Many recent graduates of Holy Cross have been ordained into the Holy Priesthood. Thank you for your support of their studies and spiritual development at HCHC! Axios to all — including you!

Rev. Christopher Jeffrey Abell (Diaconate Program '16) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit at St. George, Bloomfield Hills, MI in June 2015.

Rev. Anastasios Athanasiou (M.Div '15) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh at Holy Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, PA in November 2015.

Rev. Dimitrios Burikas (M.Div '12) was ordained to the priesthood by His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos at Assumption Church, Chicago, IL in August 2015.

Rev. Kosmas Kallis (M.Div '14) was ordained to the priesthood by His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos at St. Demetrios Church, Libertyville, IL in October 2015.

Rev. Sampson Kasapakis (M.Div '14) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL in September 2015.

Rev. Dionysios Koulialis (M.Div '15) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Damaskios at St. Demetrios Cathedral, Astoria, NY in August 2015.

Rev. John P. Mamangakis (M.Div '15) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta at Holy Cross Chapel, Brookline, MA in February 2015.

Rev. Michael C. Manos (M.Div '15) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit at St. Nicholas Church, Troy, MI in September 2015.

Rev. Vincent Minucci (M.Div '12) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston at St. Demetrios Church, West Roxbury, MA in August 2015.

Rev. Chrysostomos Panos (M.Div '16) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Damaskios at Church of the Transfiguration, Corona, NY in August 2015.

Rev. Vasileios D. Pilakas (Diaconate Program '17) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit at St. Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor, MI in June 2015.

Rev. John Jarrod Russell (M.Div '14) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit at Holy Trinity Church, Indianapolis, IN in September 2015.

Dn. Theodore Saclarides (Diaconate Program '17) was ordained to the diaconate by His Grace Bishop Damaskios of Mokissos at SS Peter & Paul Church, Glenview, IL in June 2015.

Dn. Christopher Stern (Diaconate Program '13) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver at Holy Trinity, Dallas, TX in August 2015.

Rev. Anthony Tandilyan (M.TH '05) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston at St. Demetrios Church in Weston, MA in October 2015.

Rev. Anastasios Theodoropoulos (M.Div '14) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Laskos of Chicago at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Town and Country, MO in May 2015.

Rev. Aaron Walker (M.Div '07) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston at St. Nectarios Church, Roslindale, MA in November 2015.

V. Rev. Fr. Maximos (Constas) (M.Div '14) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Archbishop Damaskios at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church, Flushing NY in December 2015 and ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Damaskios at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York, NY in December 2015.

When you give every year, you make a difference every day

Your support of our Annual Fund has an immediate and direct impact on the lives of HCHC students and faculty.

How? Your gifts support academic programs … scholarships … faculty and staff development … campus improvements … and much more. In other words, your gifts make it possible for us to carry out our mission of preparing tomorrow’s leaders of Church and society. Thank you for your generosity.

Jason Oneida (M.Div ’17) learned something in Mexico last summer that changed him forever. It’s a realization that transforms many of our students, and it empowers them to be leaders in the Orthodox community.

“Mission work is about communion with others,” Jason said. “Through God, we all served and offered each other a unique, life-sustaining gift.”

Just as we receive the Holy Gifts in the Divine Liturgy, Christian service is a spiritual reality that changes us — and changes the world. Our HCHC students and seminarians live this reality.

Active in hospital ministry in the Boston area, Jason was also one of a number of HCHC students who went on a mission trip last summer to build a home for a poor family in Rosarito, a crime-plagued town in northern Mexico.

Organized by the Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity, the HCHC team’s project was to build a small (12’ x 15’) home for Marco and Teresa and their children. They also spent time with the 15 boys who live at St. Innocent Orphanage.

While Jason and his team went to serve Marco and Teresa, he was deeply impressed by the gracious hospitality and generous spirit the family showed, in spite of their desperate poverty.

“The example they provided made me realize we were not coming to the aid of a needy family,” Jason recalls. “We were forming a relationship of mutual love that transcended cultural boundaries.”

Jason’s insight — that love and service go both ways — is something that makes people like him effective Orthodox leaders.

