

ALEXANDER RENTEL

CURRICULUM VITA

Personal Information

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Employment

January-May 2016: Adjunct Assistant Professor, Holy Cross School of Theology, Brookline, MA
2010 – current: Assistant Professor in Canon Law and the John and Paraskeva Skvir Lecturer in Practical Theology, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
2007- current: Seminary Ecclesiarch, responsible for overseeing the liturgical celebrations of the seminary, the instruction of liturgics, the deployment of the student body into Chapel Teams
2004-2010: Assistant Professor of Canon Law and Byzantine Studies, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
2002-2004: Instructor in Church History and Canon Law, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Education

Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, Italy
Doctor in Scientiis Ecclesiasticis Orientalibus, Summa Cum Laude 2004
Faculty of Eastern Christian Studies, Liturgical Section
Dissertation topic: "The 14th Century Patriarchal Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos. Edition and Commentary"
Licentiate, Magna Cum Laude, 1999
Faculty of Eastern Christian Studies, Liturgical Section
Thesis: "An Introductory Study of the Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos"
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont
Intensive summer Russian language program 1995
St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, New York
Master of Divinity 1995
Thesis topic: "John VI Kantakouzenos and the Hesychast Councils of the Fourteenth Century"
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Academic Grants, Fellowships, and Associations

- 2012-2013: Recipient of St. Macrina the Great Award recognizing the dedication and achievements of a St. Vladimir's professor.
- 2006-2007: Lilly Research Expense Grant through The Association of Theological Schools for the project: "The Development of the Orthodox Prothesis Rite. Part I: the Diataxis Tradition"
- 2001: recipient of Dissertation Grant from Medieval Academy of America
- 2000-2001: Junior Fellow in Byzantine Studies, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 and 1998: recipient of Summer Research Stipend from the Hilander Research Library/Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies, the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Member: Society of Oriental Liturgy

Publications

- "The Canonical Tradition: Universal Primacy in the Orthodox Church," forthcoming in *Primacy in the Church: The Office of Primate and the Authority of Councils*, Volume 2, (ed., J. Chrystsavgis) (Crestwood, NY, 2016).
- "Where is God in the Liturgy?" *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 59 (2015) 213-33.
- "The Relationship between Bishops, Synods, and the Metropolitan-Bishop in the Orthodox Canonical Tradition," *Power and Authority in Eastern Christian Tradition* (eds., J.A. McGuckin and F.K. Soumakis) (New York, 2011).
- "A Comparison of the Liturgical Rites of Ordination and the Canonical Act of Deposition," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 55 (2011) 27-57.
- "Ecumenical Patriarchate," *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology* (I. McFarland, et al., ed.) (Cambridge 2011) 373-374.
- "Чинопоследования хиротоний и каноническая процедура избержения из сана: сопоставление," *Православное учение о церковных таинствах. Москва, 13-16 Ноября 2007 г. Том II: Евхаристия: богословие Священство* (Moscow 2009) 387-401.
- The 14th Century Patriarchal Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos. Edition and Commentary.* Contract signed for publication in *Orientalia Christiana Analecta*. In preparation.
- "Byzantine-Slav Worship," *Oxford History of Christian Worship*, (G. Wainwright and K. Westerfield-Tucker, eds.) (Oxford University Press 2005) 254-306.
- "The Origins of the 14th Century Patriarchal Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos" *Orientalia Christiana Periodica* 71 (2005) 363-385.
- Book review of R. Jordan (ed. and trans.), *The Synaxarion of the Monastery of the Theotokos Evergetis*. Vol. 1: *September to February* (*Belfast Byzantine Texts and Translations* 6.5, Belfast 2000). *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 46.1 (2002) 95-98.
- Book review of D. Nicol, *The Reluctant Emperor* (Cambridge 1996), in *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 41:4 (1997) 383-385.

Papers Delivered, Meeting Participation, Interviews, Field Research

April 15, 2016: offered Lenten talk, "Triumph of Orthodoxy," Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, New York, New York.

