



Let Light
YOUR Shine!

Spread the Word,
Call and Challenge

Monday, May 15, 2023



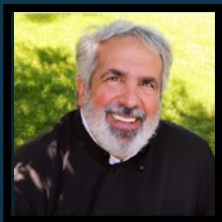
METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Missions and Evangelism Ministry

*Educating, equipping and engaging clergy and faithful
in Evangelism and Mission in the Orthodox Christian Tradition.*

Welcome and Tonight's Hosts

Metropolis Missions & Evangelism Ministry (MEM) Leaders



Rev. Father Jerry Markopoulos
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Eugene, Oregon



Kenny Scott
St. George Orthodox Church
Prescott, Arizona

Guest Presenter



Rev. Father Luke Veronis
Father Luke serves as the Director for the Missions Institute of Orthodoxy Christianity, which is located at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and teaches as an Adjunct Instructor at both Holy Cross and Hellenic College since 2005.

Agenda

Missions & Evangelism Ministry

“The Call” – Kenny Scott

“The Challenges” – Father Jerry Markopoulos

“A Way Forward” – Father Luke Veronis

Group Discussion and Q&A

Missions & Evangelism Ministry (MEM)

www.groworthodoxy.org

- The Metropolis of San Francisco Missions & Evangelism Ministry was founded in 1991 by Metropolitan Anthony of blessed memory and a group of lay leaders. It was originally named the Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism (C.O.M.E.) and led by founding board president Catherine Lingas.
- Guiding Scripture is the Great Commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:19-20

Mission, Vision, Goals

- Our goal is to aid and develop an Orthodox practice of Evangelism and Mission in our Priests, Parishes, and Parishioners.
- To that end, the scope of our ministry includes “Five Es”
 1. **Educate** our priests and parishes on the current reality of the American mission field
 2. **Equip** our priests and parishes with resources for evangelism and catechism
 3. **Engage** our priests and parishioners via workshops and conferences
 4. **Evolve** our current mission parishes into self-sustaining parishes
 5. **Establish** both the formation of new missions and new priests for those missions.

Missions & Evangelism Conference | June 6-8, 2023

Let your light shine for you shall be My witnesses

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Presented by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Missions and Evangelism Ministry

Tuesday, June 6 - Thursday, June 8, 2023

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center - Dunlap, CA

- Conference begins at Noon on Tuesday
- Enjoy two days of engaging presentations, workshops, resource sharing and more!
- Daily worship
- Each participant receives an advance copy of the book "Spread the Word: Reclaiming the Apostolic Tradition of Evangelism" by Rev. Father Michael Keiser.
- Conference concludes at noon on Thursday. Sack lunches to be provided upon departure.

Guest Speaker

Rev. Father Luke Veronis will be the conference guest speaker. He has been involved with the Orthodox church's missionary movement since 1987 and brings a valuable perspective on missions and evangelism as an effort to grow our faith.

**Register today at
www.groworthodoxy.org.**

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 26, 2023.

- \$200 for accommodations, meals, and your personal copy of the "Spread the Word" book.
- \$150 for meals and a copy of the "Spread the Word" book, but no accommodations at Saint Nicholas Ranch.

Join with others who are passionate about spreading the Orthodox faith, share resources and ideas, and collaborate on ways that we, as individuals and parishes, can Spread the Word and inspire and engage our parishioners to look beyond the walls of our communities, and to reach out and bring in people who are searching to know the love, peace and grace from Jesus Christ.

For more information on this conference or the Metropolis of San Francisco Missions and Evangelism Ministry, please contact Kenny Scott at kscott@groworthodoxy.org.



The Call



- Who is called to evangelize? Everyone, we all are called to share our faith.
- When are we called to start? We should be able to tell the story of the good things God has done in our lives from the moment we are baptized.
- Where are we called to evangelize? In our local community and in our neighborhoods
- Why are we called to evangelize? Out of love for your neighbor and because God has already prepared a field for us to harvest.
- What is the message we are called to share? That the Kingdom of God is amongst us.
- How are we called to share this message? By building relationships build on love.



“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:19-20



“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

- John 4:29

“Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”

- Mark 5:19

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- Acts 1:8

“Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

- John 4:35

“Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

- Matthew 9:38





“Then the master of the house, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”

- Luke 14:21-23



“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
is at hand!”

- Matthew 3:2

“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own
rented house, and received all who came to
him, preaching the kingdom of God and
teaching the things which concern the Lord
Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one
forbidding him.”

- Acts 28:30-31

THE CALL

How are we to share this message?



“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

- Colossians 4:5-6

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus said , “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Mary came where Jesus was, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Jesus wept.

- John 11:20-35



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- Matthew 5:16

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

- Romans 10:14



“Acquire a peaceful spirit, and around you
thousands will be saved.”

- St. Seraphim of Sarov

“The Lord God has led us out to work and has
given us the gifts of His grace in order that, by
reaping the ears of the salvation of our fellow-men
and bringing as many as possible into the
Kingdom of God. Let us be watchful, my son, in
order that we may not be condemned with that
wicked and slothful servant who hid his talent in
the earth, but let us try to imitate those good and
faithful servants of the Lord who brought their
Master four talents instead of two”

- St. Seraphim of Sarov



Who is called to evangelize?

Everyone, we all are called to share our faith.

When are we called to start?

We are called to share our faith, the moment our lives have been transformed by Christ.

Where are we called to evangelize?

In our local community and in our neighborhoods.

Why are we called to evangelize?

