

DOXA!

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



“Here You Live the Church, Day In and Day Out.”

Your giving creates a school that draws students in...then sends them out to serve the Church and the world!

Peter Dogias grew up as the son of a priest, and always felt drawn to the Holy Priesthood himself. He attended Hellenic College in the 1990s, he says, in order to “explore the idea of the priesthood” more fully, but eventually decided it was not for him. He met and married his wife, Dimitra, and they returned home to California. Peter built a financial career, Dimitra founded and ran an adoption agency, and together they had a beautiful daughter, Varvara.

Through it all, though, the sense of a priestly vocation never fully left him. In 2012, his dad, Rev. Fr. Demetrius Dogias, was severely injured in a fall. Serving as his father’s caregiver during his recovery, Peter says, finally “pulled me closer” to his call — and also pulled him back to our Holy Hill.

When his father fell asleep in the Lord the following year, Peter and Dimitra agreed it was time to return to Brookline. Peter is now in the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross.

“People are drawn here to focus on the life of the Church,” Peter says. “When you grow up a priest’s kid, like I was, you learn a lot in the parish. But here, the school gives you both the academic grounding and the spiritual formation.

“Here you live the Church day in and day out,” he continues. “You are centered in an Orthodox community. Many of the students here are already priests. You study with them, you

eat with them. You strengthen each other. When you start every day with Orthros and end every day with Vespers — although I usually have to study after Vespers — you are really able to focus on Christ.”

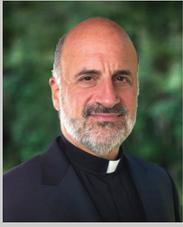
“Graduates are able to take that experience into the parishes and transmit that to the faithful,” Peter says. “We experience so much here on campus, so that then, whether we are priests or deacons, or members of the parish, we are able to give so much more to our Church and our community.”



The mission of Hellenic College Holy Cross is to integrate faith, education, and service to prepare students and seminarians to be leaders in the Orthodox Church and community. Peter’s story shows how the young men and women whose lives you touch through your generosity leave our campus to strengthen our Church and be witnesses to the world. Thank you for your support!



A special message from Fr. Christopher



Καλή
Σαρακοστή!

Welcome to
the third issue
of *Doxa!*, the
newsletter for

donors and friends of Hellenic
College Holy Cross.

If there is a single message this
newsletter conveys to you, I hope it
is this: Thank you.

Ours is a small campus, and a tight-
knit community. And yet, we feel
so richly the blessing of being part
of wider circles — our Church, our
culture, and the community formed
by friends like you who support
this school with your prayers and
your giving. Students young and
old come here, and your love and
generosity support, equip, and
strengthen them. They leave here
changed ... and they are taking the
strength you helped give them and
using it to change the world!

In this Holy Season of Lent, the
discipline of sacrificial giving
is practiced — not out of duty,
but out of thankfulness, and in
preparation for the joy that is to
come. We thank you again for
remembering HCHC in your
giving. We hope you will continue
to remember us in your prayers and
through your generosity.

In Christ,

Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos,
DMin, President

P.S. Have you been on campus
lately? We'd love to show you
around and introduce you to some
of the people who are benefiting
from your love and support!

THE TELOS PROJECT

How does a gift of \$20, \$50 or \$100 equal a gift of \$1.5 million? Easily, when you have a community of donors like we do at HCHC!

The Lilly Endowment, Inc. recently awarded a gift of \$1.5 million to Hellenic College Holy Cross for our Office of Vocation & Ministry to establish the Telos Project. The Telos Project is an exciting new initiative that will assist Orthodox Christian parishes in developing new ministries with young adults ages 23-29 over a five-year period. The results of this work will then be incorporated into the HCHC curriculum so that our future Orthodox clergy and lay leaders will be taught best practices and innovative techniques to grow our Faith.



The Lilly gift didn't happen overnight, though. It came about because of donors like you who give so that the OVM and other HCHC departments can think about the challenges facing our Church and come up with solutions.

