

Studies and Inter-Orthodox Relations, which will be based in Thessaloniki has as its main aims:

(a) to promote the dialectic presence of Orthodox theology within the current dialogue for today's problems, cultivate an ecumenical theology, and develop an ecumenical conscience in the Orthodox world;

(b) to inform the general public about the situation of the Orthodox Churches around the world and collect all necessary information concerning their ecumenical concerns;

(c) to study the development and the problems of the (bilateral as well as multilateral) ecumenical dialogue, and inform the ecclesiastical public about the ecumenical movement;

(d) to promote the ecumenicity of Orthodoxy, actively participate in the inter-Orthodox, inter-Church, inter-Faith, and general ecumenical dialogue, by making the necessary theological interventions on any important current issue;

(e) to establish creative relations with all important world ecumenical organizations (World Council of Churches, Conference of European Churches, Pro Oriente, Societas Ecumenica, Kairos etc.) and to critically support all ecumenical initiatives aiming at a peaceful co-existence of the peoples.

## C. OFFICERS

The Society, which is open also to non-Orthodox ecumenists, has elected for the next three years (1999-2002) the following Executive Committee: Prof. N. Zacharopoulos (chairman), Prof. Petros Vassiliadis (vice-chairman), Prof. J. Petrou (secretary general), Prof. Ch. Vassilopoulos (treasurer), Dr. D. Koukoura (assistant secretary), and Dr. S. Yagazoglou and Mr. K. Mygdalis (members-at-large). Metropolitans Profs. Chrysostomos Konstantinidis and John Zizioulas are Honorary Presidents of the Society, and Prof. N. Matsoukas Honorary Director of the Ecumenical Institute of the Society.

## D. WORKING COMMITTEES

Several working committees in the past six years have been set up with the mandate to produce in-depth reviews on almost all crucial areas of inter-Orthodox and ecumenical concern:

1. Committee on Inter-Orthodox Relations: moderated by Prof. Ant.-Em. Tachiaos and divided into

three sub-committees: (i) on *Relations with the Ancient Patriarchates* (Prof. S. Varnalidis [convener], (ii) on *Relations with the Slavic Orthodox Churches* (Prof. J. Tarnanidis [convener], (iii) on *Relations with the rest of the Orthodox world* (Prof. A. Glavinias [convener],

2. Committee on Bilateral Theological Dialogues: moderated by Prof. N. Matsoukas and divided into three sub-committees: (i) on the dialogue with the Catholic Church (Prof. A. Papadopoulos [convener], S. Agouridis, V. Pseftogas, S. Varnalidis), (ii) on the dialogue with the *Pre-Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches* (Prof. G. Martzelos [convener], D. Tsamis, L. Siasos, S. Yagazoglou), and (iii) on the dialogue with the *Protestant World* (Prof. J. Karavidopoulos [convener], G. Tsetsis, D. Tselegidis, Ch. Vassilopoulos);

3. Committee on Multilateral Theological Dialogue: Rev. Dr. G. Tsetsis (moderator),

4. Committee on Inter-Faith Dialogue: moderated by Prof. N. Zacharopoulos and divided into two sub-committees:

(i) on the *Dialogue with Islam* (Prof. G. Ziakas [convener], (ii) on the *Dialogue with Judaism* (Emer. Prof. D. Doikos [convener],

5. Committee on Ecclesiological Studies: Metropolitan Prof. J. Zizioulas (moderator),

6. Committee on Liturgical Renewal: Prof. P. Vassiliadis (moderator),

7. Committee on Biblical Issues: Prof. S. Agouridis (moderator),

8. Committee on Church-Society Relations: Prof. I. Petrou (moderator),

9. Committee on Issues of Feminist Concern: Prof. D. Tsamis (moderator),

10. Committee on Theological Education: Prof. V. Pseftogas (moderator),

## E. ACTIVITIES

The Society has conducted in the past 6 years a series of events the latest of which was the organization of an ecumenical symposium, in cooperation with WCC, Unit I, on Orthodox Liturgical Renewal and the Visible Unity (New Skete, USA, 26 May-June 1, 1998). Among its current activities is also the publication, in cooperation with **PRO ORIENTE**, of a series of booklets on ecumenical themes. It also runs the series **EKKLESIA-KOINONIA-OECUMENE**, and has so far published mainly in Greek, but also in other languages, 13 books on ecumenical issues.

Of great importance is also the fact

that it provided the facilities (in cooperation with the Moscow Patriarchate, the ETE stream of Unit I of the WCC, and the Diocese of Kilikis of the Church of Greece) of an ecumenical educational visit of 15 young Russian theologians, which had as its climax the International Symposium on Common Ecumenical Vision (Thessaloniki, 29-31 March 1996).

The Society also participated as co-organizer in the following ecumenical events:

(a) The one-day study with specialists from both Geneva and Greece of the WCC working document on Economy, in the margin of the August '93 WCC Seminar on Theological Education for East European Educators;

(b) The Annual Orthodox-Catholic Inter-Faculty (Thessaloniki-Athenaeum/Antonianum) Symposium on "Christian Spirituality";

(c) The Annual Bossey Seminar on "Orthodox Theology and Spirituality", which in 1994 (23 April - 3 May) took place in Thessaloniki, with the participation of the School of Theology;

(d) On a purely theological level is working in co-operation with KEK, in which it has been accepted as an Associate member.

(e) The Society has also been accepted as an associate member by the WOCATI.

(Address: Prof. P. Vassiliadis P.O. Box 1540, GR-54006 Thessaloniki.\* E-mail: pv@theo.auth.gr)

**Ecumenical**