



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Defenders of the Faith

TWELFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT

Sign Up Today!

When: Friday, March 27, 2015 beginning 5:30 pm
Saturday, March 28, 2015 ending 4:00 pm

Where: Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Christian Church
111 St. Andrews Road
Southampton, NY 11968
631-283-6169

Theme: The Salvific Social Gospel in War and Peace (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Who: All Archons throughout the United States and their families are encouraged to sign up for the Twelfth Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat under the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Retreat will be led by the V. Rev. Dr. Themistocles Adamopoulos who will be assisted by Retreat Pastors, Father Alexander Karloutsos and Father Constantine Lazarakis. The Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis will serve as our Retreat Special Guest.

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved for the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle at:

Southampton Inn
91 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968
Telephone: 631-283-6500

A special room rate of \$125.00, total price, per night, for nights between March 26 through March 28, 2015 has been negotiated with the hotel. When making your reservations please mention the group name "Archons" so you can get the special rate..

Meals: Lenten Fellowship Dinner on March 27th, a light breakfast and a Lenten luncheon on March 28th will be provided at The Muses at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Christian Church. There will also be an optional dinner at Nammos Estiatorio in Southampton at 6:00pm on Saturday, March 28th for those wishing to remain. An all inclusive fixed price of \$50.00 has been negotiated for our group.

Actions Required: Please call the Southampton Inn at 631-283-6500 to reserve your room using a major credit card. Be sure to reference the group name **ARCHONS** when making your reservation to qualify for the special room rate.

Mail in the *Reply Form* with a check for \$50 per person, registration fee, made payable to the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, by no later than Friday, March 15, 2015.

Mail your check and form to:
Order of St. Andrew the Apostle
Attn: National Archon Lenten Retreat
8 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10075

Notify Archon Office if you will be attending dinner at Nammos Estiatorio on March 28.



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Reply Form

Archon Name: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: Business – Cell – Home: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Parish: _____

Metropolis (Diocese): _____

Staying at the Southampton Inn: _____ Yes _____ No

Names of Family Members Attending: _____

Attending dinner at Nammos Estiatorio _____ # of people _____ No

\$50 per person, check made payable to: Order of St. Andrew the Apostle

Mail to: Order of St. Andrew the Apostle
Attn: National Archon Lenten Retreat
8 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10075



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*Directions to Kimisis Tis Theotokou
Greek Orthodox Church*

111 St. Andrews Road
Southampton, NY 11968
Tel: 631-283-6169

From the West

Take the Long Island Expressway [LIE] to exit 70.

At the end of the ramp, make a right turn; you will be on Rt. 111 going South.

When Rt. 111 ends, the road takes you left and you will be on Rt. 27 East.

Go straight for approximately 19 miles. As the highway ends, continue through first traffic light which is Tuckahoe Rd.

After the traffic light take the very next left onto St. Andrew's Rd. Go around (under the highway) and the Church will be on your right at Nicholas Ct.



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**TWELFTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT
March 27 – 28, 2014**

**The Salvific Social Gospel
of the Orthodox Christian Church
(Matthew 25: 31-46)**

**Dormition of the Virgin Mary
Greek Orthodox Christian Church
111 Saint Andrews Road
Southampton, NY 11968**

**Retreat Master
V. Rev. Dr. Themistocles Adamopoulos
Retreat Special Guest
Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis
Retreat Pastors
Father Alexander Karloutsos
Father Constantine Lazarakis**

PROGRAM

Friday, March 27

5:30 pm *The Akathist Hymn*
7:00 pm Lenten Fellowship Dinner - *The Muses*
8:00 pm *The Salvific Social Gospel in War and Peace (Matthew 25: 38-41)*

Saturday, March 28

8:30 am *Divine Liturgy*
9:30 am Light Breakfast - *The Muses*
10:30 am *The Tears of the African Child (Matthew 25:38)*
12:00 Noon Lenten Luncheon - *The Muses*
1:00 – 4:00 pm *“I was sick and you came to me”” (Matthew 25:36)*
6:00 pm Dinner – Optional – Nammos Estiatorio - \$50.00 pp