We know that young adults either aren't returning to the Church after college as they once did, or that they don't feel as engaged. A vibrant Church is a Church that has members who span all age groups; not just the young and old. The Telos Project is our solution to this problem, a solution that allows us to re-engage our Orthodox young adults, learn about their hopes and desires, and work to get them back into the Church.

Your support has allowed us to hire incredible staff, it has allowed them to listen to you and the Orthodox community about the challenges facing our Church today, and it has allowed us to come up with a solution.

So when I'm asked, "How does my gift matter?", I can think of 1.5 million reasons why it matters! Your support helped make the Lilly gift happen, and on behalf of the entire HCHC community, we thank you!

Kosta E. Alexis
Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

YOU play a part in the formation of Orthodox priests.

“Womb of the Church” grows stronger with every prayer and every gift, Fr. Daniel says.

“It’s incredible to think about how many people participate in creating priests for our Church,” says Rev. Fr. Daniel Triant, assistant priest at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle and a 2014 graduate of Holy Cross. “Every prayer, every contribution, is needed. Every bit helps.”

“I remember, when I was struggling with going to seminary, I heard Fr. Nick Triantafilou, the then-president of HCHC, speak in California,” Fr. Daniel remembers. “He said HCHC is the womb of the Church. That always stuck with me. I suppose you can say when we support the students and seminarians at HCHC, we are helping what’s in that womb grow stronger.”

As a child in Michigan, Fr. Daniel was active in the Church. “GOYA, camp counselor, I did all that,” he says. “I see now a great many people were encouraging me toward the priesthood. But as a young man, I was looking in a different direction.”

After graduating from DePaul University with a bachelor’s in computer science, Fr. Daniel worked as a web developer for about a decade. One summer, when he was between jobs, he visited a childhood friend, a priest in central California. “He needed a youth assistant and asked me to take the job,” Fr. Daniel says. “After two weeks of stalling, I said yes.”

“That’s what changed everything,” he says. “Being in the Church every day all day, the idea finally started to rise up that maybe the priesthood was where I should be.”

Going back to school after more than a decade was a shock, Fr. Daniel admits. But he quickly found strength in the welcoming and supportive HCHC community. “Everyone in my class was in a different point in his Church life,” he says, “but we were all hungry to fill ourselves with Christ.”



“It was an amazing experience,” he continues. “Being in the daily prayer life of the Church was really a new experience for me. Even many people who grow up in the Church don’t realize what a rich liturgical life the Church offers.”

Fr. Daniel is deeply grateful to everyone who made his HCHC experience possible. “It’s not just one or two people who ‘make priests,’” he says. “It’s a true witness to the Body of Christ as a whole. Prayers, words of encouragement, gifts to the school — all are part of the formation of our priests. The experience of Holy Cross is just something that stays with me, and I will always be very thankful for it.”



STUDENTS IN ACTION

Giving Back

HCHC students spend Spring Break a little differently than most college students do. Instead of vacationing on a beach in Mexico, our students are volunteering in places like The Elizabeth Stone House, which serves homeless and at-risk families. They help people address the issues that made them homeless — domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental illness — so they can maintain permanent housing, personal safety, and economic stability.

DONOR PROFILE

“As a Greek Orthodox Christian, it is my duty to give and help the school.”

Longtime donor Philip T. Sarris shares why he supports HCHC:



Philip T. Sarris from Decatur, Georgia, has been an avid supporter of HCHC. He has given to the school for decades. When asked what prompted him to begin to give he said, “I felt as a Greek Orthodox Christian, I should give to the school because they train the future priests. It is my duty to give and help the school.”

Mr. Sarris grew up in Saint Augustine, Florida, when there was no Greek Orthodox Church. His mother attended weekly services at the Episcopal Church. He became an altar

boy there, but could receive Holy Communion only once a month, when a Greek Orthodox priest would celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the Episcopal Church.

Church was important as he grew up, and he supports HCHC to ensure that the school will continue its mission of spreading Orthodoxy.

