

DOXA!

GLORY | The newsletter for supporters and friends of Hellenic College Holy Cross

“I understood God was pulling me in a different direction.”

The third year of seminary is a very busy one for every student, but especially for John Tsikalas, who is currently serving as HCHC’s Ecclesiarch. To be chosen for such an important position by the Dean of Students and the President is a great honor—and a great responsibility. As the word indicates, an Ecclesiarch is in charge of a church, which at HCHC means Holy Cross Chapel. In that role, John ensures that the Chapel is always properly prepared and staffed for the many services that take place there. With the help of assistant Ecclesiarch and classmate Nicholas Mataragas, John oversees a team of fellow Holy Cross students who perform various essential functions, from maintaining the Chapel and the precious liturgical vessels to baking prosforo—all to ensure the purity of worship in that sacred space.

An exemplary student, liked and respected by everyone on campus, John would appear to be a natural for the job, but not so long ago he was unsure about entering seminary at all. John graduated magna cum laude from the University of Missouri, where he studied political science and psychology and minored in Spanish, thinking he might one day practice immigration law. Law school seemed like the obvious next step.

However, John had “been thinking about seminary for quite a while.” He had spent three summers during college working with Project Mexico, an Orthodox nonprofit

that builds homes for the poor and operates St. Innocent Orphanage for young boys. John logged over a thousand hours of community service in Mexico, and “after the third summer, I was clear that I didn’t want to go to law school. The hard work, deep friendships, and authentic joy I experienced in Mexico led me to believe that Christ was calling me to serve the Church as a priest... While I was—and still am—fascinated by legal study and the work I could do for others through law, I understood God was pulling me in a different direction.”

John is very glad he changed direction and came to Holy Cross. “We have a really great class and a strong sense of community, like family.” Soon John’s own family will be growing: he and his wife Kahlee are expecting their first child in March.



A special message from Fr. Christopher



Dear friends of
Hellenic College
Holy Cross,

How can I thank
you for all you
do to sustain our
beloved school—

your school? Your gifts ensure that we can continue to offer an exceptional education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to men and women from all over the world and all walks of life in a unique Orthodox Christian academic and social environment. When they graduate from Hellenic College or Holy Cross, they are ready to serve the Church and society as ordained and lay leaders who will make a lasting impact in whatever endeavor they pursue. They are able to develop and use their individual gifts because of *your* gifts.

We know that there are many causes worthy of your support, so we are touched, honored, and grateful for every donation we receive, large or small. Some of you are longtime donors, some have just recently decided to join the ranks of HCHC supporters, but every single one of you is special to us. Please pray for us as we pray for you, especially in this holy season of preparation for the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Kali Sarakosti—and thank you so much.

With love in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos,
DMin
President

THANK YOU

Leadership 100 Sets Stellar Example of Support for HCHC

Thirty years of diakonia

The entire HCHC community is profoundly grateful to the members of Leadership 100 for their tremendous generosity to our beloved school over almost thirty years. Close to half of the 22.5 million dollars in grants distributed since L100's inception have benefited HCHC, primarily through scholarships for seminarians, the future priests of our Church. Thanks to the committed Orthodox Christian men and women of this remarkable organization:



- **201** of our L100 scholarship recipients have been ordained or are on track to be ordained.
- **73** are working in parishes or for the Church in a variety of essential roles.
- **56** are still pursuing their studies at HCHC with the ultimate goal of ordination.

May God continue to bless Leadership 100 and its vitally important work!
“Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

Did you know...

Your gifts help bridge the tuition gap – the actual cost of a Christian higher education and a student's ability to pay.

These gifts are an investment in future clergy and lay leaders.

Thanks to your generosity, HCHC is able to offer partial scholarships to our undergraduate students, graduate students, and seminarians.

Your gifts make a direct and positive impact on all our students.



Axios!

Think for a moment about what the world would be like without our Faith...

With your generous support, Hellenic College Holy Cross is educating, mentoring, and preparing the next generation of Orthodox priests and lay leaders to ensure we don't have to ever think about a world without our Faith and our Church.

We are extremely proud to share these recent ordination announcements.

