

PRESS RELEASE

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The Healing Initiative
Third Conference on Holistic Healing in Byzantium: Modern Adaptations
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Spring Conference to Highlight Future Directions for Holistic Healing

BROOKLINE, MASS: Concluding a three-year conference on Holistic Healing in Byzantium that has already spawned one book, this year's spring conference of the Healing Initiative brings together an international panel of lecturers to discuss modern manifestations of Byzantine healing practices in fields as diverse as medicine, psychology, homeopathy, sexuality, faith healing, and the arts, exploring their interdependent relationships and emphasizing the psychosomatic nature of human beings.

This year's exploration entitled *Modern Adaptations* will be held on March 31-April 1 at Hellenic College's Maliotis Cultural Center and will feature health care providers, scholars, authors, and other renowned figures, including a keynote by His Eminence Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol of Cyprus. The Metropolitan will also participate on a panel examining ABC-News footage of the controversial, world-renowned Brazilian healer "John of God." The purpose of the panel will be to discuss criteria for determining genuine healing and healers.

Metropolitan Athanasios will be joined by his student, author Kyriacos Markides, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at the University of Maine; Jeff Rediger, M.D., Medical Director of McLean Hospital-South East and Clinical Instructor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School; Perry Carlos, D.O., Chairman of Primary Care for The Baptist Health System, Jacksonville, FL; Emily Markides, Ph.D., founder of the International Ecopeace Village; Erik Bohlin, social worker at New Hope Counseling Service in Everett, WA; and John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Th.D., Professor of Psychology at Hellenic College and Clinical Instructor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School, who will moderate the panel.

The conference also includes a symposium that examines the impact of healing powers of prayer on the whole person, linking Byzantine and modern studies, by Dr. John Chirban, Dr. Perry Carlos, and Erik Bohlin.

The March 31-April 1 conference at Maliotis Cultural Center will illustrate holism as understood in Byzantium expressed through presentations on a diversity of modern

practices. Homeopathy will be discussed by Laura Josephson, C.C.H., R.S.Hom. (N.A.), homeopath, author, and former president of the New York State Homeopathic Association. The role of the Arts in healing will be discussed by Maureen Lansat, L.M.H.C., Director of Healing through the Arts Internship in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Koula Svokos Hartnett, Ed.D., and Richard Hartnett, Ed.D., will discuss “Seven Paths to Wellness: Ancient & Modern Wisdom for Care of the Mind/Body/Soul.” The conference will also explore the impact of healing powers of prayer on the body by Joan Kakascik, Ed.D., Psychologist of Saddle Brook, New Jersey.

Examination of healing trends will help the conference point towards future directions for healing, as participants hear from a variety of speakers, including Spero Kinnas, M.D., FACS, discussing “Healing in the Orthodox Mission Field,” Emmanuel Karavasounos of Bellerose, NY, speaking on “How and Why Are Science and Religion Both Necessary and Indispensable Elements for the Attainment of the Mystical State and Healing,” Presvetera Vasiliki Eckley, M.Div., of Galveston, Texas, speaking on “The Orthodox Idea of Male and Female in Human Being and Becoming,” and Joy Hathaway, M.A., C.P.A., speaking on “The Healing Power of Christ’s Face.” This year’s conference will also initiate the *Programme on Sex, Intimacy, and Love*, a project of future study that will be introduced by The Rev. Nicholas Graff, president of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, and Panagiotis Papaeconomou and Timoclia Zacharogeorgas, who will share results from their pilot study on sex education.

Previous conferences of the Healing Initiative on Byzantine Healing set the stage for this conference exploring Byzantine healing practices, providing the content for the forthcoming book entitled *Healing in Byzantium: Science and Faith*. Additionally, this book examines the relationship between “Belief and Faith Healing,” exploring the holistic concepts, understanding of Christ’s Healing Ministry, and other figures and theological dimensions of Byzantine healing, and epistemological and methodological issues in medicine, psychology, and religion. The manuscript is currently in production with Holy Cross Press.

The Healing Initiative of the Institute for Medicine, Psychology, and Religion is an outgrowth of collaborative research with the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University. Sponsored in part by the Lilly Foundation at Hellenic College and the Local Societies Initiative of the Metanexus Institute, its ethos encourages the integration of faith and healing by supporting interdisciplinary dialogue, research, and practice through publications and conferences in the field of holistic healing.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to take advantage of the early registration dates. The full conference schedule and registration information can be accessed at <http://www.inmpr.org/conferences.htm>. To request more information about this event please write to the Institute for Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, PO Box 380958, Cambridge, MA 02238.

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