Mr. Sarris also feels very strongly that others should take advantage of HCHC's Matching Gift Program. For many years, he worked for Southern Railway, and even though he is now retired, the company still matches his annual gift.

Mr. Sarris is proud of his Greek heritage and is a long-standing member of AHEPA.

PHILOPTOCHOS

National Ladies Philoptochos Society honors its commitment to HCHC.

Scholarships support the next generation of Orthodox priests and lay leaders.

The National Ladies Philoptochos Society has been a longtime supporter of Hellenic College Holy Cross. Founded in 1931 by His All-Holiness Patriarch Athenagoras of blessed memory, it is the largest Christian philanthropic organization in the world.

Through the generous support of the chapters across the country, the National Philoptochos has disbursed over \$20 million dollars since 2002 to its various philanthropic commitments, programs, projects, and special appeals (according to the National Philoptochos website), and is over 26,000 members strong. What an accomplishment!

We thank all chapters across the country, both large and small. Their support of our school on an annual basis is of enormous benefit to our students. They support our

programs, giving financial aid to our students, and also assisting with many renovation projects over the years.

Each year the Ladies Philoptochos Society asks their chapters to make a March commitment for our HCHC Lenten appeal and in September for the HCHC Scholarship Fund. Chapters are asked to either pass a special tray or host an event for these commitments. Through these collections from chapters across the country, the National Philoptochos is able to disburse the necessary funds to HCHC. We thank the ladies of the National Philoptochos for their steadfast support throughout the years!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

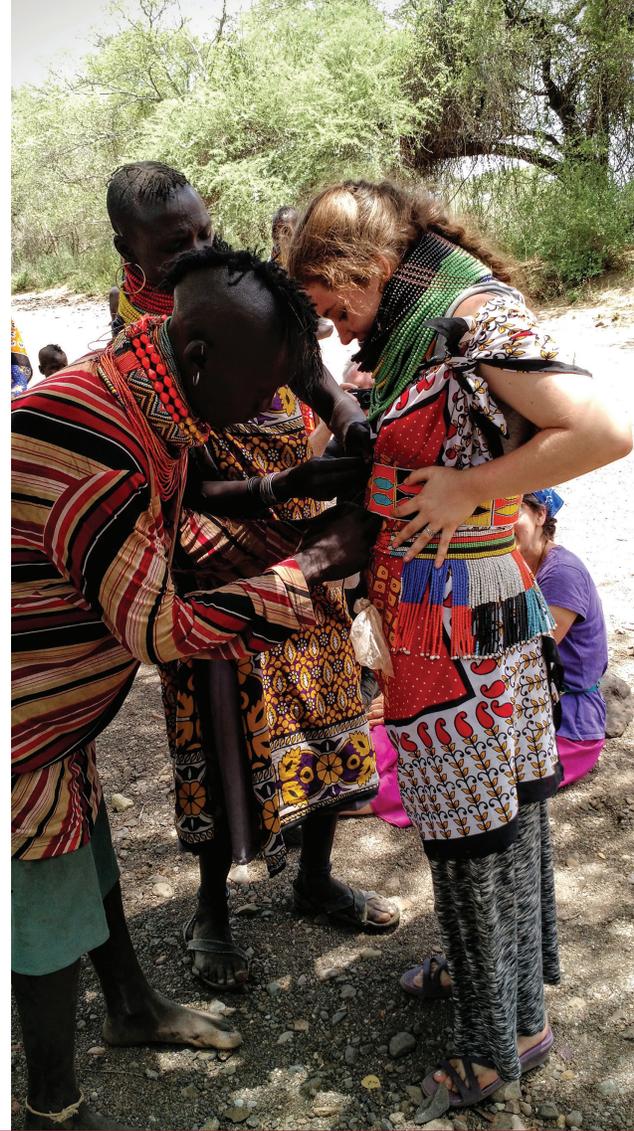
“It was instantly clear this is where God wanted me.”

