

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Contact:**

The Healing Initiative  
Third Conference on Holistic Healing in Byzantium: Modern Adaptations  
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### **Healer John of God Examined by Experts at Upcoming Event**

BROOKLINE, MASS: His Eminence Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol in Cyprus will participate on a panel examining ABC-News footage of the controversial, world-renowned Brazilian healer known as “John of God” during the Third Annual Conference on Holistic Healing in Byzantium.

Bestselling author Kyriacos Markides, Professor of Sociology at the University of Maine, and his mentor Metropolitan Athanasios will be joined by Emily Markides, founder of the International Ecopeace Village, and Jeff Rediger MD, Medical Director of McLean Hospital-South East and Clinical Instructor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School on a panel addressing “Spiritual Discernment and Differential Diagnosis,” offering conference participants a set of tools by which to evaluate faith healers like John of God. Dr. John T. Chirban, PhD, ThD, Professor of Psychology at Hellenic College and Clinical Instructor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School will moderate the panel examining John of God, who has been called “the most powerful healer since Jesus” and credited with millions of healings performed over the past 30 years in Abadiania, Brazil, for which ABC’s *Primetime Live* featured him.

His Eminence Athanasios will also present the keynote address opening the conference entitled *Holistic Healing in Byzantium: Modern Adaptations*, March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>, hosted by the Institute of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion. Gathering educators, researchers, theologians and clinical practitioners from around the country to discuss applications of holistic healing, the first day of the conference will feature Laura Josephson, CCH, RSHom(NA) former president of the New York State Homeopathic Association; Maureen Lansat, LMHC, Director of Healing through the Arts Internship in Palm Beach Gardens, FL; Psychologist Joan Kakascic, EdD; Emmanuel Karavasounos of Bellerose, NY to speak on Science and Religion in Healing; and Presvetera Vasiliki Eckley, MTh, of Galveston, Texas, to speak on “Healing in Faith Development.”

On the second day, the conference will hear Erik Bohlin, MA, of New Hope Counseling Service in Everett, WA, joining Dr. Chirban in a symposium addressing modern approaches to holistic healing; Joy Hathaway, MA, CPA on “The Healing Power of Christ’s Face;” Spero Kinnas, MD, FACS, on Healing in the Orthodox Mission Field; and Koula Svokos Hartnett, EdD, and Richard Hartnett, EdD, on Seven Ancient and Modern Paths to Wellness. The Rev. Nicholas Graff, DMin, Panagiotis Papaeconomou, and Timoclia Zacharogeorgas will also join Dr. Chirban to initiate the *Programme on Sex, Intimacy, and Love* at this year’s conference.

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. Affiliated with the Lilly Foundation at Hellenic College and the Local Societies Initiative of the Metanexus Institute, its purview is to encourage the integration of faith and healing by supporting interdisciplinary dialogue, research, and practice through publications and conferences in the field of holistic healing.

Potential participants 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>, or write to request information from the Institute for Medicine, Psychology, and Religion, PO Box 380958, Cambridge, MA 02238.

Visit [www.inmpr.org](http://www.inmpr.org) for more details.