Ordinations to the Diaconate:

Rev. Dn. John Carros (*MDiv 1999*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta at Annunciation Church, Winston-Salem, NC, in June 2017.

Rev. Dn. Bartholomew (formerly Michael) Mercado (*MDiv 2014*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey at St. Demetrios Church, North Wildwood, NJ, in September 2017.

Rev. Dn. Christopher Zaferes (*MDiv 2016*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, CA, in December 2017.

Ordinations to the Priesthood:

Rev. Fr. Gabriel Gadah (*MDiv 2008*) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver at St. Barbara Church, Sarasota, FL, in February 2016.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Collins (*MDiv 2010*) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York, NY, in May 2016.

Rev. Fr. Christopher Retelas (*MDiv 2016*) was ordained to the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at St. Anthony Church, Pasadena, CA, in December 2016.

Rev. Fr. Athanasios (Thomas) Minetos (*MDiv 2012*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago of blessed memory at St. John the Baptist Church, Des Plaines, IL, in October 2016, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos, at St. Andrew Church, Chicago, IL, in January 2017.

Rev. Fr. Athanasios (Thomas) Felactu (*MDiv 2016*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at St. Katherine Church, Redondo Beach, CA, in April 2017, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, at Holy Cross Church, Belmont, CA, in May 2017.

Rev. Fr. Christopher Kolentsas (*MDiv 2016*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA, in May 2017, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, at St. Sophia in June 2017.

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Ramos (*MDiv 2017*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at Holy Cross Chapel, Brookline, MA, in May 2017, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, at St. John the Baptist Church, Las Vegas, NV, in June 2017.

Rev. Fr. Zachary Thornbury (*MDiv 2017*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta at St. George Church, Greenville, SC, in April 2017, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, at Holy Trinity Church, Raleigh, NC, in June 2017.

Rev. Fr. Panagiotis (Peter) Hasiakos (*MDiv 2015*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos at St. John the Baptist Church, Des Plaines, IL, in February 2017, and to the priesthood, also by His Grace Bishop Demetrios, at Holy Apostles Church, Westchester, IL, in June 2017.

Rev. Fr. Andreas Houpos (*MDiv 2014*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane at St. Nicholas Shrine Church, Flushing, NY, in June 2017, and to the priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at St. Nicholas Church, in July 2017.

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Mueller (*MDiv 2014*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at St. Anna Church, Roseville, CA, in December 2016, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos at St. Anna Church, in July 2017.

Rev. Fr. Constantine Trumpower (*MDiv 2016*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at St. John the Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA, in August 2017, and to the priesthood, also by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos at St. John the Baptist, in August 2017.

Hellenic Women’s Club Visits HCHC

“Seminarians like Michael and Saki are the future of our Church, and spending time with them filled my heart with hope and promise.”

The Hellenic Women’s Club, Inc., also known as EOK, has been a driving force in philanthropy since 1936, with a focus on promoting Hellenic ideals, culture, and community in New England. For the last 23 years, Hellenic College Holy Cross has been one of the club’s established charities, receiving over \$115,000 to date through their EOK Scholarship Fund.

Recently, two members of the club’s Executive Board and Charity Review Committee paid a visit to HCHC. Dorothy Sophocles and Kathleen Hamilton toured the campus with Hellenic College junior Anastasis (Saki) Phyrillas and met with the current recipient of the EOK Scholarship, second-year seminarian Michael Palamara, who expressed his deep gratitude to them for their support. Dr. James Skedros, Dean of Holy Cross, also expressed thanks and provided updates on the school.

“Seminarians like Michael and Saki are the future of our Church, and spending time with them filled my heart with hope and promise,” said Dorothy Sophocles.

