

# THE CHALLENGE

CROSSROAD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006 { issue 1 }

## WALKING THE CROSSROAD AT CHRISTMAS

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS SEASON HAS PASSED. Everywhere we saw the trees, the garland, the mistletoe, and the Santas. We watched It's a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol, and those old claymation TV shows with Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer and the elf who wants to be a dentist. We waited in anticipation of what we would get under the tree on Christmas morning. Although there's nothing wrong with all of this, it was easy to lose sight of Christ while singing "Jingle Bells." Let's take a moment to look at what the Church calls us to during this special time of year.

Father Thomas Hopko, the Dean Emeritus of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, wrote a book called The Winter Pascha. In this book, he points out the many similarities between Christmas and Pascha in the life of the Church. We prepare through a forty-day fasting period. The services leading up to the Christmas liturgy, such as the Hours and Matins/Orthros, are consciously modeled on those leading up to the Paschal liturgy. We say the greeting

see the baby Jesus wrapped in what look like grave clothes. He is inside a cave—a cave that looks very much like the cave-tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus' halo has a cross already inscribed in it.

Why the similarities? Why does the Church remind us of the Cross and the Tomb on a happy day like Christmas? Father Hopko writes, "Jesus was born in order to die... Christians are those who remember and celebrate the fact that God has visited his people in the person of His Son in order to be crucified and raised." In other words, the celebration of Christmas is also a celebration of Pascha—a "winter Pascha." The Son of God, the one "by whom all things were made," is born in the flesh as a real human being in order to save us through His life-giving and saving Passion and Resurrection. Speaking about the Cross at Christmas is not morbid for Christians, for we sing, "through the Cross joy has come into all the world."

What does this mean for us when we celebrate Christmas? As we know from CrossRoad, we must all take up our crosses daily to follow Christ; that walking the CrossRoad means to crucify our own selfish desires that get in the way of our ability to love God and our neighbor. While we enjoyed all of the trappings of the Christmas season (the food, the presents, the carols, etc.) we should remember that what we should truly be joyful for is the gift of the Father sending His Only-begotten Son into the world for our salvation. This winter, may the celebration of Christ's birth remind us of the Cross and our vocation to love God and our neighbor.

**WE MUST ALL TAKE UP OUR CROSSES DAILY TO FOLLOW CHRIST; WALKING THE CROSSROAD MEANS TO CRUCIFY OUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES THAT GET IN THE WAY OF OUR ABILITY TO LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR.**

"Christ is Born!" and the answer "Glorify Him!" just like we say "Christ is Risen!" and "Indeed He is Risen!" If we look at the icon of the feast, we



## INSIDE:

STAFF, TEACHERS, AND FRIENDS:

DIRECTOR'S NOTE . . . . . 2

ARE WE THERE YET? . . . . . 3

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE . . . . . 3

VOCATION, ISRAEL, AND THE CHURCH . . . . . 4

ELEVATOR OR STAIRS? . . . . . 4

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE . . . . . 5

THE MASTER'S KEY . . . . . 5

BUILDING YOUR RESUME . . . . . 6

DEATH AND RESURRECTION . . . . . 7

CROSSROAD PROFESSOR UPDATE . . . . . 11

A WORD FROM FR. NICHOLAS C. TRIANTAFILOU . . . . . 12

STUDENTS:

A CALL TO GIVE . . . . . 6

THE DYNAMICS OF FAITH . . . . . 7

A KNOTTED ROPE . . . . . 7

THE LITTLE THINGS THAT KEEP US SANE . . . . . 8

ANOTHER CROSSROAD . . . . . 8

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY . . . . . 9

HERE IS THE ROAD: FOLLOW IT . . . . . 9

CALLED TO BE CHRISTIAN . . . . . 10

THE CHALLENGE OF TRADITION . . . . . 10

CROSSROAD 2005 REUNION . . . . . 11

NICHOLAS BELCHER  
CROSSROAD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR '05



Dear CrossRoad Alumni and Friends,

In St. John Chrysostom's *Homilies on Genesis*, he teaches his parishioners that they must share with others what they themselves are learning from his sermons. Some of his congregation thought it was only time to learn spiritual matters when they were in church, but St. John argues, "on the contrary, any time must be considered suitable for discourse on spiritual topics." He wants his parishioners to teach each other what they learn from him.

