

## **Environmental Pollution, Eucharistic Ethos, and Asceticism**

In the Orthodox Church, as well as in various other ecclesial traditions, September 1, the first day of the new church year in the Byzantine rite, is dedicated to the integrity of Creation and environmental protection; specific liturgical services are celebrated.

My talk concentrates on, firstly, some Messages issued by the Patriarchs of Constantinople, Dimitrios and Bartholomew, and their underlying theology, anthropology, and cosmology: God calls humans to be co-creators, priests, and stewards of Creation. However, humankind rapes nature and might finally destroy itself. Hence a Eucharistic spirituality, giving thanks to the Creator for the beauty and goods of this world, as well as asceticism, are required.

Secondly, I focus on two worship services entitled ‘Holy Service for the Protection of the Natural Environment’, composed for this day by Fr. Gerasimos Mikragiannanités and the Metropolitan of Patra, Nicodemos respectively. I will outline their contents, structure, and musical setting.

Thirdly, I will discuss the importance of worship, the interconnectedness of liturgy, asceticism and social action, as well as the ‘liturgical triangle’.

A major concern to be addressed is the question of the reception and aftereffects of the worship services, so the question of whether the interrelatedness of liturgy-doctrine-diakonia/ethics, as well as that of theory and practice, ‘works’.

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