandrite Fr. Michael Lioumis and
Rev. Fr. Hilarion Jeong at the parish of the Dormition of the
Theotokos in Jeonju, South Korea**



The Mission in the Antipodes

(Excerpt from the presentation of H.E. Metropolitan of New Zealand Myron: «The Mission in the Antipodes», Constantinople 1-3 September 2024)

Your All Holiness,
Most Holy Hierarchs,

First of all, I would like to thank His Beatitude for the change in my life brought about by my election and ordination as Metropolitan of the Missionary Metropolis of New Zealand.

You have given me, Your Holiness, the opportunity to see and experience first-hand early Christian apostolic experiences of our Church. To see for myself that all that is described in

the Book of Acts and the Epistles of the Apostles are absolutely true. It is a story that is repeated even today, where the Orthodox Church is giving birth to new local Churches. The problems and infantile illnesses of the new little Church cannot obscure the sight of the miracles that are performed daily by the grace of God for the establishment and spread of the Truth in the most remote corner of our planet. God called us to know, associate and live with people who brought His Grace, radiated and distributed it without realizing what they had accomplished, giving us experientially, the measure of our mission and the intended purpose of our mission and

our Church. The all-encompassing experience of the Grace of God, by the recently deceased Father Barnabas, a Hindu by birth, in the town of Lampasa on the island of Viti Levu, Fiji, assures us of God's presence and goodness, and being our spiritual compass.

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In closing my talk, I would like to emphasize that all those who serve in the Pacific Ocean mission are volunteers. There are no salaries in the usual sense, nor health insurance for priests and missionaries. There is only coverage for the needs of the priests and missionaries for food, transportation, daily expenses and charity. We are knocking on your door and we will knock on your door. Please do not let us feel that we have become a burden to you, do not treat us as beggars, see us as an extension of your own witness, offering and sacrifice and as an

invitation to participate in the joy of evangelizing the whole world and in the encounter of God's miracles.

The mission in the Antipodes is not our personal affair. It is a collective affair of the Church, it is an ecumenical affair. We, by God's grace and tolerance, are there as a physical presence, as the last link. Without your participation, the joy is incomplete. Do not deprive yourself and the members of our flock of this joy. We are all invited. We are all welcome. Let no "field" and no "oxen" (Luke 14:18) deprive us of joy. And there is great joy when we see matter transformed into thanksgiving and praise to God, into love for our fellow man, into holiness of life and participation in Divine Glory. Thank you most sincerely.

† Metropolitan of New Zealand Myron



Interest for the Orthodox Church in Korea

By the grace of God, the visits, by arrangement, to the parishes of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea by heterodox students, pastors, monks, and lay people to attend courses on the Theology, History, Worship, and Art of the Orthodox Church have continued unabated. The same is the case with invitations from universities, theological schools, and Churches of other denominations for lectures on the Orthodox Church.

For example, on Thursday, June 27 this year, members from the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea responded to an invitation for a lecture “On the Holy Trinity, the Jesus Prayer and the Theology of Icons.” The lecture was scheduled from 8 to 10 pm. However, due to the many questions of the participants, the event ended at 11 pm.

It was touching to see young married couples who had come after work with their whole family to the lecture. Their young children, together with their chaperones, stayed until so late in a special area specially designed for children, from which they had visual and auditory contact with the lecture area, but without the slightest noise from where they were playing.

From the foregoing, we can see the growing interest of non-Orthodox Koreans in the Orthodox Church, as well as the duty of Orthodox Christians to engage in a loving and truthful dialogue with every person of goodwill. Lord, please Lord, make us worthy to uphold the word of Truth everywhere and always.





Ordination of a new Priest

On Sunday, July 14, at the holy church of Panagia Dexia (Thessaloniki), the Metropolitan of Korea and Exarch of Japan Ambrsios celebrated the ordination of Deacon Vasyl Pokhylets to the office of Presbyter.

The Ukrainian-born Fr. Vasyl is a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Theology of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He was ordained deacon by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Patriarchal Church of St. George in Fanar on the Sunday of Orthodoxy last March. He is to serve in the Exarchate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Japan.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, the Metropolitan of Korea expressed his deepest gratitude to His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch because thanks to His paternal love, the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and Exarchate of Japan has gained a new clergyman. He also thanked His Eminence Metropolitan Philotheos of Thessaloniki for

granting the permission for the ordination of Fr. Vasyl in his Province. Finally, he thanked the priests Fr. Efthymios Vakalakis, Fr. Agapios Papadopoulos and Fr. Georgios Chilas for their hospitality and the love they showed to Fr. Vasyl during his diakonia in the holy church of Panagia Dexia.