April 13-15, 2016: participated in meeting of the OCA Canonical Commission on Canons and Statute for the drafting of new policies and procedures for Ecclesiastical Courts, Syosset, NY

April 1-3, 2016: served as retreat master at the Zoullas Memorial Lenten Retreat, Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, Southampton, New York

February 18-20, 2016: participated in the Educational Models and Practices Peer Group Forum sponsored by the ATS, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

January-May 2016: Assistant Adjunct professor of Canon Law at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts

January 3-7, 2016: participated in meeting of Orthodox Scholars at the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

November 29-30, 2015: represented the OCA at the throne feast of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, concelebrating at the synodal liturgy with the Ecumenical Patriarch and members of the sacred synod.

November 8-10, 2015: offered retreat on the liturgical celebrations of the Nativity-Theophany season, Carolina Deanery clergy, Diocese of the South (OCA), Durham, North Carolina.

September 4-6, 2015: represented the seminary at canonization of St. Sebastian of Jackson at St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Alhambra, California.

July 20-24, 2015: Delegate at 18th All-American Council (OCA), Atlanta, Georgia; presented report of Commission on Canons and Statutes regarding proposed Statute revision.

June 2015: principle author of the Report on the Proposed Statute Revision for The Orthodox Church in America by the Commission on Canons and Statute.

June 12-18, 2015: accompanied Metropolitan Tikhon to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for meeting of the Assembly of Bishops USA Executive Committee with the Ecumenical Patriarch.

April 28-May 1, 2015: participated in meeting of OCA Commission on Canons and Statutes in order to finalize text of revised OCA Statute at the Holy Monastery of the Dormition in Rives Junction, Michigan.

March 28, 2015: presented a progress report on the OCA Statute Revision Process at a Town Hall meeting of the New York City Deanery (Diocese of New York and New Jersey, OCA), Whitestone, New York.

March 16, 2015: presented a progress report on the OCA Statute Revision Process at a Deanery meeting of the New Jersey Deanery (Diocese of New York and New Jersey, OCA) and at a Town Hall meeting for deanery faithful, Jersey City, New Jersey.

March 8, 2015: presented a progress report on the OCA Statute Revision Process at a Town Hall meeting for the faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. (OCA), McLean, Virginia,

March 6, 2015: offered lenten talk, "The Liturgical Celebration of the Feast of Annunciation," Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, New York, New York.

March 5, 2015: presented a progress report on the OCA Statute Revision Process at a Deanery meeting of the Upstate New York Deanery (Diocese of New York and New Jersey, OCA) and at a Town Hall meeting for deanery faithful, Syracuse, New York.

January 24-25, 2015: travelled with Fr. Chad Hatfield to San Francisco and Santa Rosa, California, France, in order to represent the seminary at the ordination and enthronement of Bp. Daniel of Santa Rosa (OCA).

January 13-16, 2015, participated in fifth meeting of OCA Statute Revision Task Force in Phoenix, Arizona.

December 14-19, 2014: accompanied Metropolitan Tikhon and delegation from St. Vladimir's Seminary on pilgrimage to Holy Trinity Monastery and Seminary, Halki, Turkey, and to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

December 8-12, 2014, participated in fourth meeting of OCA Statute Revision Task Force, OCA Chancery, Syosset, NY.

November 13-14, 2014: presented on miscellaneous Canon Law topics and a progress report on the OCA Statute Revision Process at a Continuing Education program for clergy of the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania (OCA), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

October 24, 2014: presented progress report on OCA Statute Revision Process at the Assembly of the Diocese of New England (OCA), Cumberland, Rhode Island

September 4, 2014: presented on miscellaneous Canon Law topics and a progress report on OCA Statute Revision Process at a Continuing Education program for clergy of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey (OCA), Clifton, New Jersey.

August 19-22, 2014, participated in third meeting of OCA Statute Revision Task Force at the Holy Monastery of the Dormition in Rives Junction, Michigan.

June 10-15, 2014, local host for the Fifth International Congress of the Society of Oriental Liturgy.

May 8-11, 2014, participated in conference in Volos, Greece, "Orthodox Canonical Tradition and Contemporary Challenges," where I presented a paper, "Thoughts on the Canonicity and the Ecclesial Status of non-Orthodox Churches from the Perspective of the Canonical Tradition."

May 6, 2014, participated in final dissertation seminar at the Center for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University, Lund, Sweden. PhD candidate David Heith-Stadte presented a draft of his dissertation, "The Rudder of the Church: An Eighteenth Century Greek Orthodox Theology of Canon Law."