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TWELFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL ARCHON LENTEN RETREAT

The Very Reverend Dr. Themistocles Adamopoulos

Biography

Early Life

Eleftherius and Helen Adamopoulos were the parents of a Greek family who lived in Alexandria, Egypt. Eleftherius was an author, successful banker and had a double qualification in Chemistry; and Helen was a headmistress of a school. In 1945, Themistocles was born. Seeing developments that would have dire consequences for foreigners in Egypt, in 1956, Eleftherius and Helen immigrated with their family - including their son, Themistocles - to Melbourne, Australia. Themistocles, because of the social stigma of Greeks at the time, grew up wishing to fit into wider Australian society.

Due to the Adamopoulos's being Greeks from a non-Greek country, they were considered to be Greeks by Anglo-Celtic Australian society, and outsiders within the Greek community. As such, Eleftherius became a laborer, and Helen worked in factories. However, in a few years, Helen was recognized by Melbourne University, becoming a teacher at Presbyterian Ladies College, and Eleftherius was recognized by local industries, becoming an industrial chemist.

Themistocles went to high school at Williamstown High School, being gifted in academic areas, and getting a result good enough to win a scholarship to Melbourne University. He began a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1964, and then formed a music group similar to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones known as *The Flies*. This caused a two-year deferment in his university studies while he pursued the music industry, including records, Top 10 songs, a fan club and supporting the Beatles on their Australian tour.

However, he decided that this was not to be a permanent occupation, and returned to university in a Bachelor of Arts course, studying philosophy, political science and history. His readings, and perspectives on human rights, social justice and minority groups, were formed during this period, and are acknowledged by himself to have affected the way he lives his religion today. At 22, he became a tutor at Melbourne University.

Conversion

However, at the time, he held a strict atheistic view that he later recognized as contradictory. Themis attributes his conversion to anti-establishment ideas that happened in greater society, such as the opposition to the Vietnam War, and to Timothy Leary's influence in exploring counter-cultural concepts in spiritual terms. This anti-establishment focus was brought to bear on Nietzsche and Marx, and Themis was to look at various religions, looking for truths in them that could be useful in an ideal world. Undergoing a Christian mystical experience, Themis then accepted Christianity as the path to God. He did not immediately go to the Greek Orthodox Church of his parents, but first held a belief in Christ while looking for the denomination that could best understand his experience. Through reading the Bible and the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Themis began to sell his property, give to the poor, and resign from his tutorship in political science. Speaking to one or two Greek Orthodox priests in Melbourne, he asked about God and was told not to inquire into God. Finding this unsatisfactory, he then went to other churches, finding in the Presbyterian Church interesting people willing to discuss God and accommodate his previous experiences, people who accepted and greatly respected him. However, he began to ask why he was born a Greek and baptized Orthodox, and looked again at Orthodoxy.

Pity for the state of the Orthodox Church in Melbourne in the early seventies led him to join the Church—there was no teaching of Christ, Sunday schools, youth groups or Bible study groups, but rather joining together as a common identity of Greeks. Themis felt sorry for these people, whom he had already learnt more about the Bible than. He was immediately accepted due to being Greek, and received permission to begin a Sunday school.

Return to the Academic World

Themis, after beginning a Masters of Education, transferred to a Diploma of Education for teaching at technical schools to continue his new-found association and identification with the working class. He went on to teach at Richmond Technical School, Essendon Technical School and Preston Technical School, all in the heartlands of the working class. However, his unwavering and spoken commitment to Christ meant that he was transferred from school to school, finally resigning from Lalor High School due to frustration at the continued restriction of his freedom of speech.

