

## ETHIOPIAN BISHOPS VISIT INSTITUTE

This past May, the Institute was pleased to host His Holiness Abune Merkorios, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, along with fifteen Bishops from the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition. The group met at the Institute with Institute representatives and Abbot John Klassen, head of Saint John's Abbey, then toured the Institute's facilities and grounds, St. John's University and Abbey, and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML). This visit holds special significance given the residency this past year of Institute Resident



Andualem Dagmawi

Scholar, Andualem Dagmawi. Andualem, a native of Ethiopia and an ordained Deacon in the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, is currently working on his Th.D. through the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, Canada. While at the Institute, Andualem made heavy use of the resources of HMML, a key partner with the Orthodox in the preservation of Ethiopia's manuscript heritage.

Since the 1970s, HMML has joined with Ethiopian scholars and officials of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church to photographically preserve Ethiopia's manuscripts, as unknown numbers of manuscripts are lost or destroyed each year due to the effects of time and regional instability. In recognition of this cooperative venture, Ethiopian Bishops first visited campus in 1973 under the leadership of then-Patriarch, Abuna Theophilos.

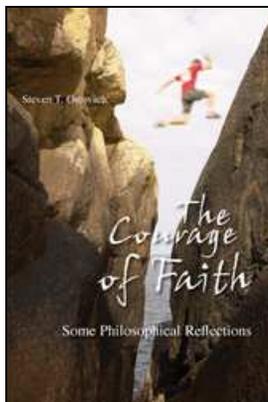


Ethiopia adopted Christianity as its official religion in the fourth century. Prior to the arrival of Christianity, Judaism was the most influential religion in Ethiopia. Because of its relative isolation, Ethiopia retains many ancient Jewish and Christian practices, rituals and traditions that are no longer practiced elsewhere. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church plays a prominent role in the spiritual, social, educational, cultural, artistic, and literary life of Ethiopia.



## THE BOOK NOOK

Recently released from the Liturgical Press, former Institute Scholar **Steven Ostovich's** (Fall 2000 and Fall 2007) newest publication, *The Courage of Faith: Some Philosophical Reflections*, encourages readers to wrestle with their questions of belief in order to find a way to choose faith. Belief, responsibility, hope, love, and thinking itself all demand courage, Steve argues.



After long days writing in the Alcuin Library, former Institute scholar **Ann Marie Stock's** (Fall 2005 and 2006/07) book *On Location in Cuba: Street Filmmaking during Times of Transition* has been published by the University of North Carolina Press (2009). Her book focuses on what she calls "street filmmaking" to examine the island's changing notions of Cuban identity during the pivotal decade of the 1990s with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Cuba's chief patron.