Your support of Hellenic College Holy Cross not only strengthens our Greek Orthodox community, but also carries the witness of our love and faith far beyond our campus in Brookline. Our undergraduates, graduate students, seminarians, and alumni bring the transforming power of education, service, and Orthodoxy to our community, our Church, and our world. Thank you for your support!
A special message from Fr. Christopher

Welcome! I’m so thankful that you’re reading this newsletter for donors and friends of Hellenic College Holy Cross. We deeply appreciate your prayers and financial support, and we want you to know more about the impact your support makes every day, here on our Holy Hill overlooking the city of Boston — and in the Church and the world beyond.

In this issue, and in newsletters to come, you’ll meet students and alumni who, through obedience to God’s call in their lives, are helping shape the future of our school our Church, our culture, and of Orthodoxy in the world. When I say “our school,” you are a part of “us,” whether you’ve ever studied here or not. Your generosity makes you part of “us.” Your generous giving puts you a part of “us.” Your generous giving puts you right here with our students, and of Orthodoxy in the world.

And so I say, Ευχαριστώ πάρα πολύ! Thank you for taking our School, Our Faith, Our Tomorrow into your heart, and for loving and nourishing it so generously!

In Christ,

In Christ,
Fr. Christopher

P.S. Our next issue of this newsletter will feature our undergraduate students at Hellenic College. These amazing young men and women are the future leaders of our Orthodox Church — even though most are not studying to be clergy! You may see one of them in your own parish — and be glad you supported our school!

The Saturday of Souls is dedicated to a universal commemoration of the dead “from all the ages.” We celebrate it on March 5 this year. The connection between death and judgment is clear. That’s why this special day is placed here liturgically.

Its placement in Lent is also significant. Great Lent is our spiritual journey, culminating in Pascha, the “first fruits” (Rom. 8:29, Col. 1:18) of the transformation of the universe. Another Saturday of Souls service is celebrated one day before Pentecost Sunday at the close of the liturgical period that includes pre-Lent, Lent, Holy Week, Pascha, and Ascension. The “memory of death” at the start and finish of this time reminds us of the tragedy of the Fall, and our “ultimate enemy,” death (1 Cor. 15:26). Christ defeats this enemy.

A bond of love unites all members of the Church, dead or alive. Prayer for the dead is especially important during this period of intensified spiritual life.

The two Saturdays that follow the first Saturday of Souls are also popularly known as “Saturday of Souls,” but in fact, every Saturday is a commemoration of the dead. Christ fulfilled the Sabbath by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday. Saturday is a symbol, both of the completion of God’s work of salvation, and of our waiting for the final act of history: the “eighth day,” when Christ the Lord will return to establish his Kingdom of justice, peace, and life.

If you’d like to have a loved one prayed for at Holy Cross Chapel, please write the name(s) on the back of the enclosed reply coupon.

The Hellenic College Holy Cross Legacy Society recognizes and honors those donors who have made plans through their estates to support the institution. This includes naming us in your will as well as charitable income gifts, such as gift annuities, remainder trusts, remainder annuity trusts, or gifts of life insurance.

If you’re interested in joining, contact Peggy Giované at 617.850.1265 or pgiovan@hchc.edu.

SATURDAY OF SOULS:
Our Connection with all Believers
by Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris,
Assistant Professor of Liturgics

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SEMINARIAN:
“Words can’t describe how beautiful this place is”
Your support builds the Orthodox leaders of the future

For artist, iconographer, and writer Scott Patrick O’Rourke, “education” is not a credential but an ideal. That pursuit has led him to Holy Cross, where he is studying for the priesthood.

Following graduation from The Ohio State University, Scott enrolled at the John Jay Institute, a program in Philadelphia that trains Christians for cultural leadership. His time there included an “externship” with an architect who builds churches in the Byzantine style.

The experience fueled Scott’s growing passion for Orthodox art and architecture. At HCHC, however, his plans changed.

“At seminary, I met my wife, I met my bishop, and I met my spiritual father,” he says. “They helped me understand my clear call was to ordination.”

Scott’s preparation for the priesthood doesn’t mean he’s left his love of art behind, though. In fact, he’s busier than ever.

Join the Legacy Society — and leave a lasting legacy

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Scott designed the Byzantine-inspired patch awarded to School of Theology students who complete St. Helen’s Pilgrimage.

Scott has also drawn or designed many other beautiful projects for HCHC, including the school’s 2014 Christmas card and the nameplate for the school’s newspaper, The Daily Bread.

“Leadership acts. God didn’t give your skills to you for you to sit on them.”

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