

THE BENEDICTINE FELLOWSHIP OF SAINT LAURENCE

'Constituenda est ergo nobis Dominici schola servitii'



FALL 2010 WOMEN'S RETREAT

The Theotokos and Orthodox Women

October 8 - 10

Pr. Eugenia Constantinou, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Temecula, CA

The Theotokos and Orthodox Women. Separating Life from Legend and Theology from Piety:

A Scriptural, Theological and Iconographic Journey. Don't we face enough pressure as modern women? Homemaker – Mom - Business woman – Wife- Student – Caregiver - Career Woman – Volunteer - Grandmother ... We are expected to do it all, take care of everyone around us, look good while doing it, AND be like...the Theotokos, too!?! Talk about pressure!

What do we REALLY know about the Theotokos? Was she simple and submissive or ardent and assertive? A highly-motivated perfectionist or passive and accepting? Is she a motherly model or an unattainable ideal? How can she possibly serve as an example for modern women? The Theotokos was a REAL and COMPLEX person. In this presentation we will ask: Why was she important in the early Church? -What do we really know about her life? What about those "other" apocryphal stories? Why don't we know more about her life? What does the Bible teach us about her and why are certain readings chosen for her feasts? What do the icons teach us about her? How does Orthodox theology about Mary differ from Catholic theology and piety? Which qualities did she exhibit that we can imitate? What aspects of her life are attainable by us?

an independent, non-profit organization founded to help establish a Retreat Center, under the Holy Rule of Saint Benedict, together with a cemetery and mausoleum for the burial of the faithful, in Fremont County, Colorado.

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Dr. Presvytera Eugenia Constantinou holds a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies (1980) and a Master of Arts degree in Practical Theology from the University of San Diego (1992). Presvytera also earned a Juris Doctorate degree in 1985 from Pepperdine University School of Law and has been a member of the California Bar since that time.

She earned a Master of Theology degree in 1996 from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology where she studied Orthodox Theology and Patristics. She then attended Harvard Divinity School where she specialized in New Testament and received a Master of Theology degree in 1998. Dr. Constantinou earned her Ph.D. from Université Laval in Quebec City after defending her doctoral dissertation on the subject of "Andrew of Caesarea and the Apocalypse in the Ancient Church of the East" in 2007.

Presvytera Jeannie has been teaching Biblical Studies and Early Christianity at the University of San Diego since 2002. Previously she taught New Testament at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology from 1998-1999. She has also taught Patristic Exegesis of Scripture at the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, California, the Gospel of John at the University of California at San Diego, and World Religions at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon, California.

Pres. Jeannie hosts a podcast which is an internet bible study on Ancient Faith Radio called "Search the Scriptures" (www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptures) which is attracting a world-wide audience. The lessons are available free and on demand at your convenience. She is also featured on a podcast series by the Orthodox Christian Network ("OCN") on the Book of Revelation in the Orthodox Church. Look for it at www.myocn.net.

Pres. Jeannie is married to Fr. Costa, pastor of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Temecula, California, and is simply "Mom" to their son, Christopher.

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