



## St. Macrina Orthodox Institute

*for Renewal of Diakonia and Catechesis in the Midwest*

Diocese of the Midwest, Orthodox Church in America,

917 N Wood St, Chicago, Illinois 60622-5005

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# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Macrina Conference

## The End of the World: Diakonia and Catechesis in a Time of Crisis

At Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church,  
2505 S 30<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee, WI

*This Conference will address how to minister and teach during a time of many and varied worries about potential world ending problems.*

- What are some of the problems that *truly* impact us?
- What is a more faithful and dispassionate response to crises?
  - What is traditional way of seeing a prophecy?
- What discernment do we need to use when seeing social/ media discussions about these things?
- How do we catechetize and minister to those who feel these anxieties?

**Featured Speakers:**  
*Russell and Alessandra Rolffs.*

### *Planting Trees While the World is Falling Apart.*

**Alessandra Rolffs** is a poet, editor, and gardener living on Washington Island, WI. Her freelance writing and editing clients include the Environmental Defense Fund, Leadership Story Lab, Pandion Music Foundation, and thought leaders who want to share their expertise with wider audiences through writing and publishing. Her poetry and essays have been published in *The Southern Review*, *Spillway*, *About Place Journal* and elsewhere. She holds a PhD in Eco-Literature from UW-Milwaukee and MFA in Creative Writing from Indiana University. She is the executive director of *Gathering Ground*, a nonprofit with a focus on sustainable farming education. She is the mother of two boys.

An educator at heart, **Russell Rolffs** has taught high school and college writing for more than ten years. He was recovering from completing an MA in philosophy from the University of Chicago when he discovered that he needed to be outdoors more to feel fulfilled. As the farm manager at

Gathering Ground, he is able to unite his two passions – education and growing food. Through the nonprofit’s summer internship program, Ground School, Russell works with college-age people to teach them about sustainable farming. In addition to managing the farm at Gathering Ground, Russell runs Hoot Blossom Farm with his wife and two sons. Russell is passionate about growing good food and pondering how humans can live within the ecological bounds of the earth.

**OTHER SPEAKERS:**

Presvytera Dr. Rebecca Luft  
*and others*

Diaconal and Catechist PRACTICA LEAD by Chicago Deanery Protodeacons and Anna Strelka

COST \$125. Lodging not provided, though available locally.

## **Schedule:**

**Pre-Conference extra diaconal practicum time August 1<sup>st</sup>, 6pm and August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-Noon**

### **CONFERENCE BEGINS**

#### **Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**1-2:30 pm Featured Speaker**

**3-4 and 4-5 speakers**

**5pm Vespers**

**6pm Dinner (provided)**

**7pm Practica, Diaconal and Catechetical**

#### **Sabbath August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Breakfast on own.**

**8:30 morning prayers**

**9am speaker**

**10-12 practica**

**Noon Lunch provided to stay or go**

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**Please send in registration checks to St. Macrina/ Diocese of the Midwest OCA,**

At the address above. Put in memo: St. Macrina Conference. Email or text Fr. Elijah at contact given above, to notify that you are planning to come.