The visitors’ tour took them to the Administration Building, the Library, Holy Cross Chapel, and the memorial wall,



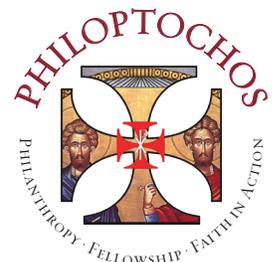
which has special significance for Dorothy Sophocles. On it are inscribed the names of her father, Rev. George Bacopulos of blessed memory (M.Div. 1956), and her father-in-law, Rev. Sophocles M. Sophocles of blessed memory (M.Div. 1944). Both would undoubtedly be pleased to know how much their beloved *scholi* has benefited over many years from the Hellenic Women’s Club’s generosity.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos and HCHC – a Special Relationship

Both the National Philoptochos Society and HCHC owe their founding in the 1930s to the same visionary founder, His All-Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras, and have enjoyed a special relationship ever since through the organization’s unflinching support for our school. Philoptochos now has more than 26,000 members in 440 chapters, each of which raises funds for HCHC through special appeals twice a year. To date, Philoptochos has given over \$3.7 million to our school for everything from scholarships to technological improvements to the refurbishment of the dormitory, classrooms, and cafeteria. We thank every one of these generous and hardworking women for helping us fulfill our sacred mission.

The Philoptochos Society has stayed true – for all these years – to Archbishop Athenagoras’ exhortation to “prove once again your strong faith.” We couldn’t do it without them!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

“This is a place where a lot of spiritual growth can occur.”

Sophia Petrou, Hellenic College Class of 2019
Cranston, Rhode Island

Sophia Petrou didn't need much convincing to come to Hellenic College. “My godparents are alums, my aunt and uncle actually met here as students, and four other relatives came here too. They all had positive experiences.” Also, Sophia knew HCHC firsthand, having attended the CrossRoad Summer Institute while in high school. “There were many life realizations and a great deal of spiritual maturation during my time on campus for CrossRoad. Those ten days contributed a lot to my decision to come here.”

Sophia is majoring in Religious Studies with a minor in Ancient Greek. Asked to name a favorite professor, she replies, “I honestly cannot pick one! All my professors have guided and helped me, each in a unique way, and offered insights that could not have come from anyone else. You're able to build connections and friendships with faculty here that would be impossible at schools with thousands of students.”

The academic life at Hellenic is enhanced for Sophia by the rich worship life that permeates the experience of being a student at HCHC. “This is a place where a lot of spiritual growth can occur. You can attend services every day with beautiful Byzantine chanting you won't hear in many other places in the US, let alone in a college setting.”

Between attending classes and services and studying, Sophia could easily spend all of her time on campus, but her love of Christ and HCHC's unique place in higher education often take her out into the world beyond Brookline. For example, she is in her second year of working as an Ambassador for the Admissions Office. Ambassadors are carefully selected HCHC students who travel to parishes around the country to assist with youth ministry and raise awareness of our school. “I absolutely love it,” she says. “I love seeing how diverse the parishes are and interacting with young people as a representative of the school.”

Another meaningful off-campus activity for Sophia was volunteering last year at a local Orthodox church's soup kitchen. “It was the most powerful, hands-on experience of serving the community, my brothers and sisters in Christ,” she recalls. “It is a memory I always carry with me.”

After she graduates from Hellenic College, Sophia plans to apply to the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross and hopes to intern with either the Admissions Office or the Office of Vocation and Ministry. In whatever future role she plays, Sophia will remain closely connected to the school she loves.



“All my professors have guided and helped me, each in a unique way, and offered insights that could not have come from anyone else. You're able to build connections and friendships with faculty here that would be impossible at schools with thousands of students.”

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

“Once a member, always a member.”

Meet Irene Koulianos Bullock, “an inspiring role model and mentor for female students of Byzantine music.”

Irene received her Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree from Holy Cross in 2016, as well as a Certificate in Byzantine Music, which has been a major interest and force in her life since she was 19 years old. “Back home in Tarpon Springs, Florida, my cousin Fr. Demetre Mott [M.Div. 2015] wanted to start a Byzantine choir and invited a group of parishioners to learn Byzantine notation and chant alongside him at the *analogion* on Sundays,” she recalls.

At Holy Cross, Irene sang with the St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir, a vocal ensemble of students and alumni of Hellenic College Holy Cross that not only chants at services on and off campus, but also travels widely to perform at concerts, conferences, fundraising events, and state and national holiday celebrations. The entire HCHC Byzantine music program, including the choir, is led by Dr. Grammenos Karanos, who describes Irene as “an inspiring role model and mentor for female students of Byzantine music.”

