

## **Department of Theological and Pastoral Education**

by Father Joseph Allen, ThD  
Director

**Report Summary:** This department will report on the various functions for which it is responsible.

*The Antiochian House of Studies (AHOS)*, a “school without walls,” holds Five Faculties: the Doctor of Ministry Program, the PhD Program, the Master of Arts Degree Program in Applied Orthodox Theology, the St. Stephen’s Diploma Course of Studies in Orthodox Theology and the House of Studies Residency Program. The year 2017 marks the 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AHOS in which, beginning with a mere 13 students, its contribution to a necessary, but unique, pedagogy is now well known. The D. Min. Program is held in affiliation with the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and most of those classes are held at the Antiochian Heritage and Learning Center. The Master of Arts Degree is held as a Theological program of the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology at the Balamand University in Lebanon. The Residency Program, held at the Antiochian Heritage and Learning Center, includes learning opportunities for all five of these programs. Currently, under the direction of The Rev. Dr. Michel Najim, we are investigating the possibility of a PhD program becoming accredited. We have recently received a letter from the Holy Synod of the Coptic Church in Egypt, asking us to provide a program for their students (which now includes 15 – 20, as of this writing). Our program, an Eastern Christian Studies Program, includes all Orthodox Jurisdictions and Patriarchates, as well as non-Orthodox from many parts of the world.

As of January 2017, the total number of students spread across these five faculties is **217**; 168 St. Stephen’s, 27 MA, 12 DMin Students and 10 PhD students.

### **Full Report**

I. Beginning this coming Fall we will be welcoming 15 - 20 new Coptic Orthodox students from Egypt. We have received a formal letter from the Coptic Orthodox Synod in Cairo, requesting that we help in the education of their Church Leadership. This means that we will now be – or have been – educating students from various communions who are interested in studying Orthodox theology, i.e. from the various jurisdictions and Patriarchates, as well as some Roman Catholic and Protestant Communions. The House of Studies has evolved as an Eastern Christian Studies Facility.

II. To meet these various needs, we now have 5 tracts (specializations):

- A. Youth Ministry
- B. Iconology
- C. Musicology
- D. Coptic Studies
- E. Pastoral Counseling

While they all study within the St. Stephen's Curriculum, their special tracts are taken within the required courses. Furthermore, each can lead to the Master of Arts Degree in Applied Orthodox Theology, should he or she undertake the Masters Thesis (a fourth year) in that specialization.

III. Finally, the Department of Theological and Pastoral Education, under the oversight of His Grace, Bishop THOMAS, continues to attempt a very close communication with the Ordination Review Board, chaired by His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS. We do remind all students that an MDiv from an accredited Orthodox Seminary is normative for ordination to any major Order in this Archdiocese. Others who have earned a MDiv from a non-Orthodox School must finish all three years of the House of Studies St. Stephen's Diploma Program in order to apply to the Ordination Review Board.

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