The ordination was attended by many people and by students of the Department of Greek Studies of HUFS University (South Korea), who are attending the summer program of the Greek language of the University of Thessaloniki.

Our brother Father Vasyl, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season... do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Tim. 4:2-5), for the further spreading of the Orthodox witness to more of our brothers and sisters in the Far East for the glory of His Holy Name. Amen. AXIOS!

Youth camping weekend (Retreat) of the group “Syndesmos”

From 26 to 28 July, the youth summer camping retreat of the “Syndesmos” group took place again this year at the camping facilities of the parish of St. Boris in Chuncheon city.

Numerous young men and women, believers and catechumens alike, participated. The program was mainly based on the bipole of “teaching” and “the breaking of bread”, i.e. catechesis and worship. The morning and evening Holy Services, the Divine Liturgy, the Sacrament of Confession, and the Bible Study sessions nourished everyone spiritually.

Participants also had the opportunity to discuss, on the central theme being Philip’s invitation to Nathanael: “Come and see”, the

Orthodox way of spreading the Christian witness in their social environment. Very interesting views were expressed based on the Korean social reality and great emphasis was given to the greatest argument, which leads non-Christians to Christ and His Church: that is the example of Christians.

Apart from the above-mentioned activities, fellowship, recreation, a walk in the countryside and the nearby river, a visit to the local museum of traditional calligraphy, a lecture on Mount Athos, singing and chanting created a wonderful atmosphere, which made most people not want the camping period to end and some even asked to extend the period next time.





Middle and High School summer camping period

On Thursday, August 1, 2024, with God's help, the camping season for Middle and High School students ended and the third and final session for this summer for Elementary School students began, which will last until August 6.

The general theme of “come and see” with analyses of its individual aspects in the morning Bible Studies, general speeches and in private discussions with the campers, and at the same time their participation in Holy Confession, in the Divine Liturgy and in the morning and evening Holy Services nourished everyone spiritually and armoured them against the various evils that besiege adolescents.

Also, the group games, the well-cared daily meals, swimming in the river and the joyful interpersonal communication helped the participants to strengthen their brotherly bonds with each other, despite their different ethnic backgrounds from Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan and Egypt, because the Orthodox Church is Ecumenical and unites people in one body, the Body of Christ.

At the closing ceremony they received a gift of a Holy Cross to protect them from temptation and to remind them that without struggle and a sacrificial spirit they cannot progress spiritually, nor can they repeat “come and see” to anyone.

Conclusion of the 2024 Summer Camp Program

From August 1 to 6, 2024, the last summer camping session of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and the Exarchate of Japan took place at the camping facilities of St. Boris Parish in Chuncheon with elementary school students.

The biblical themes and discussions during this camp session also revolved around Philip's invitation to his friend Nathaniel— "Come and see." The celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the participation of all the children in the Eucharist, Holy Confession, the Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary, and the daily morning and evening Holy Services all provided moments of spiritual upliftment for all. The children also gained a wonderful spiritual experi-

ence from their participation in the feast of the Monastery of the Holy Transfiguration of the Savior in Gapyeong, where the camping session ended.

The program also included visits to the local zoo and children's museum, indoor and outdoor games, swimming in the river, and a lesson in traditional Korean music "samulnori" by a nine-member group of visiting musicians.

Glory, praise and thanksgiving belong to God, the Giver of all good things, for His blessing to the camping work of our Church in Korea. Our thanks are also extended to all the staff and volunteers who have worked diligently to accomplish this holy work.





The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Savior at the Holy Monastery in Gapyeong

On Monday, August 5, 2024, the Great Vespers of the feast of the Transfiguration of the Savior with Artoklasia was celebrated at the monastery by Protopresbyter Father Anthony Woo.

The following morning was presided over by the Metropolitan of Korea and the Exarch of Japan Ambrosios and with the co-celebrants Fr. Anthony Woo, Fr. Jeremiah Cho, Fr. Roman Kavchak, Fr. Anthony Lim and Fr. Yohan Park, the Orthros of the feast was celebrated and after the end of the Doxology, the service of the Artoklasia was celebrated. This was followed by the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, at the end of which the “Blessing of the Grapes” was read, and a memorial service for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable Metropolitan Sotirios, the founder of the monastery.

Then everyone gathered in the refectory of the monastery during which the campers of the last session presented a short, yet very interesting program of what they had learned at the camp.