Because God wants more people in His Kingdom.

What is the message we are called to share?

The Kingdom of God is amongst us and you can get a taste of it through the Church.

How are we called to share this message?

By building relationships where we demonstrate the love of the Kingdom through both our actions and our words.

The Challenges (1 of 3)

1. Most of our people think of their parish as their universe. They think of church as a place they go to, not go out from
2. Not properly educated and equipped to evangelize.
3. Not engaged with those outside the walls of the parish. Waiting for people to come to us, rather than going out to them.
4. Have not accepted our personal call to be disciples and apostles.
5. Our parishes are not focused on the “essential”, the “one thing needful.”
6. We are not living “converted lives” that connect with what we teach (Passive missionary)
7. Our members, and our churches, commonly embrace a rather limited definition of apostolicity.
8. Our parishes are not defined by mission and evangelism.
9. We belong to the Orthodox Church, but we do not belong to an Orthodox culture. In fact, we belong to a culture that is deeply alien to Orthodoxy. A culture where the gospel has been distorted in many ways.

The Challenges (2 of 3)

10. Haven't fully let go of the "immigrant chapter", or "immigrant mentality" of our history. (Religion as merely cultural continuity)
11. Our parishes are focused on maintenance rather than mission. The Church is a lighthouse (mission) that has become a desk lamp (maintenance).
12. American Orthodoxy continues to struggle with questions of ethnicity and jurisdictional unity so that the "incarnation of the Logos" into modern American culture has hardly begun, and among some groups, the task has been seriously questioned or even renounced as a legitimate concern.
13. Need our hierarchy to articulate repeatedly that Orthodoxy offers the antidote to the disease of the fallen world and that the proclamation of the Good News is our urgent priority. (Hierarchical leadership)
14. Evangelism is not just the work of the clergy, or some of us. It is the work of all of us.
15. "Orthodox churches in America are nationalistic churches that lack the missionary concern necessary for them to break out of their self-imposed boundaries." (International Review of Missions-1963)

The Challenges (3 of 3)

16. When we invite people who don't identify as Christians, or Greeks, to come to our worship spaces, we are asking them to cross a cultural divide to meet Jesus. We are requiring them to do the hard work of translation and finding meaning in our foreign language, symbols, practices, and beliefs. In other words, we put the burden on them when the onus is meant to be on us as Jesus' followers.
17. We don't love our neighbor, nor do we obey Christ's command to share the Gospel.
18. There is a lack of inter-jurisdictional cooperation in missions and evangelism efforts.
19. Outsiders continue to think of our churches as places where Greeks worship and not a place for them. ("Greek" in external communications)
20. The need for ongoing catechesis.
21. Lack zeal for the Faith. "Christianity is either fire or it is nothing"-St. Maria of Paris
22. Resistance to change
23. Lacking adequate stewardship to support the ministry.

Overcoming the Challenges

- ❖ Acquire inner peace and thousands around you will be saved
- ❖ Preach the Gospel at all times; and if necessary use words
- ❖ Meet People where they're at and see God's image and beauty in them
- ❖ Always be ready to offer a defense for the hope that is within you

A Way Forward



The Great Commission

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Our Mission

As the missions and evangelism agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States it is OCMC's mission to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church.

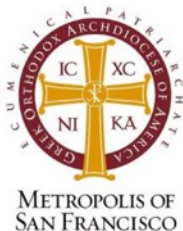
Our Vision

That all people may come to know the saving love of our Lord: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Our Values

- We value proclaiming and witnessing Christ to all people with priority given to those who have never heard or accepted the Gospel.
- We value sharing the love of Christ for the care of the total person – spiritual and physical.
- We value ministry in the language and culture of the people.
- We value our people – well-trained Missionaries, Staff, Board, Supporters, Indigenous Leadership and those being served.
- We value communities, parishes, and individuals that are mission-minded and have active mission involvement.
- We value being an open and transparent agency that values the gifts of stewardship provided to us by the faithful.

Group Discussion and Q&A



MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM MINISTRY

*EDUCATING, EQUIPPING AND ENGAGING CLERGY AND FAITHFUL IN EVANGELISM
AND MISSION IN THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN TRADITION*



Recommended Reading

- A. Missionaries, Monks, and Martyrs: Making Disciples of All Nations | Fr. Luke Veronis
- B. Go Forth: Stories of Missions and Resurrection from Albania | Fr. Luke Veronis
- C. Make Disciples of All Nations: 101 Tried & Tested Outreach Practices you can implement in your parish | Fr. Charles Joanides
- D. Commissioned to be Apostles | Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis
- E. Go and Make Disciples: Evangelism and Outreach in US Orthodox Parishes (2017)
- F. Orthodox Alaska: A Theology of Mission | Fr. Michael Oleska
- G. Into All The World: An Orthodox Theology of Mission | Fr. Edward Rommen
- H. Mission In Christ's Way | Archbishop Anastasios
- I. Come and See: An Eastern Orthodox Perspective on Contextualization | Fr. Edward Rommen
- J. Alaskan Missionary Spirituality | Edited by Fr. Michael Oleska
- K. The Evangelical Theology of the Orthodox Church | Bradley Nassif
- L. The Rise of Christianity: How the obscure, marginal Jesus movement became the dominant religious force in the Western world in a few centuries | Rodney Stark


Resources Webpage

<https://groworthodoxy.org/recommended-content/resource-library/>

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Resource Library




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Getting Started




Parish Visibility



Webinars



Websites



Welcome Ministry