With two classes of CrossRoad alumni out there in our wide world, we thought it was high time to start a CrossRoad alumni newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to continue to inspire all of us to grow in our Orthodox faith in Christ. We all learned a great deal at CrossRoad; indeed, we have heard from many of you that CrossRoad sparked the beginning of a transformation in your life. It was an intense time of learning—in prayer and worship, and from our teachers, from the staff, from each other—and this learning must not stop. When we are learning and growing in Christ, we are inspired and called to live our lives as vocation, as truly a response to Christ's call to love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

In this newsletter, CrossRoad alumni staff, and several alumni from each year, write about what they have been learning about God, faith, challenges and the way to face them, vocation, or a reflection on a good scriptural quote, or something they have loved reading. The idea is that—following what St. John Chrysostom teaches—we learn from what others are learning from God. In this way, we are inspired to continue to travel the road of the cross of Christ in our lives. No surprise, then, that the newsletter is called, "The Challenge," for living our faith in Christ is indeed a challenge—as the articles in this first issue highlight.

We are also challenged by what others are learning, and we hope this newsletter will remind us of the connections we made with each other during CrossRoad, and motivate us to continue to foster these connections. We are Christ's body, and we must work together—each using our varied gifts that he has given us—to serve Him. What God has in store for each of our lives is constantly unfolding, but we do know that when we live our life as a true vocation we will be called to radical, challenging love. There is much in the world that needs Christ's love; we have a lot of work to do. Please keep your connections with each other and with us so that we may remind ourselves that the orphan, the widow, the homeless, the suffering and impoverished in the world, is Christ. And we are called—in whatever way God has created us uniquely—to serve Him through them.

For the entire CrossRoad staff, I can say: you are all in our hearts and prayers. We are thankful for your priests, youthworkers, parents, and friends who nurtured you in your faith so that you were interested in a program like CrossRoad. We are all blessed to know all of you, and we hope our life paths will bring us together over and over again, in service of our Lord. "For your and your improvement we undergo an effort so that you too may climb more rapidly to the heights of virtue and become teachers about life in God to all those who associate with you" (St. John Chrysostom, *Homily Four on Genesis*).

Much love in Christ,

ANN BEZZERIDES  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF VOCATION AND MINISTRY  
CROSSROAD DIRECTOR '04-'05



Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Stavros Chatzis.

"LET US... PLACE OUR CREDESCENCE IN SACRED SCRIPTURE AND HEED WHAT IS TOLD US THERE; LET IT BE OUR CONCERN TO LAY ITS SOUND TEACHINGS IN OUR SOUL AND BE SCRUPULOUSLY CAREFUL ABOUT THEM IN OUR LIFE, SO THAT OUR LIFE MAY WITNESS TO THE TEACHINGS AND THE TEACHINGS MAY DECLARE THE INTEGRITY OF OUR LIFE. AFTER ALL, IT WILL BE OF NO AVAIL FOR US TO GET TEACHINGS RIGHT IF WE NEGLECT LIFE; NOR WILL WE BE ABLE TO GAIN ANY VALUE FOR OUR SALVATION IF WE HAVE LIFE BUT NEGLECT RIGHT TEACHINGS. IT IS NECESSARY, YOU SEE, IF WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID HELL AND REACH HEAVEN, TO BE DISTINGUISHED FOR BOTH—CORRECTNESS OF DOCTRINE AND ATTENTION TO LIFE. WHAT GOOD, AFTER ALL, TELL ME, IS A TREE REACHING TO THE SKY AND BEARING LEAVES APLENTY IF IT IS DEVOID OF FRUIT? SO, TOO, WITH THE CHRISTIAN: CORRECT DOCTRINE IS OF NO BENEFIT UNLESS ONE ATTENDS TO THE BUSINESS OF LIVING. ACCORDINGLY CHRIST DECLARED SUCH PEOPLE BLESSED: 'BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO DOES AND TEACHES.'"

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM  
HOMILY THIRTEEN ON GENESIS



CrossRoad '05 Alumni gather for a reunion in Chicago over Veteran's Day weekend.

## NEWS FROM THE HOMEFRONT

STAVROS AND OURANIA BECAME FATHER STAVROS AND PRESBYTERA OURANIA this past October when Father Stavros was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Axios! They also became parents of a beautiful baby girl, Anna, and have started a whole new life serving a parish in Hamilton, Ontario. We miss them dearly.

ANN AND VASSILIOS BEZZERIDES ALSO JOYFULLY WELCOMED THE BIRTH OF THEIR 1ST CHILD, NICHOLAS PANTELEIMON. Ann continues as the Director of the Office of Vocation and Ministry, but has handed off the directorship of CrossRoad to Nicholas Belcher.



THE OVM WAS PLEASED TO WELCOME NICHOLAS BELCHER AS ITS NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR in June. Nick graduated as valedictorian from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in May, and will be married to Sonia Daly, HC/HC Director of Admissions, in January! Nick has also accepted the appointment as the new Director of CrossRoad, and we know he will do a phenomenal job.

MARY LONG AND ELENIE POULOS WILL EACH GRADUATE FROM HOLY CROSS in May with a Masters of Divinity. We can't wait to hear what life brings them next!

IT WAS A JOY TO COMPILE THIS FIRST ISSUE OF "THE CHALLENGE." All of you CrossRoad alumni who we did not track down to write an article for this newsletter, get ready! We will ask you to write an article in the years to come, so keep learning!

## ARE WE THERE YET?

THIS PAST THANKSGIVING, MY FAMILY AND I TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, DC. The main mission of our trip was to witness the baptism of a relative's child. However, due to the fact that the kids had off from school for Thanksgiving, we decided that a family road trip vacation was in order.

My husband and I became transformed into travel experts on the DC area. We created a plan and followed it step by step. We made the hotel reservations, contacted AAA for maps, did online research to learn of all the great sites to see, contacted each teacher to get homework assignments, and yes even rented the minivan that had a built in DVD player!

On Tuesday, we set out on our journey, following our maps and listening to our kids laugh in the backseats to Shrek and vintage "I Love Lucy" episodes. Along the way we stopped at our scheduled pit stops to refuel and eat (great diners in New Jersey, by the way). That evening we arrived in DC without incident. The next morning we began our sightseeing and went to several of Washington's great monuments: the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, the Capital. We even saw Dorothy's magical ruby slippers at the Smithsonian! Each day was more exciting than the one before. After all, we had planned and prepared.

The day finally arrived to witness the baptism of beautiful Alexandra Mary. It was wonderful to be in church with our family and dis-

tant relatives to share in this sacrament together. After the family celebration, we loaded the minivan for the trip back to Boston. The eight-hour journey home was a peaceful one. As I sat in the car, I reflected on all of the preparation that went into this trip. I realized that in many ways more time and effort went into this journey than into my own personal journey to bring myself and my family closer to Christ. As I approach the Christmas season and the new year, I pray for the strength to continue my preparation to grow closer to Christ and to become the person God created me to be.

STEPHANIE SKEDROS  
CROSSROAD ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR '05

## WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

AS SOMEONE WHOSE GRADUATION IS ON THE HORIZON, like many of you CrossRoadies, I am facing my future, which seems like a great unknown. Lately, as often happens when one approaches a major life change, I have been questioning my chosen path and wondering how meaningful my education, my work, and my strengths (or gifts) will be to me, and to the rest of the world.

The night before Thanksgiving I was invited by a young priest in the area (a friend of mine from the seminary) to join him and his wife for a church service and fellowship afterwards at their home. Once I arrived at the church, after spending quite a bit of time stuck in holiday traffic, I was asked to chant the Liturgy, which I did. After the Liturgy was over, the other priest gave a homily about being thankful for the small miracles in our lives. To my surprise, he conveyed how he had been worried about who would chant the liturgy that night, because the choir couldn't make it, and no chanters had shown up. He spoke about how he had been praying for God to provide someone to assist him and the other priest in offering a Liturgy. Then, I had shown up at the right moment and had been able to chant, and thus had somehow been a small miracle—an answer to his prayer.

While I traveled home that night, I realized that this was my answer. I reflected on how I had complained that I doubted myself and my talents, and didn't feel sure about how I could serve others. But through this experience God was reminding me that it's not ME (or my talents, my education, my experience) that can do anything, but HIM working through me. Christ taught His disciples the same thing: "But Jesus looked at them and said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matt 19:26). And if He is able to take something average that I've done, and make it into a miracle for someone, then it's really all His doing... all I did was show up. That night, Jesus had looked at me and said, "With you only, Mary, it's impossible, but with Me everything is possible!"

My whole problem was that I'd forgotten about Him — in my "existential crisis," I had put all the weight on my own shoulders. So I felt convicted, but totally relieved — and grateful to God for reminding me of such an obvious thing! We, of ourselves, can do nothing, really. It is only with God using us and working through us that we accomplish anything meaningful. So, as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of our God, this is my prayer for all of us: that we can humbly present ourselves to Christ as did the Virgin Mary, becoming His instrument so that He can work through us to accomplish miracles.

MARY LONG  
CROSSROAD PROGRAM STAFF '04-'05

# VOCATION, ISRAEL, AND THE CHURCH

SO HE SAID, "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?" AND HE SAID, "JACOB." THEN THE MAN SAID, "YOU SHALL NO LONGER BE CALLED JACOB, BUT ISRAEL, FOR YOU HAVE WRESTLED WITH GOD AND WITH MAN, AND HAVE PREVAILED."

Here in Gen 32:27-9 we see Jacob receiving the name "Israel." We subsequently learn that this name "Israel" became the name of Jacob's descendants. In fact, when we examine the Scriptures we quickly realize that the biblical writer does not always distinguish between Israel-the-people and Israel-the-man.

The event that is most definitive for the people Israel is the event of the Passover and the exodus to the Promised Land. We know the story from the book of Exodus: the people of God were in bondage to Pharaoh and God called his people out of bondage through Moses. After the Exodus, the people Israel went through the trials in the desert, met with God on the Mountain, ate the manna from heaven, drank water from the rock that was struck, and finally entered into the Promised Land.

We find in the New Testament that the Church is called the New Israel. In light of the Old Testament stories mentioned above, we begin to realize the significance of what it means to be "Church." First, Israel received its name from Jacob. Likewise we, the Christian people, have received our name from Christ. Secondly, Israel received its identity by being "called out" of Egypt. We, in fulfillment of the type, receive our identity by being the "called out" of death and sin. This is precisely the meaning of the Greek word for Church, *ekklesia*, "calling-out."

Looking at the word Church and our understanding of the Church as the New Israel, we discover that our calling, our vocation, is ultimately the life in the Church. We must forsake the land of Egypt, our life of death in sin, through our constant ascetic struggle. We must follow Christ through the desert of this life. We must run to the Church to meet the Lord. We must nourish ourselves with the bread from heaven, the Eucharist. We must thirst for the words that streamed from the mouth of Christ, the one who was struck for us. After the long Exodus of this life, we will come to the Promised Land... where we will learn that the Promised Land is the One who was with us from the beginning.

MICAH HIRSCHY  
CROSSROAD PROGRAM STAFF '04-'05

# ELEVATOR OR STAIRS?

HAVE YOU EVER STEPPED INTO AN ELEVATOR, pushed the button and gone to the top thinking how great it was that you could pass by the other floors without wasting much time? Your adrenalin rises as the elevator rises. It's almost effortless.

Sometimes, in our spontaneous excitement, we act in the same way when faced with making decisions of where to go to college or even who to date. When we meet someone new or get accepted to college our minds race ahead, dreaming of what could be, and what will be. We set healthy goals and develop expectations based on the time ahead of us. There's only one problem: we're not there yet.

This is true in our spiritual lives as well. We know that the top floor is closest to God. Our potential is to reach this level in all aspects of life: our future marriages, careers, and families. But how can we go from the first date to a lasting union with Christ?

Instead of expecting an elevator, perhaps we ought to take the stairs. It is a long haul, but it's the way God created us to learn. When you find that you honestly want to grow closer to God, tell Him your intentions and ask for His help. It might mean stopping at every floor, opening our hearts to whatever lessons He offers us. Sometimes it might mean even repeating a floor or two until we understand.

With every step, strive to become a person who prays and your labor will be twice as fruitful. Say as often as you can, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." The grace of God will strengthen you when you feel you can't go any further. Then you will notice you're learning and He's showing you things you never imagined. As your commitment to God becomes more fervent, you will taste something sweet. It's a small sample of what is to come. The Kingdom of God is beginning to be real in your life.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa tells us, "Let us change in such a way that we may constantly evolve towards what is better, being transformed from glory to glory, and thus always improving and ever becoming more perfect by daily growth, and never arriving at any limit of perfection. For perfection consists in our never stopping in our growth in good, never circumscribing our perfection by any limitation." (On Perfection)

Though we might want our transformation to be as easy as pushing a button and speeding to the top, growing in Christ is a process, an evolution. With love and faith let us begin to approach God, one step at a time.

ELENIE POULOS  
CROSSROAD PROGRAM STAFF '04

*"Our God is a God of beauty. Whatever is beautiful belongs to God... Look for what can be affirmed 'out there' in the world, denounce what there is to denounce, but be a participant in this world, not just not an outside observer or even worse, pretend that the world isn't there. Be engaged enough to know what is out there — what is good, and what is not so good. Be alive to the possibilities of culture."*

This quote came from a talk on pop culture given by Bishop Savas, the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. If you want to engage pop culture, affirm what there is to affirm, denounce what there is to denounce, try to find where God fits into it all, come sound off on the Finding God in Pop Culture online forum about the TV shows, songs, and movies that you're watching. In fact, here's a CHALLENGE for you: Rent the movie Luther that just came out on video, pop some popcorn, watch the movie, and let us know what you think. Post your comments at <http://forums.crossroad.hchc.edu>

## GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

CERTAIN LIFE EXPERIENCES ARE CONSIDERED VERY STRESSFUL, such as moving to a new city, starting a new job, getting married, having a child and buying a new house. The perceived pressure they place on us is intense, because they call for a specific change that can be difficult to endure. Thankfully, most of us undergo these Big Five life-changing events gradually and at different times, which allows us the opportunity to cope with them one at a time.

In the last two months, I experienced four out of these five stressors simultaneously. And I must admit: for the first time in my life I reached a breaking point, physically, mentally and spiritually. I was living like a nomad, travelling between three cities several hundred miles apart, trying to fulfill all of my responsibilities—teaching at a university in one city, serving a parish as a recently ordained presbyter in another, and preparing for the greatest blessing (next to my wife) in my life, the birth of our daughter. All of these responsibilities were difficult, especially at the initial onset, and I soon found myself becoming unorganized, disorientated, greatly fatigued and overwhelmed.

At this point, I once again began to contemplate the concept of change, its relationship to suffering, and what it means to grow as a person and a child of God. As we journey through life, change is something that affects all of us—physically, psychologically, and hopefully spiritually. It is a dynamic process that stems from struggle, leads us to apply meaning to our struggle, and then—again, hopefully—provokes growth. It is here where transformation takes place, what Saint Paul describes as a movement from “glory to glory” (II Cor 3:18). The ability to endure this process is definitely a challenge, but through the challenge we may find peace in the struggles that affect our lives. Our Fathers teach this. Saint Seraphim of Sarov explains, “Peace is gained through tribulation.” Saint Gregory of Nyssa interprets the movement from glory to glory as “the potential for growth.”

CrossRoad is a program that greatly contributes to this understanding, because it challenges the way that we perceive God, our neighbor, and ourselves. It offers us the opportunity to experience struggle by being away from our comfortable environment at home, being responsible by following rules, and following an exhausting yet rewarding schedule for ten days. In the program we move forward in stages, learning through struggle, and experience the transformation of God’s saving activity working in and through us. We then walk away grounded in Christ and His way, renewed, welcoming of change and the experience of personal growth. This is the road of the Cross that we are all called to undergo, so that we can mimic Christ and become worded in Him.

Realizing this, I can honestly say that the intense struggles that I went through over these past few months were positive and meaningful experiences, because I learned more about who I am and what I am called to do. CrossRoad also provided the environment in which this same connection could be made. All of us learned more about who we are and what were called to do: we are all Christians called to serve God and one another.

FATHER STAVROS CHATZIS — CROSSROAD PROGRAM STAFF '04-'05

## THE MASTER’S KEY

### LOVE IS THE MASTER KEY WHICH OPENS THE GATES OF HAPPINESS.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

As Christians we are called to love—to love God and to love one another. These are the two great commandments found in Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18. The CrossRoad program took us on a journey of loving God and one another through the various program stages and by stressing the importance of continuing this in our own lives.

This past October, I gave birth to a baby girl. In the short time that I have known her, she has taught me what it means to love. The kind of love I’m talking about is the one in which you put your own basic needs aside—such as the need for sleep, the need to eat, or the ability to run an errand when you want to. It’s a sacrificial love that asks not what you want, but what the other wants.



*Anna’s 40-day blessing.*

Becoming a mother has helped put this into perspective for me. It has helped me to struggle with my self-serving behavior. God has given me the opportunity to learn about the kind of love He wants us to have for Him and for one another. This requires effort as I attempt to serve my daughter to the best of my ability. It would be the easier choice to first serve my needs instead of hers, but my focus would then become inward and I would be serving another god rather than our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In God’s divine providence, He provides us with life experiences and opportunities to bring us closer to Him and to our own salvation.

My vocation to love my daughter is teaching me patience and giving me joy in the midst of struggle. I am reminded of Fr. Pentiuc’s teaching of Ps 1:1 and the “ashrey” formula, where happiness is not a static possession but rather a dynamic process attained through tribulation.

As we celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, it is my prayer for all of you that you might find joy in your struggles and experience the sacrificial love which is God Himself, “for He so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16).

