



ANTIOCHIAN HOUSE *of* STUDIES

1020 BASELINE ROAD • LA VERNE • CALIFORNIA 91750

web: www.ahos.edu phone: 909.928.2247 email: info@ahos.edu

Antiochian House of Studies (AHOS) Report 2023

Your Eminence Metropolitan Saba,

The Antiochian House of Studies (AHOS) was established in 1980 and brings the Ethos of the historical “School of Antioch,” of the Roum Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East to North America. Antioch has a missionary heritage with rich ethnic and linguistic diversity to all. AHOS provides a distinctly Antiochian Orthodox Christian education for clergy, laity, and others by establishing an opportunity to experience the Orthodox way of life. The House of Studies creates a curriculum that provides for the teaching of Orthodox worship, doctrine, action, and relationship for its participants through rigorous academic studies and spiritual direction. This is accomplished through a curriculum that can be lived through residential and hybrid learning opportunities in an atmosphere of intimate home environment from which our name “House” comes. We are committed to being faithful to our Apostolic Tradition, preserved and expressed in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

For many years, the master’s degree has been granted in partnership with the Saint John of Damascus School of Theology of the University of Balamand in Lebanon and has been internationally accredited by the Commission for Higher Learning of the Republic of Lebanon. On June 7, 2022, AHOS received full accreditation through the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) to offer the following degrees:

- Master of Divinity,
- Master of Theological Studies,
- Master of Pastoral Care & Counseling,
- Doctor of Philosophy,
- Doctor of Ministry in partnership with Pittsburg Theological Seminary PTS,

In addition, we offer the St. Stephen’s Certificate Program a non-degree program. The total number of current AHOS students is 250. This year for the 2023-24 semester, AHOS accepted over 100 new students.

AHOS is the unique Orthodox Institute in the United States of America delivering an accredited PhD degree in Orthodox Studies.

On December 15, 2022 AHOS Awards its First accredited Ph.D. In front of a panel of theologians from around the world, Archimandrite Fadi Rabbat successfully defended his dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Fr. Fadi defended his dissertation virtually before Metropolitan Kyrillos Katerelos, his thesis supervisor, and Metropolitan Grigorios Papatomas, both at the University of Athens; Fr. Michel Najim, Professor and President of AHOS; and others. Acting on



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the recommendation of the AHOS Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, Fr. Michel awarded Fr. Fadi the Ph.D. with distinction. He becomes the first person to receive a Ph.D. from the Antiochian House of Studies (AHOS) in its 42-year history.

AHOS is the first Orthodox Institute delivering an accredited hybrid MDiv (Master of Divinity) degree program.

Our educational system is hybrid. We have online courses, but, as well all new and continuing students participate in an annual live in-person residency located in the Antiochian Village to further theological and spiritual formation.

AHOS' academic vision for the next two years is to continue meeting the ATS standards of Accreditation and to strive persistently for theological academic excellence and expansion.

Currently, AHOS' real vision is to bring to our students the ethos of the historical "School of Antioch," of the Roum Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East to North America.

Antioch has a missionary heritage with rich ethnic and linguistic diversity to all. This heritage makes us more humble, accessible, understandable and more responsible about mentoring disciples and not just teaching students; about guarding and experiencing a patristic orthodox teaching faithful to the Holy Tradition, and not just teaching theological opinions or theories. Therefore, we are here to help our students see and experience the way to be close to God, to experience Him and to be in union with Him.

Our strategic goal is to grow AHOS' brand recognition by offering ongoing partnership opportunities with clergy and congregation members. Expand our social media presence on Google and LinkedIn. Focus on future growth plans with Orthodox Academic Society (OAS) as its purpose is to foster vibrant academic theological interactions among AHOS students, faculty, alumni and scholars-at-large whose research and interests are aligned with the Orthodox Christian Tradition. Offer live streaming and recorded events for our OAS Society Symposium offering AHOS graduate students a chance to present, discuss and defend their academic work before the AHOS community.

Under the supervision of His Eminence Metropolitan Saba and his auxiliary bishops and AHOS professors, the Pastoral Care Practicum prepares MDiv candidates to provide pastoral care to their congregations in full accord with the Orthodox Christian Theological Tradition. The objectives of the Practicum are organized around the following three interrelated areas:

- Development of spiritual therapeutic skills
- Contextualization of pastoral work within the Antiochian orthodox worldview
- Formation of a personal priestly and pastoral identity



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As an extension of the Pastoral Care Practicum, and upon recommendation of our Holy Synod, and the importance of the family pointed by our beloved Patriarch John, AHOS, established the Orthodox Family Center OFC. The OFC provides consistent educational and spiritual programs beginning with young adults through post marital couples, with the goal of building and sustaining healthy Orthodox relationships, marriages, and families for the Kingdom of God and the Antiochian Archdiocese.

With every good wish in Christ,



V. Rev. Fr. Michel Najim

V. Rev. Fr. Michel Najim
President of the Antiochian House of Studies



Rt. Rev. Fr. Fadi Rabbat
Academic Dean