Holy Cross student Theophani thanks you for making students part of your mission field.

Growing up in sunny Florida, Theophani Damianakis knew one thing for sure: She did not want to attend Hellenic College in faraway Boston.

“I wanted to stay in Florida, work at Disney World, and study film,” Theophani remembers. “My dad, who is an iconographer, brought up HCHC and I laughed at him. I was not going to do it. I grew up in the Church and love my Faith, but my sights were on other things. But I kept finding HCHC brochures strategically left for me, or T-shirts with the school’s name. Finally, I decided to visit the school’s website, so I could tell my dad I’d looked at it. Then maybe he’d leave me alone.”

“That was all it took,” Theophani says with a laugh. “It was instantly clear this is where God wanted me. Hellenic College ended up being the only school I applied to. And the first week I was on campus, I found my vocation, and met the man who’s now my fiancé,” Holy Cross grad Stephen Sarigianis, currently a pastoral assistant at Archangels Greek Orthodox Church in Stamford, Connecticut.



“It took a special place like HCHC to bring my vocation into focus.”

Theophani graduated from Hellenic College last May with a bachelor’s degree in religious studies. Now she’s enrolled at Holy Cross, studying theology and preparing to pursue either a Master of Theological Studies or Master of Divinity degree. She brought her passion for film to campus with her, and is eager to put that passion to work in the Orthodox mission field.

“Mission work isn’t just a Protestant phenomenon,” Theophani explains. “The Orthodox can and should do it too. It gives us a chance to see and influence the world outside the Archdiocese of America.”

“So many missionaries come through our campus,” she says. “And so many graduates are in the mission field now. It took a special place like HCHC to bring my vocation into focus.”

“Students here have such an amazing opportunity to grow closer to Christ while also increasing our intellectual stamina,” Theophani says. “We all come together in this family on campus to grow and learn and support each other.”

She says donors who sustain HCHC through their prayers and generosity are part of that family.

“I keep thinking of Matthew 25:35,” Theophani says. “Maybe it’s an unusual interpretation, but students here are hungry for education. They are thirsty for Christ. They were strangers, and the school took them in. The donors make that possible.”

“We wouldn’t be receiving this without people we don’t even know making us part of their own mission field.”

“There are professors coming to my wedding in April because of the influence they’ve had on my life,” Theophani says. “I know some people may have regrets about choices they’ve made, but there’s not a single thing I regret about choosing to come here. I would do it all over again.”

In fact, Theophani notes, her brother is currently a student at Hellenic College. And no, she laughs, “he didn’t need to have any brochures left for him.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

“Everyone is interesting. That’s the beauty.”

In thirty years, Dr. Aristotle Michopoulos has seen a lot change at HCHC. But what’s more important is what hasn’t changed.



“Hellenism and Orthodoxy are both very dear to me,” says Professor Aristotle Michopoulos. “And so coming to Hellenic College was a wonderful opportunity!”

Dr. Michopoulos was an assistant professor at the University of Florida when he happened to run into the then-president of Hellenic College, Metropolitan Silas, in the airport. “I had met him before,” Dr. Michopoulos remembers, “and he invited me to come run the Greek Studies program.” That was in 1987. Thirty years later, Dr. Michopoulos still serves as head of the Greek Studies program.

One big reason for that is that people at HCHC share Dr. Michopoulos’ passions for Orthodoxy and Greek culture. “Most students here are Hellene, as we say, or Phil-Hellene, and most, of course, are Orthodox. A large percentage of the students speak Greek or are learning it, so we can study the Greek and Byzantine traditions, and read the New Testament in the original.”

Moving from a very large public university to a very small private one was a big change, Dr. Michopoulos says, but one he welcomed. “Here we have the personal contact with students you don’t get in big universities.”

That personal contact is made even richer by the wonderful variety of students who come to our Holy Hill.

“One year, I had three medical doctors in my class, all of whom were becoming priests,” he remembers. “Once I had a man who was becoming a priest, and five years later his father was also in my class. I’ve had several fathers and sons over the years.”

