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The first book by Father David G. Bissias released October, 2008, by the Orthodox Research Institute...



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From the Foreword by His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago...

The present work of Father David G. Bissias, a spiritual son and priest of our Holy Metropolis of Chicago, is an extensive examination of the Mystery of Healing and its expression in our parishes today...

Father David is rightly not satisfied to isolate the Mystery of Healing from its context in the overall life of the Holy Church. Because he is chiefly concerned with a particular pastoral question confronting the parish clergy of our Holy Metropolis, which he ably describes, he presents a case for a solution based on consensus and the spiritual needs of the faithful. Yet to make this case, he has shown the historical and liturgical connections of the ceremony of Holy Unction with the Holy Eucharist, the anointing at Holy Baptism and Holy Chrismation, the festal vigil with the Blessing of Loaves (*Artoklasia*), Holy Penance and the remainder of our rich, liturgical tradition. We believe that he has faithfully shown the significance of Holy Oil in the life of the Church while countering some misunderstandings, what he rightfully refers to as “reductions” of our liturgical and sacramental life. And where matters are less certain regarding aspects of our historical experience, he has pointed to possibilities that are interesting and, at times, enlightening.

Because there has been relatively little written on Holy Unction, to address his subject the author has relied on many scholars of history, liturgy, biblical interpretation, ecclesiology and so forth, bringing about an engaging synthesis worthy of the consideration of pastors and all the faithful. We are grateful for this answer to our own call for additional study on the subject, and congratulate our spiritual son and priest on this contribution to the life of the Holy Church.

The MYSTERY of HEALING

*Oil, Anointing, and
the Unity of the Local Church*

David G. Bissias

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