



Orthodox education for faith and life

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS ORTHODOX INSTITUTE

Newsletter June 2018

From the Institute Director



The acquisition of knowledge is a never-ending journey of discovery. Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) tells of how he had a dream. A friend took him to his old school room, but also entered other unfamiliar rooms. “‘How strange,’ I said to my companion, ‘that

I have lived here for all these years, and yet I never about the existence of all these rooms.’ And he replied, ‘But it is always so.’” Education is a place where we continue to discover new ‘rooms’ in the universe and the human heart. Acquiring knowledge has (or should have) a sense of wonder just like prayer and worship.

I was reminded of this at the recent SCMOI Information Night in Brisbane. Someone asked about how I came to the Orthodox Faith and I shared how my educational journey had been a key factor in the process. When I commenced graduate studies at The University of Melbourne, almost thirty years ago, my intention was to focus on Old Testament studies, but along the way I discovered the world of Syriac studies and I began to investigate all sorts of previously unimagined “rooms.” In particular, as I began to work on various ancient Syriac writers, I found myself having to read the Church Fathers and to evaluate the version of Christianity that I had accepted until then against the fullness of the Fathers’ understanding of the Gospel. This was my first step towards finding the Orthodox Church. When I started graduate education, little did I imagine that the experience I was embarking on would profoundly change my life and eventually lead to my becoming an Orthodox priest.

At SCMOI our mission is to help others on their educational journeys and to discover the wonders of knowledge. We want our students to be equipped with an in-depth understanding of the Orthodox Faith, knowing

and experiencing for themselves the marvels and transforming power of God’s revealed truth. Studying the Faith requires discipline and commitment—just like any other field of study—but crucially, if it is to have real meaning, it requires building a relationship with God through prayer, worship and active obedience to Him.

For this reason, our courses have a strong practical focus on applying knowledge and learning skills that better enable us to actively live our faith and to share it with others. It is worth adding that many of these skills—problem solving, critical reflection, leadership, communication, advocacy, and pastoral care—are also highly transferable and valued in the workplace.

Whether at the undergraduate or postgraduate level the SCMOI goal, simply put, is to know, communicate, apply and live the Faith.

We are on an exciting journey and would love you to come and join us in discovering knowledge for faith and life.

Fr Peter

New Member of Faculty



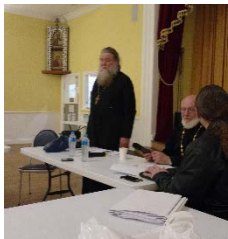
With the blessing of His Grace Bishop Siluan of the Australian Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and His Grace Bishop George, SCMOI is pleased to welcome Fr Nemanja Mrdjenovic to the faculty.

Fr Nemanja, who came to Australia as a refugee in 2003, received his basic theological training at the Orthodox Theological Faculty of Belgrade University. He has a BA from the University of Western Sydney, and an MA in Theology from St Andrew’s Greek Orthodox Theological College, Sydney.

He has published widely and serves as a coordinator for Special Religious Education of Serbian Orthodox Church in New South Wales. He is parish priest at Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Blacktown, NSW.

Fr Nemanja will be teaching in the field of Christian Discipleship in the 2019 academic year.

SCMOI Information Nights



With the blessing of His Grace Bishop George, SCMOI information evenings were held in Melbourne (30 May), Brisbane (5 June) and Sydney (6 June). The Institute Director, Rev. Dr Peter Hill, shared the vision of SCMOI and provided details of course pathways and units. A good number of clergy and laity attended the Melbourne and Brisbane presentations. Many expressed their interest in the educational opportunities offered by SCMOI, both in the immediate and long-term future. We are grateful to local clergy, especially the Very Rev Nicholas Karipoff (Melbourne), the Very Rev. Gabriel Makarov (Brisbane), and the Very Rev. George Lapardin (Sydney), for their support in organising the presentations.



Learning and Teaching Day

SCMOI held its first Learning and Teaching day for academic staff on June 4 2018 at the ACD Brooklyn Park campus. Attending were Fr Nicholas Karipoff, Fr Nemanja Mrdjenovic, Reader Irenaeus Strickler, and Fr Peter Hill.



After a delay to arrivals caused by heavy fog at Adelaide airport, we squeezed in a session on ACD procedures with Dr Elizabeth Boase, Academic Dean at UCLT.

In the afternoon we were joined by ACD colleagues to hear our guest presenters. Professor Alistair McCulloch, Head of Research Education at the University of South Australia (UniSA) spoke on assessment and learning, challenging us to think about how we conduct student assessment and how better to use assessment as a formative tool for learning. Then Dale Wache, an



Academic Developer at UniSA with extensive experience in digital learning, helped us think about the foundational principles for student engagement in an online environment. The presentations were challenging, highly informative and greatly appreciated by all the participants.



Semester 2 enrollments now open.

Units are available for undergraduate and postgraduate awards (Dip. Min., Assoc. Min., B. Min., Grad. Cert. Min. and Grad. Dip. Min).

All units are delivered at distance (online) and supported by the ACD learning platform and extensive study resources.

Australian residents are eligible for FEE-HELP.

Don't delay! Start your educational journey today by contacting SCMOI.

Semester 2 enrollment closes 9 July 2018.

Visit the website at www.scmoi.edu.au

Email us at info@scmoi.edu.au

Phone us (office hours) on (08) 8252 9440



SCMOI is the theological and higher education institute of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. Undergraduate and postgraduate award courses are delivered by arrangement with the Adelaide College of Divinity and the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology.

T: +61 (08) 8252 9440

E: info@scmoi.edu.au

P.O. Box 4019, Elizabeth South SA 5112

© 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Institute Limited

ABN: 63 623 975 913

www.scmoi.edu.au