“Everyone has an interesting story,” Dr. Michopoulos says. “That’s the beauty. There is a real vitality in class because we all know each other.”

Asked what changes he’s seen over his thirty years on campus, Dr. Michopoulos mentions the growing number of international students, the increase in older and married students, the building of the state-of-the-art Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resource Center, and more. But maybe the most important change, he says, is that “we’re now financially secure and stable, and our endowment is growing.”

“The Greek community is the highest educated in the country, and the second wealthiest,” Dr. Michopoulos says. “Just think, if they each gave one percent, or even half of one percent, to this school. We’d be one of the wealthiest schools in America!”

“All we can do is ask,” Dr. Michopoulos says. “The Lord will take care of the rest.”

SUPPORT HCHC

Parish Partners make a difference!

Today numbering over 300 parishes in North America, the Parish Partners program at HCHC 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 every day.
- 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 visit www.hchc.edu.

Past Supreme President of AHEPA visits HCHC.

Philip T. Frangos, past Supreme President of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) and a member for almost fifty years, generously spent most of the day on our campus November 3, 2016, along with his son, Themistocles. A native of Chicago, he was baptized there by Fr. Kokkinakis, who, as Bishop Athenagoras, later became Dean of Holy Cross and ultimately Archbishop of Great Britain. Mr. Frangos served in the Michigan state government for over 35 years. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Speaking to the Holy Cross Parish Administration class of more than twenty seminarians in the morning, Mr. Frangos shared the rich history of the organization, which was founded in 1922 to combat bigotry and racism in America and help Greek immigrants thrive in their new country. AHEPA has evolved over time, along with the Greek American community, while remaining steadfastly focused on philanthropy, education, and civic engagement. He also advised our future clergy on how parishes can and do interact with AHEPA. In the afternoon, Mr. Frangos addressed an audience of students from both schools, as well as faculty and staff, elaborating on themes and issues central to AHEPA and to the Orthodox community at large.

We are grateful to Mr. Frangos for honoring us with his visit and to AHEPA for its vital support over many years, at both the national and local levels, of our school and our students.

Axios!

HCHC congratulates the following alumni, who have been ordained in the Church since May of 2016.

Rev. Fr. George Parsenios (*Holy Cross 1996*) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey in May 2016. He is an Associate Professor at Princeton and currently serves at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

Rev. Fr. Andrew Pavlakos (*Hellenic College 2010, Holy Cross 2013*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta on June 9, 2016, and then to the Holy Priesthood on July 10, 2016, at Atlanta's Annunciation Cathedral.

Rev. Fr. Lucas Christensen (*Holy Cross 2016*) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit on September 18, 2016, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Carmel, Indiana.

Rev. Fr. Scott Patrick O'Rourke (*Holy Cross 2016*) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, at Holy Trinity Church in New Rochelle, New York.

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Panteloukas (*Holy Cross 2016*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston on September 17, 2016, at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, New Hampshire. Dn. Demetrios was then ordained to the Holy Priesthood the following day, also by His Eminence, at Holy Trinity Church in Norwich, Connecticut.

Rev. Fr. Joshua Pappas (*Holy Cross 2015*) was ordained to the diaconate on August 7, 2016, by His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane at the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, Connecticut. Dn. Joshua was then ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, on October 9, 2016.

Rev. Fr. Gregory Floor (*Holy Cross 2005*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver on October 9, 2016, at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Dn. Gregory was then ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston on October 16, 2016, at Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Rev. Dr. Anton Vrame (*Holy Cross 1989*) was ordained to the diaconate by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, on September 14, 2016, at Holy Cross Chapel on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross. Dn. Tony was then ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco on November 21, 2016, at St. Nicholas Church, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Office of Institutional Advancement

50 Goddard Avenue,
Brookline, MA 02445

Phone: 617.731.3500

Fax: 617.850.1460

Web: www.hhc.edu



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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.