

FOREWORD

Theology needs to be involved in finding solutions to ecological problems

Since the beginning of the Creation, God ('THEOS' in Greek) is understood to be an 'ecological' God. From the fires of the early Universe to the magnificent Life communities of Earth, God is venerated as a Living presence within these great processes. We, as humans, are beginning to re-envision ourselves as part of this glorious Creation and as a member of an Earth community, at the same moment as Earth is entering a severe ecological crisis. This growing crisis leads more and more people to cry out in agony: "My God (in Greek: THEE mou), thou hiddest thy face and everything is dismayed" (cf. Psalm 103/104:29). This 'EcoTHEE' conference addresses the need for human response to the ecological crisis. It affirms human responsibility for the well being of the Earth and the vast communities of Life. It focuses on religious-based and scientific approaches to ecological problems and challenges. The goal of the conference is to create a multi-disciplinary and international forum for information and insight exchange among theologians, Earth scientists, economists, sociologists, politicians and historians working in the area of ecological ethics and responsibility for a sustainable future.

General Chair of EcoTHEE

Dr. Alexandros Papaderos

Dr. Alexandros Papaderos is Editor of European Journal of Science & Theology and Director of the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece.