

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies
Saint Paul University, Ottawa

THO 6352 (Fall 2013)

**STUDIES IN EASTERN CHRISTIANITY:
WOMEN IN THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS**



SbDcn. Brian Butcher is currently on a term appointment. He completed his doctorate in theology (Eastern Christian Studies) at Saint Paul University in the fall of 2010; his dissertation explored the pertinence of the work of philosopher Paul Ricoeur for liturgical theology, as exemplified in the Byzantine Rite "Great Blessing of Water."

Prior to moving back to Ottawa, he resided with his wife and six children near Vancouver, BC, where he taught courses in a number of fields including world religions, patristics, liturgy, New Testament studies, the oeuvre of C.S. Lewis and sacred art and architecture.

Dr. Butcher's professional associations include the American Academy of Religion and the North American Academy of Liturgy. He serves as cantor for the MASI Chapel of Ss. Joachim and Anne, and is active in the Ottawa parish of St. John the Baptist (UGCC), as well as contributing to the life of Augustine College.

This course is a critical analysis of the identity and role of women in the various Eastern Christian traditions, from the early centuries of the church to the present. Diverse genres will be explored, including church history, patrology, hagiography, iconography, hymnography and canonical texts as well as modern works in religious sociology and feminist theology.

The objectives of THO 6352 are to:

- to become familiar with the extant literature by and about women in the Byzantine, Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, Syrian, and Indian (Malankara) Christian traditions;
- to consider the historical roles played by women in the Eastern Churches, from housewife to hermit, empress to abbess to deaconess;
- to probe the depictions of women in Eastern Christian art, hymnography and hagiography;
- to reflect on the ministries women have exercised in Eastern Christian worship and church life, in light of contemporary concerns;
- To engage with feminist theology from Orthodox and Eastern Catholic perspectives.

Saint Paul University

General inquiries: (613)-236-1393, extension 2332 Admissions: extension 2235
Toll free: 1-800-637-6859