



The Very Rev. Dr. John Behr

Dean, Professor of Patristics

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

EDUCATION

- M.Phil. in Eastern Christian Studies, Oxford University, 1991
M.Phil. Thesis: "Sexuality, Marriage, and Asceticism in Second-Century Christian Writings"
- D.Phil. in Theology, Oxford University, 1995
D.Phil. Thesis: "Godly Lives: Asceticism and Anthropology, with Special Reference to Sexuality, in the Writings of St Irenaeus of Lyons and St Clement of Alexandria"
- M.Th., St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 1997
M.Th. Thesis: "Translation of Irenaeus' Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching with Introduction and Notes"

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Publications

- *Irenaeus of Lyons: Identifying Christianity*, Christian Theology in Context (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)
- *Becoming Human: Meditations on Christian Anthropology in Word and Image* (Crestwood, NY, SVS Press, 2013)
- *St Athanasius: On the Incarnation*, translation and introduction, Popular Patristics Series (Crestwood, NY, SVS Press, 2011)
- [*The Case Against Diodore and Theodore: Texts and Their Contexts*](#), Oxford Early Christian Texts (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), 526pp.
- [*The Mystery of Christ: Life in Death*](#) (Crestwood, NY: SVS Press, 2006). 186 pp.
- [*The Nicene Faith*](#), vol. 2 of *The Formation of Christian Theology* (Crestwood, NY: SVS Press, 2004). 2 vols in paper; single hardcover volume 580 pp.
- (ed. with A. Louth and D. Conomos), *Abba: The Tradition of Orthodoxy in the West: Festschrift for Bishop Kallistos Ware* (New York: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2003). 376 pp.
- [*The Way to Nicaea*](#), vol. 1 of *The Formation of Christian Theology* (Crestwood: [SVS Press](#), 2001). 261 pp.
Romanian translation (Bucharest: Sophia, 2004); Russian translation (Tver: Hermeneutica, 2006)
- [*Asceticism and Anthropology in Irenaeus and Clement*](#) (Oxford: [Oxford University Press](#), 2000). 261 pp.
- *St Irenaeus of Lyons: On the Apostolic Preaching* (Crestwood: [SVS Press](#), 1997). 121 pp.

Articles

- "Plundering the Egyptians: The Use of Classical Paideia in the Early Church," forthcoming in A. Bezzerides, V. Shevoz, and E. Prodromou eds., *Orthodox Christianity Higher Education, and the University: Theological, Historical, and Contemporary Reflection* (Notre Dame, forthcoming)
- "Learning through Experience: The Pedagogy of Suffering and Death in St Irenaeus," in D.G. Hunter, ed., *Evil and Suffering in the Ancient Church and Society* (Baker Academic, forthcoming)
- "Reading the Fathers Today," in J. Mihoc and S. Aldea eds., (London: T&T Clark, forthcoming 2013).
- "Nature, Wounded and Healed in Early Patristic Thought," *Toronto Journal of Theology* 29.1 (2013), 85-100; in Italian, "La natura ferita e risanata nell'antico pensiero patristico", in *L'uomo custode del creato. Atti del XX Convegno Ecumenico Internazionale di Spiritualità Ortodossa*, Monastero di Bose, 5-8 settembre 2012, (luglio 2013).
- "The Promise of the Image," in Thomas Albert Howard ed., *Imago Dei: Human Dignity in Ecumenical Perspective* (Washington DC: Catholic University of America Press, Jun 3 2013), 15-37.
- "'Let there be Light!' A Byzantine Theology of Light," in Gerald O'Collins and Mary Ann Meyers eds., *Light from Light: Scientists and Theologians in Dialogue* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012), 183-194.
- "The Spirit and the Bride Say Come! The Eschatological Dimensions of the Liturgy," *Communio* 38.3 (Fall 2011), 465-485.
- "[Communion and Conciliarity](#)," *Album Accademico 2010-11*, Pontificio Istituto Orientale, Rome, 48-59.
- "Returning to First Principles: Articulating Orthodox Theology in a Post-Modern Context," in *Thinking Modernity*, ed. A. E. Kattan and F. A. Georgi, Balamand theological Conferences 1 (St John of Damascus Institute of Theology, University of Balamand; Westphalian Wilhelm's University, Center for Religious Studies, 2010), 21-35.
- "The Eschatological Dimensions of Liturgy," *Assembly: A Journal of Liturgical Theology* 35.1 (2010), 2-9.
- "Gaul," *The Varieties of Christianity to 250 C.E.* in *The Cambridge History of Christianity*, vol. 4, ed. Margaret Mitchell and Frances Young (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- "[What are We Doing Talking about God: The Discipline of Theology](#)," in A. Papanikolaou and E. Prodromou, eds., *Thinking Through Faith: New Perspectives from Orthodox Christian Scholars* (Crestwood, SVS Press, 2008), 67-86.
- "[Calling upon God as Father: Augustine and the Legacy of Nicaea](#)," in A. Papanikolaou and G.E. Demacopoulos, eds., *Orthodox Readings of Augustine* (Crestwood, N.Y.: SVS Press, 2008), 153-65.
- "With Boldness and Without Condemnation," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 51.4 (2007), 359-69.
- "Response to L. Ayres: The Legacies of Nicaea, East and West," *Harvard Theological Review*, 100.2 (2007), 142-52, 173.

