Summer Session General Information

The Summer Sessions and Term Papers of the Special Program for the Diaconate are administered directly by the faculty of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and provide the theological content and context for the diaconal ministry. The Diaconate Program is usually completed within a period of three years, though students may take up to six years to complete all the requirements.

Candidates are required to complete three (3) two-week summer sessions at Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. Each summer, two weeks of instruction are offered. Over a period of three summers, a student will therefore be able to complete the entire cycle of courses regardless of when a student began the program. Students who cannot attend both weeks of a given session, may enroll in either week of the session.

Packets containing assigned readings for classes that are offered in a particular session will be available by the 15th of Feb prior to the August session. Students are expected to complete all readings before they arrive at Holy Cross for a summer session. During any given session, additional readings may be assigned by an individual instructor. Any academic work accompanying courses of the summer sessions is to be completed during the week in which the course is offered.

The two week summer sessions are usually held during the last weeks in July or first two weeks of August. Each session begins on Sunday night with a welcome to the program cook out. At the cook out Metropolitans, Clergy, Faculty and Program Alumni are invited and welcomed for food and fellowship and support of the attending candidates. Formal instruction starts on Monday morning and ends in the afternoon on Friday of the same week. Students are encouraged to arrive on campus the Sunday prior to the beginning of a particular session for the cook out. Students are required to remain in residence at Holy Cross during the week. Students may remain on campus over the weekend between weeks 1 and 2. Each day begins with Orthros at 8:00 am and ends with Vespers at 5:00 pm and continues with nighttime lessons and fellowship. Prior to their arrival for a summer session, students will receive a study packet containing readings for particular courses. These readings should be completed before the student arrives on campus.

General Information notes:

1. Clergy Mentors are to send in completed Clergy Mentor Annual Report Form 1 prior to the start of the second summer session and Form 2 prior to the start of the third summer session.

2. Candidates are to send in the completed Candidate Annual Journal Form 1 prior to the start of the second summer session and Form 2 prior to the start of the third summer session.

3. Holy Cross Faculty Program Coordinator should have dialog with each Metropolitan to hear their evaluation and feedback on the annual Cluster Groups prior to the start of the summer sessions.

4. Alumni Retreat is held in conjunction with the summer session.