

MISSION STATEMENT

LIVED THEOLOGY SCHOOL St Maria of Paris

The Lived Theology School (LTS) is the beginning of an adventure with a specific goal in mind – to produce for the Orthodox Church those who will have a sound practical and theological foundation on which to live Orthodox mission in your own community.

You will use the knowledge and understanding you bring with you.

You will gain further knowledge and understanding from living Orthodox mission.

You will grow and be challenged through a time of service, prayer, study and community.

The courses at LTS will not be knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but an opportunity for reflection and growth

LTS will not teach you how to produce a duplicate of St John the Compassionate Mission.

It will give you insights, knowledge and experience to take with you and apply in your own life.

You will take out as much as you put in.

LTS is not an end.

LTS is a beginning.

By the end of this beginning you will have a solid training that will equip you to undertake your own form of Orthodox mission.

COURSE - AIM AND OBJECTIVE

AIM:

- to provide a wide-ranging knowledge and understanding base for each intern that will form a solid basis for both the understanding of Orthodox mission and the implications for the practice of Orthodox mission.
- to relate study content to the actual practice of Orthodox mission as lived at St John the Compassionate Mission
- to develop knowledge and understanding that will give the intern the skills to develop his/her own ideas on Orthodox mission

OBJECTIVE:

- the intern will have a wide-ranging knowledge and understanding of both the theoretical and practical basis of Orthodox mission.
- the intern will thus have the experience to be able to implement a form of Orthodox mission relevant to his/her own community and will be able to pass on this understanding to others.
- Interns will be able to identify key essential **questions**
- Interns will develop skills in listening to others
- Interns will be able to understand the reasoning behind the views of others
- The intern will have developed evaluative skills to assess the validity of models of mission as being Orthodox

KEY CONCEPTS:

The modules are not free standing but inter-relate with each other in order to give a wide ranging basis to the understanding of Orthodox mission. This is in order to illustrate how no one single strand of theological understanding is independent of other aspects of both Church and mission life.

Each module is progressive in nature and consists of four Learning Outcomes (LO's).

LO 1 – concentrates on basic knowledge of the module theme.

LO2 – builds on the knowledge base and develops further understanding of the theme.

LO3 – builds on the work completed in LO 1 and 2 with more depth to the understanding of the theme.

LO4 – concentrates on evaluative skills and the application of the theme to the actual practice of Orthodox mission.

Instruments of Assessment (I.A):

- Each LO will have one or more IA
- Each IA will be in written or oral form
- IA will give student time for reflection on the LO

DELIVERY: ASSUMPTIONS

- that the core teaching is deliverable by staff at the Mission
- that there will be some occasional external teaching to supplement the modules
- that these supplemental courses will be seen as **enrichment** of the core modules

INCLUSIVE APPROACH: who may participate?

- all interns
- all working guest volunteers
- staff at Mission
- members of parish community (by invitation)
- other interested persons by agreement and invitation

EXCLUSIVE BASIS: non-interns will be required

- to respect the aims and objectives of the course
- to co-operate with the teaching methodology
- to attend a mandatory induction into the Philosophical Inquiry methodology
- to respect the privacy of the LTS house and its residents
- to respect that attendance at courses is a privilege not a right

REALISM: the aim of the whole course is to give the interns a **realistic** idea of what Orthodox mission involves in a “non-fuzzy” approach. The aim is give interns a vision that relates and unites Ortho-doxy with Ortho-praxis.

WEAVING THE CONCEPT WEB

Throughout each individual module run opposing concepts. Each of these concepts has a relevance to the practice of Orthodox mission and require to be held together to achieve a balance of praxis. The assumption is that all Orthodox mission is person-centred and these concepts reflect something of the paradox of the human person individually and in relation to community.

The concepts below are often opposites and part of the skill of Orthodox mission is holding them together.