- "Marriage and Asceticism," *Sobornost* 29:2 (2007), 24-50. Available in PDF format in [English \(1.22 Mb\)](#) and [Russian \(274.72 Kb\)](#)
- "[Taught by the Apostles](#)," *Christian History*, Fall 2007
- "[One in Christ: An Historical Look](#)," *AGAIN*, summer 2006
- "Faithfulness and Creativity," in *Orthodox and the World Today: Sixth Congress of the Higher Orthodox Schools of Theology, Sofia, 5-10 October 2004* (Sofia: St Kliment Ohridski University Press, 2006), 166-73.
- "The Church in Via," delivered at the Plenary session of the Conference on Eschatology, Theological Commission of the Moscow Patriarchate, Nov. 14-17, 2005. Georgian translation in *Archevani*, January 2006.
- "For the Welfare of the Churches of God," *AGAIN*, summer 2006. French translation in *Le Mesager Orthodoxe*.
- "The Motherhood of the Church" and "Mary as a Type of the Church" in *Vierge Marie - Église Vierge: Acts du quatrième colloque de théologie orthodoxe de l'Université de Sherbrooke*, (Sherbrooke: Université de Sherbrooke, Éditions G.G.C, 2005), 13-29, 83-95.
- "Early Christian Apologists," "Docetism," and "Irenaeus," in *The New Westminster Dictionary of Church History*, ed. Roberto Benedetto (Westminster John Knox Press).
- "The Question of Nicene Orthodoxy," in *Byzantine Orthodoxies: Papers from the Thirty-Sixth Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, University of Durham, 23-25 March, 2002*, ed. A. Louth and A. Casiday (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006), 15-27.
- "Virgin Mother - Virgin Church," Russian translation, "Virgin Mother - Virgin Church," *Bogoslovskii Vestnik* 2004, no.4, 123-149.
- "Theology and Exegesis," forthcoming in *Collected Papers of the Orthodox Theological Research Forum*, UK.
- "[The Trinitarian Being of the Church](#)," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 48:1 (2004), 67-88. Russian translation in *Tserkov i Vremya* 3 (28), 2004, 164-185.
- "Social and Historical Setting (2nd Century)," for *The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature*, ed. F. Young, A. Louth, L. Ayers (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 55-70.
- "Midwife of the Christian Bible," forthcoming in *Christian History* 80 (XXII.4).
- "Tradition," in *St Vladimir's Seminary 2003 Education Day book*.
- "Faithfulness and Creativity," in *Abba* (see above), 159-178.
- "Interpreting the Incarnation," *Sourozh* 89 (August 2002), 15-29.
- "Irenaeus on the Word of God," *Studia Patristica* 36 (Leuven: Peeters, 2001), 163-7.
- "[The Paschal Foundations of Christian Theology](#)," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 45:2 (2001), 115-36.
- "The Word of God in the Second Century," *Pro Ecclesia* 9:1 (2000) 85-107.
- "Scripture, the Gospel, and Orthodoxy," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 43 (1999) 223-48.
- "The Rational Animal: A Rereading of Gregory of Nyssa's *De hominis opificio*," *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 7:2 (1999) 219-247.
- "The Trinity," *The Living Pulpit* (April, 1999).
- "Severus of Antioch: Eastern and Oriental Perspectives," *St Nersess Theological Review* 3:1-2 (1998) 23-35.

- "A Note on the Ontology of Gender," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 42:3-4 (1998) 363-72. Romanian translation in *Studii Theologice*, Seria A III-A, 2.4 (2006), 107-7.
- "Adam" and "Anthropologie" in *Dictionnaire de Théologie* (Presses Universitaires de France, 1997).
- "Colossians 1:13-20: A Chiastic Reading," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 40:4 (1996) 247-65 .
- "Translating theology," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 38:2 (1994) 235-40 .
- "Irenaeus and the Ascetic Ideal," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 37:4 (1993) 305-13.
- "Shifting Sands: Foucault, Brown and the Framework of Christian Asceticism," *Heythrop Journal* 34:1 (1993) 1-22.
- "Reflections on the Question of Episcopal Celibacy," *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 36:1-2 (1992) 141-9.