The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Jeonju

On Wednesday, August 14, the parish of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Jeonju City celebrated the feast of the Mother of God with the services of the solemn Great Vespers and Artoklasia, presided over by Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea and Exarch of Japan, the priest of the church, Fr. Hilarion Chung Jong-hyuk, and the priest Fr. Silvestros Zhang from China.

In his sermon, the Metropolitan referred to the humility of the Virgin Mary and the struggle of each of us to acquire this sublime, great virtue. This was followed by an Agape dinner with the participation of all the faithful, which ended with the Metropolitan's advice to the participants on spiritual life.

The following day, Thursday, August 15, the Orthros of the feast and the Divine Liturgy was celebrated, at the end of which the Doxology of the Day of the Liberation

of Korea from the Japanese occupation was chanted and concluded with the procession of the icon of the Virgin Mary outside the church. The Divine Liturgy was presided over by the Metropolitan of Korea, Protopresbyter Fr. Roman Kavchak, Fr. Hilarion Chung Jong-hyuk, and Fr. Silvestros Zhang.

In his sermon, the Metropolitan elaborated on three attributes of the Virgin Mary: as "Servant of the Lord", as "Theotokos" and as "Mother of God and of men." This was followed by an Agape meal during which the Metropolitan elaborated on the missionary dimension of the procession to the "outsiders" and concluded with a musical program by the students of the Sunday School.

We praise our Lord and the Theotokos for the joyful and blessed celebration and thank the parishioners, the visitors, and all those who worked hard to prepare the celebration.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolaos of Messogaia and Lavreotiki in Korea

From 20 to 27 September, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki, accompanied by His Counselor Archimandrite Michael Liumis, visited the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and Exarchate of Japan.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NCCK

His Eminence visited South Korea as a representative of His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Churches of Korea (NCCK), which took place on 22 September, during which he read out the relevant venerable Patriarchal Message.

20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and Exarchate of Japan

On Sunday, September 22, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Seoul, the Orthors and the Multi-episcopal Divine Liturgy were celebrated on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and Exarchate of Japan (2004-2024) by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Participating were the Metropolitans of Messogaia and Lavreotiki Nicholaos, the Metropolitan of Korea and Exarch of Japan Ambrosios, assisted by the priests Fr. Daniel Na, Fr. Michael Liumis, Fr. Anthony Woo,



From the multi-archieratic liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Seoul, on the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and the Exarchate of Japan

Fr. Roman Kavchak, Fr. Evangelos Thiani (Kenya), Fr. Jeremiah Cho and Fr. Anthony Lim.

Following the biblical readings, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos, preached the Word of God and at the end of the Divine Liturgy he presided at the Memorial Service for those who worked in Korea as missionaries.

Afterward, a festive program followed in the Hall of the Mission Center with a common meal of Love, songs by the choir of the Cathedral, and a greeting by Metropolitan Nicholaos. The enthusiasm with which the faithful greeted His Eminence Nicholaos was also manifested by their spontaneous attendance to receive his blessing and to ask him to sign his book for them titled: "Where God Is Not There", which has been translated into Korean and has been published by our Korean Orthodox Editions in 2022.

Visits to the Parishes of the Metropolis

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, HE Metropolitan Nicholaos visited the parish of Saint Boris in Chuncheon and the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Gapyeong. A Trisagion at the grave of the late Metropolitan of Pisidia, the former Metropolitan of Korea Soterios was held, and His Eminence presided over and spoke at the Great Vespers that followed.

On Monday 23 September 2024, Metropolitan Nicholaos and his companions visited the parish of the Annunciation of the Mother of God in Busan, where they had the opportunity to see the Holy Church and the Nursery School of the parish.

On the following days, Tuesday and Wednesday, His Eminence paid visits to the



From the memorial service at the grave of the late Metropolitan Soterios of Pisidia, formerly of Korea, by the Rev. Metropolitan Nicholaos of Messogaia and Lavreotiki at the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour in Gapyeong

Parish of St. Paul the Apostle in Incheon, the Parish of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Jeonju as well as the premises of St. Anne's School of Arts.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos of Messogaia and Lavreotiki at the University of HUFS

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, His Eminence Nicholaos, his Counselor Archimandrite Michael Liumis and Mr. George Dimopoulos, Vice President of the Patriarchal Foundation of the Orthodox Mission of the Far East, visited the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), where the Department of Greek Studies operates.

