BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

# **Metropolitan of Mesogaia & Lavreotiki Nikolaos**

Metropolitan Nikolaos (Chatzinikolaou) holds a B.S. in Physics from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Greece; a Master of Arts (A.M.) in Astrophysics from Harvard University; a Master of Sciences (M.S) in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. His Ph.D. studies in Biomedical Engineering and Applied Mathematics took place under the HST (Harvard-MIT joint program). For four consecutive years, he worked as a researcher at The Boston Children’s Hospital and Mass General Hospital, and as a space medical technology consultant for NASA and Arthur D. Little Company.

He received a Master in Theological Studies (M.T.S.) and a Master of Theology (Th.M.) at Holy Cross School of Theology, in Brookline, Mass, and a Th.D. in Bioethics from the University of Thessaloniki, Greece. In 2008, he was awarded the title of honorary doctor of Social Theology by the University of Athens.

Ιn 1989 (upon his return from the USA), he was tonsured a monk in Mount Athos and then he was ordained a deacon and a priest. He served for a number of years at the Metochion of Holy Ascension, a dependency of Simonos Petras Monastery in Athens and in 2004, he was elected Metropolitan of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki in Greece.

He is the founder and director the Hellenic Center for Biomedical Ethics in Athens, Greece, and the chairman of the Bioethics Committee of the Church of Greece. He is also a member of the Greek National Council for Research and Technology, οf the Hellenic National Transplant Organisation, and of the National Committee of Deontology in Greece.

He is the author of a number of theological and scientific articles and books and has participated in Greek and international conferences regarding a broad spectrum of bioethical issues and the relationship between Orthodox theology and modern science. Moreover, he has taught Hemodynamic Pathophysiology of Vascular Diseases and Surgery at the Medical School of the University of Crete and is the co-author of the book “Hemodynamics of the Great Vessels”.

His pioneer social work includes a broad spectrum of activities such as the founding of the first Palliative Care Unit in Greece by the name of “Galilee”, attending patients with advanced-stage cancer, or other life threatening illnesses, providing care for patients suffering from serious neuromascular diseases (Duchenne muscular dystrophy, als), organizing seminars on volunteer education etc. He is also the chairman of a charity fund that among others, has sponsored the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit of the “Evangelismos” General Hospital in Athens.