PRESENTATIONS

- "Person and Freedom: The Grounding of Both in Ascesis," Conference of the Theological Commission, Moscow Patriarchate, November 2010.
- "Orthodox Christianity as Paideia: Faith, Reason, and Culture in the Early Church," October 2010 Trinity Western University, BC Canada ([listen here](#)); Eastern University, PA.
- "Male and Female Created He Them", Parish Ministries Conference, Cleveland, June 2010.
- "Passing Beyond the Neo-Patristic Synthesis", Volos, Greece, June 2010.
- "The Promise of the Image", Gordon College MA, May 2010 (watch on [YouTube](#))
- "[With Boldness and Without Condemnation](#)", installation speech delivered at the inauguration of St Vladimir's new leadership, September 14, 2007.
- "The Eschatological Dimensions of the Church", paper presented to the Orthodoxy-Wesleyan Consultation, SVS December 2005; to appear in print.
- "The Question of Trinitarian Theology", paper presented to Round Table on Lewis Ayres' Nicaea and Its Legacy, Harvard Divinity School, May 2005; to appear in print.
- "[The Church in Via](#)", paper delivered at the Plenary Session of the Conference on Eschatology held by the Theological Commission of the Moscow Patriarchate, Danielovsky Monastery, Nov. 14-17, 2005. To appear in Russian; in Georgian in *Archevani* January 2006.
- "Eucharistic Ecclesiology Revisited", paper delivered at the 2005 Summer Conference of the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius, UK.
- "Tradition and Creativity," paper presented at the Sixth International Congress of Orthodox Theological Schools, Sophia, Bulgaria, October 2004.
- "Mary-Ann Donovan on St Irenaeus," paper presented to the North American Patristics Society, May 2004.
- "Trinitarian Being of the Church," paper presented to the North American Lutheran-Orthodox Dialogue, May 2003.

- "Virgin Mother - Virgin Church," paper to the annual meeting of the Fellowship of Sts Alban and Sergius, August 2003.
- "Theology and Exegesis," lead paper to inaugural meeting of the Orthodox Theological Research Forum, Cuddleston, UK, August 2003.
- "Athanasius' *Contra Gentes* and *On the Incarnation* as an apologia cruce," paper presented at the Fourteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies, Oxford, August 2003.
- Eight appearances on "Come Receive the Light," speaking about the Seven Ecumenical Councils, Spring 2003 (www.receive.org).
- "The Challenge of the Fathers," Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, March, 2003.
- Lenten Retreat, St John's in the Village, NY, Spring 2003.
- Lecture Series on Orthodoxy, St John's in the Village, NY, Spring, 2003.
- "The Challenge of the Fathers," St Tikhon's Seminary, November, 2002.
- "The Question of Nicene Orthodoxy," Opening paper for the Spring Session of Byzantine Studies, Durham, UK, Spring 2002.
- "Interpreting the Incarnation," Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius Conference, England, August, 2001.
- Lectures in Patristics and Dogmatics, Saskatoon Institute on Orthodox Theology, 1999.
- "The Scholarly Dimensions of Christianity," Faculty Seminar, York University, Toronto, 1999 .
- "The Christian Church as School," Yale University, Graduate Christian Fellowship, 1999.
- "Orthodoxy," University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 1998.
- Lectures on The Church in the Fathers, Catechesis, The Jesus Prayer, Tradition, Marriage at St Vladimir's Seminary Summer Institutes.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Distinguished Lecturer in Patristics, Fordham University 2005-2014.
- Visiting Professor, Harvard Divinity School, 2004-5.
- Professor of Patristics, St Vladimir's Seminary, 2004-.
- Associate Professor of Patristics, St Vladimir's Seminary, 2000-2004.
- Assistant Professor of Patristics, St Vladimir's Seminary, 1997-2000
- Lecturer in Patristics, St Vladimir's Seminary, 1995-97
- Visiting Professor of Patristics, St Vladimir's Seminary, 1993-94
- Mansfield College, Oxford University: undergraduate lecture series delivered during Michaelmas 1992 term on "Eastern Orthodox Theology and Spirituality"

CHURCH AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Boards

- Board of Advisors, Templeton Foundation, 2010-

Editorial Work

- Advisory Board, [Theology and Religious Studies](#), Versita and De Gruyter
- Editorial Board, *Radical Orthodoxy: A Journal of Theology, Philosophy and Politics*
- Editorial Board, *Biblicum Jassyense: Romanian Journal for Biblical Philology and Hermeneutics*
- Editorial Board, *International Journal of Orthodox Theology* (www.orthodox-theology.com).
- Editorial Board, *Pro Ecclesia*
- Editorial Board, Patristics Monograph Series, North American Patristics Society, Catholic University of America Press.
- Editor, *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 2002-2007
- Editor, *Popular Patristics Series*, SVS Press, 1999-present
- Book Reviews Editor, *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, 1996-2002

Societies

- President, Orthodox Theological Society in America, 2005-2007
- Vice-President, Orthodox Theological Society in America, 2003-2005
- Secretary, Orthodox Theological Society in America, 1999-2003

Ecclesial

- Made Archpriest in the Orthodox Church in America, 2008
- Ordained priest in the Orthodox Church in America, 2001
- Trustee, Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God, Bristol, UK 1989-95