Irene remained active in the choir after graduation and soon returned to campus as an adjunct instructor of Byzantine music and assistant to Dr. Karanos. So highly does he regard his former student’s ability to inspire and to teach that she is teaching four of his chant classes this semester while he is on sabbatical: three in Greek and Advanced Chant in English. That honor carries considerable responsibility, but Irene has embraced it wholeheartedly—and still sings with the choir. “I have been a member for seven years: five years as a student



and two as an alumna. Our motto is ‘Once a member, always a member.’ I love that alumni are able to reconnect to HCHC through music, and personally have found so much joy in reuniting with past members while getting to know new ones, some of whom have become my closest friends.”

However, the most important relationship Irene has formed at HCHC is with her husband, Trevor Bullock, now in his final year of seminary at Holy Cross. The young couple met as fellow students and—of course—lovers of Byzantine music.

SUPPORT HCHC

Parish Partners Make a Difference!

Numbering over 300 parishes in North America, the HCHC Parish Partners program is a unique means of strengthening a parish’s relationship with our school and the greater Greek Orthodox community. We invite parishes around the country to join our mission of education and ministry by participating in three ways:

- 1) Support HCHC with a financial gift. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of our students.
- 2) Share HCHC publications and communications with parishioners.
- 3) Pray for Hellenic College Holy Cross.

To learn more about the projects that your contributions, good will, and prayers will aid, please call Frances Levas, Director of Development, at 617.850.1268.

A Loving Legacy

“My parents were first-generation Greek Americans who loved the Greek Orthodox Church and put that love into action throughout their lives.”

George and Harriet Korellis would surely be very proud to know that their daughter Karen Korellis Reuther and her husband, Dieter, have made a substantial gift to HCHC in their memory to create an endowment that will allow a deserving high school junior or senior to attend the annual CrossRoad Summer Institute for many years to come. CrossRoad is a tremendously popular program that brings young Orthodox Christians together for ten days of academic, spiritual, and social engagement. Many participants describe CrossRoad as life-changing and a significant number of them later return to campus as Hellenic College and Holy Cross students.

Why HCHC? As Karen says, “My parents were first-generation Greek Americans who loved the Greek Orthodox Church and put that love into action throughout their lives. With this endowment, their support will continue for generations to come.” And why CrossRoad? Dieter explains, “With all the pressures and pull of social media, it’s especially important to give our kids meaningful face-to-face experiences.” Karen adds, “My parents would love CrossRoad. If it had existed when they were the right age, they would have been the first to sign up, and praying for just a little financial help to do it.”

Both Harriet and George Korellis were born in 1928 to hardworking Greek immigrants. George’s parents were the caretakers of St. Demetrios Church in Hammond, Indiana, and from the time he was a young boy, George helped them with such tasks as stoking the coal furnace. Harriet was born and raised in Chicago but moved to Hammond when she was 21. She was a woman of many and varied talents, including an eye for fashion and a strong mind for business. A passionate Cubs fan all her life, she pitched a mean fast ball herself. Not surprisingly, Harriet and George met at St. Demetrios and were married there. Harriet was active in Philoptochos and George served for many years on the church board, including time as president. He was always the first person to welcome new members to the church with a smile and a hug.

The couple founded Korellis Roofing, Inc., in 1960 and loved their business, their customers, and their employees for over half a century. In 2014 George was named Businessman of the Year by the Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce.



Throughout all their years together, the Korellises remained devoted to each other, their family, and the church that first brought them together.

George passed away in 2015, Harriet in 2017, but thanks to their daughter and son-in-law, their legacy of love and faith will long endure at our school. For that, we are extremely grateful. May their memory be eternal!



CROSSROAD
HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

Learn more about the
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www.crossroadinstitute.org

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Why DOXA?



“Doxa!” (Δόξα!) is a Greek word that means “Glory,” familiar to many because of its frequent use in the Divine Liturgy. It reminds us of our faith and practice as Orthodox Christians.