After this, due to the lack of Orthodox seminaries at the time, he took up studies at a Catholic theological school. He was advised by Archbishop Stylianos, the then-new Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Australia, to study at Corpus Christi College, Melbourne. He then went on to study at Holy Cross Massachusetts, beginning a Masters of Theological Studies and concurrently studying at Harvard Divinity School. After this, he undertook a Master of Theology at Princeton Divinity School, and completed a Ph.D. at Brown University with his thesis entitled *Endurance, Greek and Early Christian: The Moral Transformation of the Greek Idea of Endurance, From the Homeric Battlefield to the Apostle Paul*, explaining how endurance changed from the Greek philosophical concept of something that one could do on their own, to St Paul's transformation into endurance being something a gift of God in Christ.

Fr Themistocles, by this time a tonsured monk usually called 'Br Themis', returned to Australia and, in 1986, was one of the founding lecturers at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox theological College, Sydney, Australia; he was also teaching at Macquarie University and University of Sydney.

Kenya

After considerable time lecturing, Fr Themis began to wish to personally act out his theology, and due to his being born in Africa he decided to return there in 2000, utilising his academic ability at the Orthodox Patriarchal Ecclesiastical School "*Archbishop Macarius III*" in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ordained and elevated in Kenya to the rank of Archimandrite, he conducted liturgies and preached in various parishes in Kenya, but his primary focus is on teaching people in Kenya to earn a living on their own. With the blessing of Archbishop Makarios, Fr Themistocles established the Saint Clement of Alexandria Philanthropic Education Centre. Through the centre, he set up a school for unemployed women to learn tailoring and dressmaking in November 2001, then a computer school for unemployed youth in 2002; in September of that year, he then set up a pre-school and primary school for children in slum areas, giving them free education, food and clothing.

In January 2003, the Teachers' College was established. This grew into the *Saint Clement of Alexandria Orthodox College of Africa*, currently consisting of an education department and a business/information technology department, teaching for minimal cost to break the cycle of depression. Future plans include a nursing and pharmacy school; furthermore, serious negotiations are underway with the University of Thessalonica towards the creation of a Pediatric Medical School within the College. Fr Themistocles envisaged an Orthodox University of Africa.

Sierra Leone

In January 2008, with the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch Theodoros of Alexandria and sponsored by the international charity 'Paradise Kids 4 Africa' (PK4A), Fr Themis moved from Kenya to Sierra Leone, where he involved himself in similar activities that he had initiated in Kenya. As of 2009, there are 9 building projects in progress, including a missionary residence and 3 places of worship (including the Cathedral of St. Eleftherios), as well as providing many feeding programs for the hungry.

Negotiations with the government in March 2008 led to Fr Themis having responsibility for two schools, with a total of 3500 students and 90 staff; and in May, grants were received from two Greek missionary societies, the Orthodox Missionary Fraternity and the Missionary Alliance of St. Cosmas the Aetolian - one grant to build infrastructure for one of the schools, and the other to begin construction of a Teachers' College. Work began on the Teachers' College before the end of that month, and construction has begun on housing for the disabled and victims of the war.

TOGETHER *Again*

The Magazine of the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Alumni Association



*Fr. Themis Adamopoulos
(SOT 1984)*

HCHC Alumni *Making a Difference*



FOLLOWING THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST INTO WAR-TORN AFRICA

FATHER THEMI ADAMOPOULO
(SOT 1984)



As a former existential atheist and rock and roller, whose band *The Flies* played with the Rolling Stones, and even hit the Australian Top Ten back in the 1960s, it seems incredible to think how the Rev. Dr. Themistocli Adamopoulos now serves the poorest of the poor in war-torn Sierra Leone. What compelled someone who grew up in a Greek Orthodox family to delve into the cultural abysses of his generation, not only tasting the fleeting fame of pop music, but searching for meaning and truth through music, drugs, Hinduism, Buddhism, Hare Krishna, and anything but Christianity, then to study in the halls of Harvard, Princeton, Brown, and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, only to end up serving God as a humble Greek Orthodox priest in one of the poorest countries in the world?



Fr Themis, as he is known, represents a unique, dynamic, charismatic, and extremely inspiring Greek-Australian priest who has served God in Africa since 1999. When I asked him how, in his wild journey of life, he eventually found Christ, he simply responded, “I didn’t find Christ, but Jesus found me. I wasn’t even looking for him at all. Christianity would have been the last thing that interested me. And yet, Jesus found me. And what I thought would have been the most boring life in the world, in fact led me on the most exciting adventure of faith!”

