

Diploma Assignments

- (1) Please complete **TWO** out of these five assignments.
- (2) If possible please prepare a typed script.
- (3) The assignment length for each choice should be between 1500 and 2000 words.
- (4) A bibliography and footnotes should be provided. Biblical references should be given where appropriate.
- (5) Your course tutor is available at all times should you need advice or have any difficulty.

Assignment Titles (Choose TWO)

1. "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem or the Academy with the Church?" (Tertullian in *De praescriptione, vii*). Is this view born out generally by the fathers before Nicea? Demonstrate with examples the characteristic attitude of these fathers to philosophy and truth seeking "outside" the Church.
2. (A two part assignment) (a) Explore how monasticism became the new martyrdom after the fires of persecution subsided. (b) Explain how monastic forms developed to rise to the challenge of the vast numbers of ascetics who withdrew into the desert.
3. Describe how Christianity might have been transformed if Arius had prevailed. Did in fact Arianism survive in different forms?
4. How did the differing Latin and Greek mentalities of theological expression and religious aspiration lead to the Great Schism?
5. Choose one contemporary Orthodox theologian and assess his or her contribution to the life of the Orthodox Church in the modern era.