April 22-25, 2014, participated in second meeting of OCA Statute Revision Task Force at the Holy Monastery of the Dormition in Rives Junction, Michigan.

March 12, 2014, offered expert testimony via video link in Bishop Irinej Dobrijevic & Anor –v – Free Serbian Orthodox Church of Australia and New Zealand Property Turst & Ors; New South Wales Supreme Court proceedings 2011/247393. In my engagement as an expert witness for this case, I wrote Expert Reports in February 2013, December 2013, February 2014, and March 2014.

January 15-17, 2014, participated in the first meeting of OCA Statute Revision Task Force in Phoenix, Arizona.

December 5-7, 2013, travelled with Fr. Chad Hatfield to Paris, France, in order to represent the seminary at the enthronement of Abp. Job (Getcha) of Temessos.

May 22-June 10, 2013, led a trip together with Fr. John Behr of 10 seminarians to Istanbul, Thessalonika, Mt. Athos, and Athens.

December 14-16, 2012: "A Examination of the Canonical Tradition Pertaining to Territory," Paper given at the Oslo Coalition Workshop on Canonical Territory as a Modern Challenge at Lysebu, Oslo, Norway.

October 18, 2012: presented "Canonical Issues in Marriage: Maximums and Minimums," at Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA) Program for Continuing Education for Clergy, Stroudsburg, PA.

July 10-15, 2012: "Liturgical Insights into the Canonical Question of Primacy," Communication Paper at the Fourth International Congress of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Beirut, Lebanon.

Spring 2012: "The Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Canonical Traditions: Formation, Ecclesiological Principles and Sacramental Life," Twelve-session class for a group of Coptic Orthodox Priests at their Archdiocesan Headquarters in Cedar Grove, NJ.

March 20, 2011: Represented St. Vladimir's Seminary at the Ordination of Metropolitan Elpidophoros of Proussa, Istanbul, Turkey.

April 2, 2011: offered lenten talk, "The Holy Eucharist as God's Philanthropia," at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, New York, New York.

December 7, 2010: offered retreat, "The Worthiness of a Priest before and after Ordination," for the Clergy of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA), South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

December 3, 2010: presented paper, "The Relationship between Bishops, Synods, and the Metropolitan-bishop in the Orthodox Canonical Tradition," at the 3rd Annual Sophia Institute Conference, "Power and Authority in the Eastern Christian Experience," New York, New York.

May 26-30, 2010: presented plenary address, "Has Jerusalem Served to Unite or Divide Christians? A Consideration of the Liturgical Evidence" at the Third International Congress of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Volos, Greece, May 26-30, 2010.

"Beholding the Beauty of the Lord": Lenten Retreat given at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Pheonix, Arizona, March 20, 2010.

"Church Scandals and the Canons": Interview given to Kevin Allen's Podcast, The Illumined Heart, on Ancient Faith Radio, released October 16, 2009.

"Εὐχαριστία in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition": Paper given at the Eleanor Malburg Eastern Churches Seminar, Saturday, October 10, 2009, Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio.

"Towards a Theological Vision of Canon Law": Paper offered at the meeting of the clergy of the New Jersey Deanery, Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Orthodox Church in America, September 15, 2009, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, New Jersey.

"Towards a Theological Vision of Canon Law" and "The Relationship between a Metropolitan and Bishops according to the Canons": two lectures given at the Clergy Continuing Education Symposium, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, Orthodox Church in America, June 16, 2009.

"Not Conformed, but in Order to Transform': The World, Culture, and the Christian Leitourgia": Paper delivered at the international conference "Church and Culture," May 7-10, 2009, at the Holy Metropolis of Demetrias, Academy for Theological Studies, Volos, Greece.

Represented the Orthodox Church in America, at an Inter-Orthodox consultation in Sofia, Bulgaria in response to the January 22, 2009 decision by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France (Case of Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church (Metropolitan

Inokentiy) and Others v. Bulgaria (Applications nos. 412/03 and 35677/04)), Sophia, Bulgaria, March 11-12, 2009

“Благодать священства и церковные каноны (= The Grace of the Priesthood and Church Canons)”: Interview in Встреча: студенческий православный журнал Московской духовной академии, 26.1 (2008) 4-7.