Fr. Themis wanted to study further his new-found faith and came to the United

“I want to encounter the crucified Christ in the poorest places on the planet.”

- Fr. Themis Adamopoulos

States, where he received degrees from our own Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, as well as from Princeton and Brown Universities. He then took his academic brilliance back to Australia, becoming a professor and an academic. Yet one day, as he reflected on the life of Mother Teresa, and compared it to his own work of explaining some minute detail of theology to his students, he asked himself, “What am I doing here, while Mother Teresa and her missionaries work among the poorest of the poor? I want to encounter the crucified Christ in the poorest places on the planet.” He heard God’s call and went off to Africa, beginning a thirteen-year missionary ministry, first in Kenya, then since 2008 to the then poorest country in the world – Sierra Leone.

By the grace of God, Fr. Themis has accomplished amazing work over the past four years. On the outskirts of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, he has established what the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, His Beatitude Theodoros II, called in his recent visit, the “pride of the Patriarchate” – the St. Moses Village. This three-acre compound provides free shelter, food, medical care, and chaplaincy services to 100 of the most defenseless people in the country, the disabled homeless and their families. The recent fifteen-year civil war, combined with the scarce medical help for those with polio and other diseases, have left countless people with amputations and disabilities. These people, traumatized by their condition and stigmatized by their society, simply struggle to survive by begging on the streets. Terrible memories of war have left many with deep anger and serious psychological problems.



“When I arrived in Sierra Leone,” Fr. Themis shared, “I realized these were among the most victimized people in greatest need, and we began reaching out to them with Christ’s love. Yet this wasn’t a ‘normal’ missionary setting, like when I served in Kenya. These people have been devastated by war. Since this is a new field of missionary practice, we had to come up with creative ways to fulfill the needs here.”

Along with an Orthodox kindergarten and primary school for the children of the disabled at St. Moses Village, Fr. Themis has established the Freetown Orthodox Christian Primary and Secondary School. This school educates 1600 students, and is situated along one of the major boulevards in the middle of Freetown. The St. Eleftherios Orthodox Cathedral also finds its home here.

A third initiative that will open its doors in September 2012 is a post-secondary college, which will offer studies in Early Childhood Education, Journalism and Media Studies, and IT (information technology) and Computer Studies. Early next year, they will add a full nursing program, which will have as an added specialty a focus on a unique amputee/prosthesis clinic. Through this college, Fr. Themis hopes to train people in Sierra Leone with the Jaipur Foot System, a very effective, yet cheap, method of producing prosthetic legs for amputees. This system was first developed in India. Fr. Themis has sent a nurse to a training center in Uganda to learn more about this system. “It’s an extremely important project because it gives hope and life to people who can’t do much right now with their disability and the social stigma that comes with this disability. This system can produce long-lasting legs that cost only \$120, a fraction of the cost to produce such prostheses in the West.” A fifth program of this new college will hopefully be a theological department, scheduled to begin in the fall of 2013.

Fr. Themis, as a graduate of Holy Cross, inspired a new generation of students this past fall during HCHC’s Missions Week. He offered the annual Missions Lecture, sponsored by the Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity and the Endowment Fund for Orthodox Missions, and spent a week on campus interacting with students. Fr. Themis profoundly touched the entire campus community with his words and videos, challenging every listener to reflect upon how we all can reach out to the “crucified Christ” in the world around us. He vividly showed, through his stories and life, how sharing God’s love with those in desperation and need, with the “crucified Christ,” gave his own life its greatest meaning and purpose.

Those who want to learn more about Fr. Themis and see videos of his work can find it on his website “Paradise Kids for Africa” at www.pk4a.com.



Article by: Fr. Luke A. Veronis, Director of the Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity, an Adjunct Instructor at HCHC, and the pastor of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Webster, MA.