

International conference on “Concepts of «Human Dignity» in the Patristic Tradition and their Traces in Eastern and Western Christianity”,

Nijmegen, Holland, 14-17 October 2014

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The Institute for Eastern Christianity (Radboud University, Nijmegen) and St. Tikhon`s Orthodox University Moscow in cooperation with Free University Amsterdam and Protestant University Amsterdam organized between 14-17 October in Nijmegen, Holland, an international conference on “Concepts of « human dignity » in the Patristic tradition and their traces in Eastern and Western Christianity.” The organizers started from the reality that “human dignity” is a key term in the contemporary conception of human rights, however it became a controversial issue between East and West and even in inner-Western discourse. This conference addressed “human dignity” mainly from the perspective of patristic anthropology, reflecting especially on:

– The notion of “human dignity” in the patristic, ancient tradition of both Eastern and Western theology (as e.g. Augustine, Ambrosius of Milan, the Cappadocians, Maximus Confessor etc.);

– Alternative concepts of “human dignity” (based on the patristic tradition, and differing from the individualistic approach) in both Eastern and Western tradition of the “Middle Ages”.

– Western Enlightenment (including “religious enlightenment”) and its reception within Orthodox Russia (as e.g. Metropolitan Platon (Levshin) of Moscow, Metropolitan Filaret (Drozdov) of Moscow, Metropolitan Evgenii (Bolkhovitinov) of Kiev, etc.);

– Approaches of “human dignity” among protagonists of the so-called “neo-patristic movement” of Orthodox theology in the early 20th century (G. Florovsky, V. Lossky, Dumitru Staniloae).

It participated theologians who presented the following papers: Petr Mikhailov (St. Tikhon Orthodox University, Moscow), *Theological implications of arête in Patristic Tradition*; Dmitri Bumazhnov (University of Göttingen), *Human Hypostasis and Human Nature in St. Isaac of Niniveh*; Victor Lega (St. Tikhon Orthodox University, Moscow), *Plotinus on the divine*

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