INDIVIDUAL	versus	COMMUNITY
SERVICE	versus	AUTHORITY
ASCENT	versus	DESCENT
KAIROS	versus	CHRONOS
DOXA	versus	PRAXIS
POSSESSION	versus	NON-POSSESSION
JUDGEMENT	versus	MERCY
SICKNESS	versus	HEALING
STRUCTURE	versus	FREEDOM
POVERTY	versus	WEALTH
SAME OLD	versus	METANOIA
FREEDOM	versus	RESPONSIBILITY
RESPECT	versus	PATERNALISM
PROFESSIONALISM	versus	PERSONAL
CONFIDENTIALITY	versus	OPENNESS

MODULE 1

THE BIBLE AND THE POOR (The Scriptural Understanding of Poverty)

Aims:

- introduce key Biblical texts
- develop understanding of the texts
- analyse responses to poverty in texts
- identify key concepts relating to the poor
- identify Scriptural qualities needed for mission work
- relate Biblical teaching to practical mission work

Objective:

- student will know and understand key concepts
- understand the Scriptural nature of Orthodox mission
- will understand the personal implications of Scriptural teaching
- will be able to compare and contrast differing interpretations of key concepts
- will have identified realistic applications of Biblical teaching in real situations with real persons

LEARNING OUTCOME 1:

- introduction to theme (FocusNA texts)
- Job; innocent suffering
- Voice of the Prophets
- The Beatitudes
- Martha and Mary; contemplation v. action
- Acts; the community of the Church

IA: SAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 2: understanding concepts

- wealth
- poverty
- healing
- humility
- meekness
- the human person
- holiness and wholeness
- kenosis

IA: EAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 3: personal qualities for Orthodox mission

- Beatitudes
- St Paul; 1Cor.13
- Genesis; hospitality of Abraham and Sarah
- Pietism
- evangelisation

IA: PI and self-assessment

LEARNING OUTCOME 4: practical application

- social teaching of the Orthodox Church
- case studies by observation
- case studies by interview
- case studies by involvement

IA: tutorial and PI

MODULE 2

THEOLOGY and the POOR (The Teaching of the Fathers)

Aim:

- introduce interns to some key Fathers of the Church
- knowledge and understanding of the lives of the Fathers
- understand the teachings of the Fathers with respect to the issues of wealth and poverty
- evaluate the significance of their teaching for Orthodox mission today

Objective:

- interns will have knowledge and understanding of the teaching of the Fathers
- will be able to apply their teaching to issues of wealth and poverty in contemporary society
- will be able to evaluate the current state of the Orthodox Church in the light of their teaching
- will be able to apply their teaching in practical mission work

LEARNING OUTCOME 1:

- Who are the Fathers?
- Lives of St John Chrysostom, St Basil, St Maximos the Confessor, St Isaac the Syrian, ST Athanasios the Great
- The Church and society in the times of the Fathers

IA: SAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 2: Teachings of the Fathers

- St John Chrysostom
- St Basil
- St Maximos the Confessor
- St Isaac the Syrian
- St Athanasios

IA: EAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 3: theology of the Fathers

- the Incarnation
- Salvation

- Human person: image and likeness
- The Fall: sin and guilt
- The Christian and wealth

IA: PI

LEARNING OUTCOME 4: practical application of their teaching

- free-will
- judgement, mercy, forgiveness
- authority and freedom
- synergy; “co-workers with God”
- who is Orthodox mission?

IA: Case studies, practical tutorials

MODULE 3

LITURGY – THEOLOGY and PRACTICE

Aim:

- to introduce interns to the services of the Church
- to give them knowledge of the essential structure of the services
- to understand the weekly/annual/festal structure of the Church's year
- to understand the theology of the liturgy
- to relate the liturgical life of the Church to the practice of mission

Objectives:

- interns will have a practical knowledge of the services of the Church
- will understand the cycles of liturgical life
- will have understanding of the theology of liturgy
- will be able to relate the sacramental life of the Church to mission work
- will be able to evaluate the relationship between mission and liturgy as a "school of theology".

LEARNING OUTCOME 1:

- daily structure of services
- weekly structure of services
- the fasting periods of the Church's year
- the design of the temple and its significance

IA: Short Answer Questions

LEARNING OUTCOME 2:

- the shape of the Eucharistic liturgy
- the sacraments of the Church
- the Lenten Triodion
- the Festal Menaion
- the Book of Needs

IA: Extended Answer Questions

LEARNING OUTCOME 3:

- Eucharistic theology of the Church
- The theology of the Fasts
- Liturgy as a "school of theology"

- Liturgy as mission
- Liturgy as service

IA: EAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 4:

- Liturgy as lived mission
- Witness of liturgy in Orthodox mission
- World as sacrament
- Liturgy and the person

IA: PI and essay

PRACTICUM FOR THIS MODULE:

- attendance at services at SJCM
- participation in conduct of services (*where appropriate)
- leading services *
- practical care and preparation of chapel for services

MODULE 4

ST JOHN THE COMPASSIONATE MISSION

Time: 25 hours

Aim:

- knowledge and understanding of the development of SJCM
- to induct the intern into the practicalities of Orthodox mission
- introduce interns to the functioning of one Orthodox mission
- illustrate features that are particular to Orthodox mission
- to give interns a sense of the balance required between community and the needs of the individual
- to develop understanding of the theological basis of an Orthodox mission and the reasons for specifically Orthodox mission

Objective:

- the intern will have a thorough grounding in understanding the essentials of Orthodox mission
- the intern will have a model that can be utilized for considering other models of Orthodox mission
- the intern will be able to construct a model of Orthodox mission relevant to his/her own community

LEARNING OUTCOME 1: The History of SJCM

- Mission statement
- Early days at Blake Street
- The Year on the Bench
- Move to Broadview
- The structure of the Mission
- Funding
- Volunteers
- Typical week at SJCM
- Typical year at SJCM

IA

Short Answer Questions

LEARNING OUTCOME 2: How SJCM functions

- role of Executive Director
- role of Board
- staff roles
- relations with outside agencies
- role of rules
- relationship to diocese
- relationship with parish
- relationship with other Orthodox parishes

IA

Brief Interviews with summary

LEARNING OUTCOME 3: SJCM as community

- overall picture of community at SJCM
- communities within SJCM
- practical application of community at SJCM
- the individual in the community of SJCM

IA

Extended answer questions

Observation

LEARNING OUTCOME 4: What makes SJCM Orthodox?

- SJCM and the human person
- SJCM and liturgy
- SJCM and diakonia
- SJCM and evangelization
- Essential elements of an Orthodox mission

IA

Interviews

Observation

Extended essay

MODULE 5

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Aim:

- overall knowledge of the history of the Church
- understanding of key developments in history of the Church
- consider underlying concepts in development of the Church as an institution
- give understanding of the role of the Church in society
- understand the nature of the Church as “Sobornost”
- understand the relationship of authority and service in the Church
- evaluate the responsibility of the Church to society

Objectives:

- students will have a good overall view of the history of the Church
- will understand some of the key developments in the life of the Church
- will understand the role of the Church as it relates to wider society
- will be able to evaluate the meaning and purpose of mission in the Church
- will be able to apply some of the lessons of the Church’s past to its present situation

LEARNING OUTCOME 1:

- The Apostles
- The Church in Acts
- The age of the martyrs
- Imperial Christianity
- Rise of monasticism
- Age of the Councils
- Symphonia between Empire and Church
- Collapse of Byzantium
- The Three Romes concept

IA: SAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 2:

- Hierarchical structure of the Church
- Role of the Councils
- The Canons
- East and West
- Florence

- Brest-Litovsk
- Church in Captivity
- “diaspora”
- Ecumenism
- Orthodoxy in the West

IA: EAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 3:

- Tradition v. tradition
- Sobornost
- Philetism
- Mission
- Aberrations in church life
- North America

IA: PI

LEARNING OUTCOME 4:

- Role of Church in modern world
- Challenges of secularism
- Church as service
- Eucharistic nature of the Church

IA: PI and essay question

MODULE 6

LIFE and TEACHING OF ST MARIA OF PARIS

Time: 25 hours

Aim:

- introduce interns to the life and witness of St Maria
- to contextualize her work
- to be aware of her co-workers contribution to her work
- to develop understanding of her teaching on Orthodox life and service
- identify the sources of her thought in Orthodox tradition
- detailed study of aspects of her teaching
- to relate her life and teaching to the practice of Orthodox mission today

Objective:

- interns will have knowledge and understanding of a significant model of Orthodox mission
- will understand how Orthodox mission is related to its actual context
- understand their own model of Orthodox living

LEARNING OUTCOME 1:

- know facts of the life of St Maria and her closest “collaborators”
- know the historical situation in which she lived
- know the sources of her theological thought

IA: SAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 2:

- develop knowledge of her essential teaching
- identify the concepts underlying her work and thought
- identify the sources of influence in her life
- the significance of the person in her life
- understand trends in Russian religious thought of influence in her work

IA: SAQ

LEARNING OUTCOME 3:

- knowledge of the paper of Mother Maria “Four Types of Religious Life”
- analysis of each of the four types

IA: EAQ and PI session

LEARNING OUTCOME 4:

- Assess the value of her witness
- Evaluate the relevance of her teaching to contemporary Orthodox mission
- Evaluate the relevance of her actual practice of Orthodox mission

IA: PI and Essay question

MODULE 7

THE LIVES AND TEACHINGS OF THE SAINTS On DIAKONIA

Time: 25 hours

Aim:

- to introduce interns to examples of the lives of saints relevant to the idea of diakonia in the Church
- to develop understanding of the meaning and value of diakonia in the Church
- to consider differing approaches to diakonia in the Orthodox tradition
- to have models of diakonia in the contemporary Church
- to consider some of the implications of living a life of diakonia

Objectives:

- interns will have both knowledge and understanding of lived diakonia
- interns will have different models of diakonia in the Orthodox Church
- will be able to understand that there are different valid examples of diakonia
- be able to develop their own ideas of appropriate diakonia today
- will be able to evaluate the “cost” of diakonia in real life
- understand some of the pitfalls in the practice of diakonia

LEARNING OUTCOME 1: Lives of “diaconal” saints

- St Stephen the Proto-deacon
- St Lawrence of Rome
- St Olympia the deaconess
- St Martin of Tours (the Merciful)
- St John the Compassionate
- St Elizabeth the New Martyr of Russia
- St Silouan the Athonite

IA

Short answer summary of key facts of the lives

LEARNING OUTCOME 2: Concepts of diakonia

- The chapel icons of saints: who and why?
- The ordinations of sub-deacons and deacons

- St Joseph of Volokolamsk and the Possessors
- St Nil Sorsky and the Non-Possessors
- St John the Merciful on the Poor our Masters

IA

Extended answer questions

LEARNING OUTCOME 3: Living the Concepts

- St Mary of Egypt as a practical model of repentance
- St Silouan and the practice of compassion
- St Elizabeth as a model for monastic service today
- Examples of diakonia in the Orthodox Church in North America

IA

Extended answer essays

LEARNING OUTCOME 4: Applying the teaching

- minimizers and supersizers
- “case studies” from the Mission community
- Examples of praxis from Mission life

IA

Evaluation exercise

PI session

MODULE 8

MODELS OF CARE FOR OTHERS

Time: 20 hours

Aim:

- To give opportunities for interns to see and understand other places and organizations and their approach to caring for others.
- To appreciate the diversity of approaches in care for others
- To be aware of resources available
- To understand some of the underlying concepts relating to the poor and disadvantaged in society

Objective:

- interns will have experience of other places of care
- will be aware of the help provided by other agencies
- will have better knowledge and understanding of the problems faced by the poor

Time Allotted:

- Friday morning
- Thursday morning
- Or by arrangement

LEARNING OUTCOME 1: VISITS

- Good Shepherd mission
- Evergreen
- Salvation Army
- St Vincent de Paul recovery house
- A.N. Other Drop-In Centre (secular agency)

I.A.

- Arrange visit schedule
- prepare log and questionnaire
- completed log of each visit

LEARNING OUTCOME 2: RESOURCES

- health bus
- diabetic clinic
- harm reduction centre
- Cam-H
- AA
- Prison ministry

I.A. as per LO1

LEARNING OUTCOME 3: UNDERSTANDING ISSUES

- addictions
- abuse
- dependency culture

I.A.

- extended answer questions
- PI session

LEARNING OUTCOME 4: EVALUATION

- identify approaches of various agencies
- evaluate strengths and weaknesses
- assess appropriateness or otherwise in Orthodox mission

I.A.

essay

MODULE 9

THE PRACTICAL

Time: 35 hours

Aim:

- This module will give interns the opportunity to apply learning to practice.
- Give interns the opportunity to appreciate the practical requirements of one practice of Orthodox mission
- Enable the intern to become aware of his/her own strengths and weaknesses
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop inter-personal skills
- To understand some of the qualities of leadership in Orthodox mission

Objective:

- the intern will have a realistic sense of the needs of a project
- will have been able to successfully identify those needs
- will have been able to plan realistically
- will have been able to adapt and respond to actual needs
- will have a realistic sense of his/her strengths and weaknesses
- be able to respond to external evaluation and critique

LEARNING OUTCOME 1

- identify need
- define project
- plan implementation
- plan timing of project

I.A. short outline report

LEARNING OUTCOME 2

- identify skills required
- identify personnel required
- identify and define “target” group

I.A. short outline report

LEARNING OUTCOME 3

- state aims clearly
- state objectives clearly
- maintain realism

I.A. extended written plan

LEARNING OUTCOME 4

- make realistic self-assessment
- assess achievement of the aims and objectives of the project
- respond to external evaluation

I.A.

EAQ

Tutorial with supervisor