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PRESS RELEASE

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Healing Conference Points to Interdependent Models for Holistic Healing

BROOKLINE, MASS: Concluding a three-year examination about Holistic Healing in Byzantium that has already spawned one book, this year's spring conference of the Healing Initiative brought together an international panel of lecturers to discuss the practice of physical, psychological, and spiritual healing in fields as diverse as medicine, psychology, homeopathy, sexuality, faith healing, and the arts – exploring and emphasizing the psychosomatic nature of human beings.

This year's exploration, entitled Modern Adaptations, was held at Hellenic College's Maliotis Cultural Center. Featuring health care providers, scholars, authors, and other renowned figures, including a keynote address by His Eminence Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol of Cyprus, participants considered the strengths and limitations of their own training in the healing process. The Metropolitan also participated in a panel that discussed criteria for determining genuine healing and healers; the panel examined ABC-News footage of the controversial, world-renowned Brazilian healer "John of God." The Metropolitan was joined on the panel by 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 in Psychiatry 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; and John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Th.D., Professor of Psychology at Hellenic College and

Clinical Instructor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School, who served as moderator for the panel.

The conference also included a symposium that examined 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 conference served to illustrate holism as understood in Byzantium, encompassing multiple expressions as represented through presentations on a diversity of modern specializations. Homeopathy was 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 was discussed by Maureen Lansat, L.M.H.C., Director of Healing through the Arts Internship in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. The conference also explored 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 helped the conference point towards future directions for healing, as participants heard from a variety of speakers, including Spero Kinnas, M.D., FACS, who discussed “Healing in the Orthodox Mission Field,” Emmanuel Karavasounos of Bellerose, NY, who spoke 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, who treated “The Orthodox Idea of Male and Female in Human Being and Becoming,” and Joy Hathaway, M.A., C.P.A., who presented on “The Healing Power of Christ’s Face.” Tapes of these presentations are available through the Institute of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion. Please check www.inmpr.org for more information.

This year’s conference also served to initiate the Programme on Sex, Intimacy, and Love. This project is part of a larger future study that was introduced by The Rev. Nicholas Graff, president of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, and Panagiotis Papaeconomou and Timoclia Zacharogeorgas, who shared results from their pilot study on sex education.

Previous conferences of the Healing Initiative on Byzantine Healing set the stage for this Conference’s exploration of Byzantine healing practices. All three conferences have also provided the content for the forthcoming book entitled *Healing in Byzantium: Science and Faith*. Additionally, this book works to examine 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.

In the fall, the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion and the Institute of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion will be involved in multiple conferences that treat the topic of holistic healing. This coming month, an IMPR sponsor, the Metanexus Institute, is holding a conference on Continuity and Change:

Perspectives in Science and Religion, from June 3-7 in Philadelphia, PA. Additionally, a conference will be held in November regarding the newly-inaugurated Programme on Sex, Intimacy, and Love. This conference, sponsored by the IMPR and the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, will take place at Hellenic College/Holy Cross from November 2-4. More information will be posted on the web at www.inmpr.org as it becomes available.

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 future conferences are encouraged to take advantage of early registration dates. The full conference schedule and registration information will be accessible at <http://www.inmpr.org/conferences.htm>. To request more information about future events, please write to the Institute for Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, PO Box 380958, Cambridge, MA 02238. Visit www.inmpr.org for more details.