

Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald, M.Div., Ph.D.



Biographical Narrative

Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald, M.Div., Ph.D. serves as an Orthodox theologian, educator, author, pastoral counselor and licensed psychologist. She completed graduate theological studies at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, the School of Theology of the University of Thessaloniki, Greece (Dogmatic and Symbolic Theology) and Boston University (Pastoral Theology and Psychology, Minor: Liturgical Theology). She presently serves as Adjunct Professor in Theology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and has also served as Visiting Professor at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland and St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary as well as on the clinical faculty at Andover-Newton Theological School. She represents the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at ecumenical and inter-faith conferences, in this capacity she has also served on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, (1984-2000). On behalf of the Orthodox Churches, she was also invited by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to design and facilitate the historic International Orthodox Women's Conferences in Damascus, Syria (1996) and Istanbul, Turkey (1997) and to serve as the only American assigned to the international delegation of Orthodox theologians engaging with the Old Catholics in theological conversation on the issue of the ordination of women (Levadia, Greece, 1996, Warsaw, Poland 1997). Appointed to serve on the Inter-national Orthodox-Jewish conversations in Jerusalem, Israel, she recently lectured at Loyola University in Baltimore, MD on issues related to Orthodox Worship and Eschatology where she was invited to serve on the Board of the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology. An internationally respected authority on the diaconate and the ministry of women, her research will be featured during an upcoming conference on the ordination of women in early 2015 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Dr. FitzGerald has served on the clinical staff of the Gosnold Counseling Center in Falmouth, MA, as a consulting psychologist at Healthsigns Pastoral Counseling Center on Cape Cod and while living in Switzerland served as a staff psychologist and psychotherapist at the Paloma Christian Center for Psychology in Nyon, Switzerland. A "Fellow" of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, she has served on the counseling staff of the Worcester Pastoral Counseling Center in Worcester, where on

behalf of the Eastern Orthodox Council of Churches of Central Massachusetts was invited to serve as the Director of Pastoral Counseling for sixteen Orthodox parishes, as well as the Worcester Pastoral Counseling Center's Director of Education and Associate Director of Training for doctoral candidates in ministry and mental health professionals in Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy.

With articles published in: *Origins, The Journal of Ecumenical Studies, The Greek Orthodox Theological Review, Ministerial Formation, Ecumenical Trends* and elsewhere, her book publications include the critically acclaimed *Women Deacons in the Orthodox Church: Called to Holiness and Ministry*, Grounding-breaking books of *Orthodox Women Speak: Discerning the "Signs of the Times"* (ed.) and *Encountering Women of Faith: St. Catherine's Vision Collection* (ed.) *volume 1 and volume 2, Living the Beatitudes: Perspectives from Orthodox Spirituality* (co-authored with her husband, Rev. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald), and *Persons in Communion: A Theology of Authentic Relationships*. Professor FitzGerald serves on the Editorial Board for the *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church*, on the Honorary Committee of the *Orthodox Deacons Website* project (www.orthodoxdeacons.org) and has co-founded and serves on Executive Director of *St. Catherine's Vision* (or *SCV* www.saintcatherinesvision.org), an organization that addresses contemporary issues of the Church comprised of women theologians and other lay servant-leaders endorsed by the *Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America*. The first Orthodox invited to serve on the board of the Interfaith Sexual Trauma Institute (ISTI) she is now in her sixth year of service as a theological consultant and on-air contributor for the Boston area cable access television program *Feast of Healthy Thoughts* (<http://feastofhealthythoughts.com/youtube2.html>), an unscripted conversational program that engages contemporary themes related to theology, spirituality and psychology. Dr. FitzGerald has written or lectured on topics related to theology, worship and spirituality, theological education, Divine Compassion (*theion eleos*) and ministry, ecumenism and modernity, women and men in the life of the Church, spirituality and addiction, pastoral theology and psychology and hagiography. She also maintains a private practice in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

BOOKS BY KYRIAKI KARIDOYANES FITZGERALD

***Persons in Communion: A Theology of Authentic Relationship, Kyriaki Karidoyanes Fitzgerald* (Berkeley, CA: Inter-Orthodox Press, 2006.**

Theologian and psychologist Kyriaki Fitzgerald explores the implications of Eastern Orthodox Trinitarian theology for human relationships. Drawing on the wisdom of the Church Fathers, her years of clinical experience as a licensed psychologist and pastoral counselor, she both explains the teaching of the Orthodox Church for a contemporary audience and presents a way for the reader to look deeply into his or her life and relationships so that they might be transformed. The second part of the book presents the contemporary discussion on the role of women in the Orthodox Church. Here, she connects the ministries of women to the authenticity of the relationships that women (and men) have and are called to have with the living God in the life of the Church. Published by InterOrthodox Press.

Encountering Women of Faith: The St. Catherine's Vision Collection, Volume 1, (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press) 2006 ed., Kyriaki Karidoyanes Fitzgerald

Encountering Women of Faith: The St. Catherine's Vision Collection, Volume 2, (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press) 2010 ed., Kyriaki Karidoyanes Fitzgerald

The authors, women who have pursued graduate studies at Orthodox theological schools succeed in telling the stories of several female saints venerated by the Orthodox Church. The first books of their kind to be written through a deliberate and conciliar discipline, each author strives to present her chapter in a manner that is accountable to holy tradition, academically responsible, as well as spiritually revealing

regarding a number of contemporary issues that challenge Christians today. This fascinating collection on the lives and ministries of a number of holy women offers inspiration and guidance to seekers today. Published by Holy Cross Orthodox Press.

***Living the Beatitudes: Perspectives from Orthodox Spirituality*, (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press) 2005 Kyriaki and Thomas Fitzgerald**

Following the model of the early commentaries, the authors, both Orthodox theologians, discuss the Beatitudes relating them to everyday living, Excellent for use in private devotions or as a text for Bible study and/or group discussions. Published by Holy Cross Orthodox Press.

***Women Deacons in the Orthodox Church: Called to Holiness and Ministry*, (Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press) 1998, 1999, Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald**

This highly praised and critically acclaimed book examines the ministry of women ordained to the diaconate (i.e. "deaconesses") in the early Church, its decline in the Middle Ages, attempts to restore the order by St. Nektarios of Aegina and others, and recent discussions held on the subject. This study explores this order of ministry from scriptural, patristic, liturgical, and theological sources. The book includes a lengthy prologue by Prof. Evangelos Theodorou, one of the pioneering exponents of the ordination of women to the diaconate. Published by Holy Cross Orthodox Press.

***Orthodox Women Speak: Discerning the "Signs of the Times,"* (Geneva, Switzerland, Brookline, MA and Holy Cross Orthodox Press) 1999, ed., Kyriaki Karidoyanes Fitzgerald**

This collection offers a range of contemporary Orthodox voices addressing key issues around the role and place of women in the life of the church. Drawing on biblical and patristic sources, the lives of saints, the work of theologians and the experiences of women today, 18 women and 3 men open up perspectives that speak not only to Orthodox but to all Christian churches. Includes reports from two consultations of Orthodox women organized by the World Council of Churches in the context of the Ecumenical Decade - Churches in Solidarity with Women. Published by Holy Cross Orthodox Press and the WCC.

Books Presently in Production:

Encounters with Divine Compassion, Volumes I and II.

Encountering Women of Faith: The St. Catherine's Vision Collection, Volume III