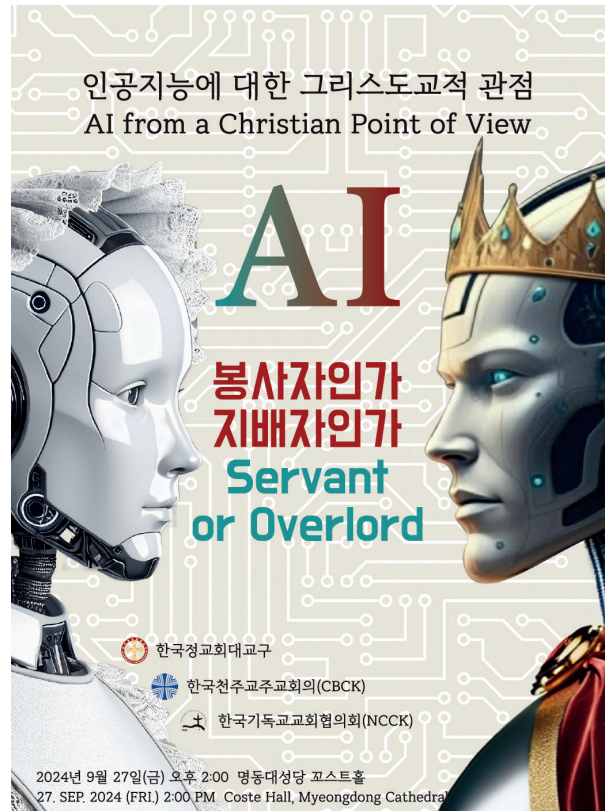
At first, His Eminence attended a common meal with the freshmen students of the Department of Greek Studies, to whom he addressed a cordial greeting, stressing at the same time the great value and importance of the Greek language.

Then His Eminence Nicholaos gave a lecture on the subject: “Science, Technology and Modern Concepts”, organized by the University in the context of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary (2004-2024) of the founding of the Department of Greek Studies. The lecture was attended by several students and professors, at the end of which many of the participants asked substantial questions.

After the lecture, President Park Jeong-Woon and Vice President Kim You-Gang received His Eminence Nicholaos as a guest in the Deanery office. An interesting discussion occurred between them on scientific issues and the Orthodox Church.

Memorial Service at the Monument of the Greek Fallen Soldiers

Following the lecture in HUFS, His Eminence Nicholaos visited the Monument of the Greek Fallen Soldiers during the Korean War



(1950-1953) and held a Memorial Service for the repose of those killed for the freedom of the country by the Greek Expeditionary Forces (GEF), in the presence of representatives of the Greek Embassy in Seoul.

“Artificial Intelligence (AI) from a Christian Point of View: Servant or Overlord?”

On Friday, September 27, 2024, at the Hall of Myeongdong Cathedral, the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea and Exarchate of Japan, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of its establishment by the Ecumenical Patriarchate (2004-2024), co-organized with the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Korea (CBCK) and the National Council of Churches of Korea (NCCK) a symposium on: “Artificial Intelligence (AI) from a Christian Point of View: Servant or Overlord?”.

The Symposium began with the reading of the Patriarchal Message, in which His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew clearly set out the firm foundations



From the visit of His Eminence, Metropolitan of Messogaia and Lavreotiki Nicholaos, to the parish of the «Annunciation of the Virgin Mary» in Busan

on which the debate on this very serious issue of concern to the global community should be conducted.

The keynote speaker of the Symposium was His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos of Messogaia and Lavreotiki. Also participating as speakers were the Roman Catholic priest Fr. Moses Han Chang Hyun and the Protestant pastor Shin Ik-sang.

After the conclusion of all three speeches, the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions to the speakers, which showed their interest in the topic of the Symposium.

Also the publications and presentations of the Symposium in the Korean Media, with favorable comments especially on the venerable Patriarchal Message and the speech of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos, revealed the great need to enlighten public opinion on this serious issue of AI.

On the evening of Friday, September 27,

2024, following the Symposium and the farewell dinner, we escorted with feelings of infinite gratitude and heartfelt thanks His Eminence Metropolitan Nikolaos of Messogaia and Lavreotiki and his escorts to the airport for their return to Greece.

We thank God for deeming us worthy of this blessing, and at the same time we thank His All Holiness our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, because due to the visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos to Korea, as His representative during the celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the NCKK, we were given the excellent opportunity to have His Eminence present at various other events of our Church in Korea. With his presence and knowledge, he has strengthened us in the missionary work, which by God's grace, is being carried out in the Orthodox Metropolis of Korea under the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



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**His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholaos of
Messogaia and Lavreotiki with the President of
HUFS University, Mr. Jeong-Woon Park in South
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