“Comments on New Finds in the Liturgical Diataxis Tradition,” and “Introducing the Forthcoming Edition of the Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos,” Seminar and Communication Papers given at the Second International Congress of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Rome, Italy, September 17-21, 2008.

“A Comparison of the Liturgical Rites of Ordination and the Canonical Act of Deposition”: Paper given at the Vth International Theological Conference of the Russian Orthodox Church “Orthodox Teaching on the Sacraments of the Church,” Moscow, Russia, November 13-16, 2007

“Orthodox Christian Worship: What Worship Is and What It Does for Us”: Retreat given at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Claremont, New Hampshire, September 22, 2007

“Why Liturgy?”: Paper delivered at the St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary 2007 Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice, “Why Liturgy Matters: Worship as Witness in a Changing World, June 24-27, 2007

“The Liturgy of the Great Church on the Eve of Destruction: the Prevalence of the Monastic Rite at the End of the Byzantine Empire”: Paper delivered at the First Kallinikeion Conference of New York Byzantinists, Queens College, New York, April 2, 2007

“We did not know if we were in Heaven or on Earth...”: Themes in Russian Orthodox Church History” Series of Lectures for the 2006 Eagle River Institute, Eagle River, Alaska

Participant in roundtable at the First Meeting of the Society of Oriental Liturgy, Eichstatt, Germany, July 23-28, 2006

“Towards a Theological Vision for Orthodox Canon Law” Paper delivered at the Seventh Congress of the Higher Orthodox Schools of Theology, Orthodox Tradition and the 21st Century, Joensuu, Finland, June 12-19, 2006

“Orthodox Theology of Marriage,” Lecture to Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue of the Diocese of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, New York, March 14, 2006

“Divorce, Mixed-Marriage, And Cohabitation: The Sacrament of Marriage under Siege,” Lecture the Footlamps 2005 Family & Young Adult Educational Workshop Series sponsored by the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, Diocese of Worcester, St. Mary Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, February 25, 2006

February 14-23, 2006: Delegate to the Ninth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil

“Marriage: Sacrament under Siege,” St. Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary (as part of the 35th Annual Adult Education Lecture Series) October 4, 2005

“The Purpose, Development, and Forms of Orthodox Hymnography” Papers delivered at the St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary 2005 Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice, “Church and World I: The Church and Culture”

“The Passion and the Liturgy: Towards a Renewed Mystagogy” Paper delivered at St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary 2005 Symposium on the Passion of Christ

“Contemporary Challenges to Christian Marriage: Divorce, Mixed and Interfaith Marriages, and Cohabitation” and “The Rite of Matrimony: A Pastoral Resource” Papers delivered at the St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary 2004 Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice, “Does Christian Marriage Have a Future?”

“Liturgical Unity and Diversity: Diversity of Practice, Unity of Faith” Paper delivered at the St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary 2003 Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice

April 1, 2003, delivered paper, “Has Jerusalem Served to Unite or Divide Christians? A Review of the Liturgical Evidence,” 2003 Eastern-Oriental Orthodox Symposium “Jerusalem: Does it Divide or Unite?” St. Vladimir’s Seminary, Crestwood, New York.

November 2001, presented paper, “A Taxonomy of the Recensions of the Patriarchal Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos,” at the 27th Byzantine Studies Conference, Notre Dame, Indiana.

August 2001, delivered paper, “The Curious Absence of an Imperial Commemoration at the Prothesis in the Patriarchal Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos,” at Societas Liturgica meeting in Santa Clara, California.

October 2000: delivered paper, “The Origins of the 14th Century Patriarchal Liturgical Diataxis of Dimitrios Gemistos,” at the 26th Byzantine Studies Conference, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Research trips made to the National Library of Greece, Athens, Greece; Patriarchal Institute for Patristic Studies, Thessalonika, Greece; Mt. Athos, Greece; Meteora, Greece; Apostolic Vatican Library, Vatican City; National Library of France, Paris, France

Other Positions

2012-current: Dollar Treasurer for the Society of Oriental Liturgy

2006-2010: Member of Study and Planning Commission, Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America

2004-2010: Consultant for Department of External Affairs, Orthodox Church in America

2002-current: Consultant Orthodox Church in America for Synodal and Canonical Affairs

2001-current: Ordained Presbyter, Orthodox Church in America

Languages

Ancient, Biblical, and Byzantine Greek, French, German, Italian, Russian