PRESBYTERA OURANIA CHATZIS — CROSSROAD PROGRAM STAFF '04-'05



## A CALL TO GIVE

AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, CROSSROAD HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT on all who have experienced the program. Since it is such a unique opportunity, it is crucial that the program continue. The Lilly Endowment has funded four years of CrossRoad at a cost of approximately \$80,000 per year. In just two years the initial grant will run out, and the Office of Vocation and Ministry (OVM) will need to have other sources in place to fund the program.

The good news is that the OVM has been invited to apply for a matching grant to sustain this great program for an additional three years! If the OVM receives this grant, the Lilly Endowment will meet funds raised by the OVM dollar for dollar. It would be great if someone was willing to donate all of this money every year, and perhaps some of us may know members in our community who would be interested in funding the program. Most likely we will need to find various ways in which we can raise this money. Possible ideas could be a bake sale or a car wash; however, not many bake sales or car washes make 40 thousand dollars! We need to find a way for this money to be raised. I recommend that we all take an active role to get donations from various church groups, the parish council, AHEPA, GOYA/SOYA, or even through an individual benefactor.

The time has come to give back to what we were lucky enough to receive. The OVM has established a CrossRoad fundraising account at Hellenic College. Please consider asking your family, friends, and members of your communities to contribute to CrossRoad so that other Orthodox youth can "take the challenge."

Yours in Christ,  
ANDREW PAVLAKOS (CROSSROADER '05)  
ST. KATHERINE, FALLS CHURCH, VA

Those interested in donating to CrossRoad should make checks payable to Hellenic College/ CrossRoad Program and mail them to The Office of Vocation and Ministry, Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445

## BUILDING YOUR RESUME

HELLO CROSSROADERS! I hope you are all well. I get small updates from Ann and others in the office about each of your happenings. Sounds like you have all been extremely busy, in a very good way.

I am sure your happenings have included building your resume. Whether you are already in your freshman or sophomore year in college, or whether you are applying to college, strengthening the resume is important to all of us. These brief life summaries are required for internships, volunteer positions, and of course "real world" jobs. They are records of your accomplishments listed in chronological order.

What kind of accomplishments? Of this world or of another? Well, I am here to offer a friendly reminder, I as the first one who needs to be reminded: make sure your life's resume includes continuing your journey to salvation even while you're in college. Just think of God sitting behind a big mahogany desk interviewing you, reviewing your resume. Not many employers like to see four-year lapses, without any productivity.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) can help you keep your connections and build that resume. There are many opportunities within OCF, whether it is getting involved with one of the two hundred local OCF chapters, or experiencing an incredible College Conference or a life-changing Real Break trip. I hope to see those of you in college at the College Conference, where you will be some of the 325 participants at the East and West Coast conferences! The dates for the Real Break trips are fast approaching; plan to spend your spring break with us in Guatemala, Greece, El Salvador, Mexico or San Francisco. I promise you, it is something you will NEVER regret doing.

If there is anything I can do for any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me at [joe@ocf.net](mailto:joe@ocf.net). Build that resume—I heard there are vacancies in the Heavenly Mansion!

You are all in my prayers!  
Joe Samra

*Get your OCF to have a mini-CrossRoad experience! Help others learn and explore the theme of vocation. Through the OCF National Office, your OCF could get money to run a retreat, bring in speakers, start a book group, host a regional conference, all on the theme of vocation! Visit [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net) for more information on these Vocation Grants, or email Ann, Nick or Joe.*

JOE SAMRA  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

### HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED:

*Why does Gabriel make Zecharias speechless for questioning him about the birth of John, but gives Mary an explanation when she asks him about the birth of Jesus?*

*Why do Luke and Matthew's genealogies differ?*

*Why are Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration?*

*Why does the devil know so much Scripture?*

*What is a tetrarch?*

*These questions and many more have been discussed on the online Bible Study. You can check out the discussion and post your own burning questions at <http://forums.crossroad.hchc.edu>*



# DEATH AND RESURRECTION

HELLO CROSSROADERS,

My heart skips a beat when I recall our time together at CrossRoad. You learned from me, and I learned a great deal from you. You have so much goodness to offer others. Purity of heart and body, through continual personal prayer, come back as truths you helped me strengthen. Everything is in Christ and it is for Him that we make prayerful, pure choices.

Something new occurred to me. All life is about Christ's death and resurrection, and ours in Him. We experience little deaths and resurrections, such as losing consciousness in sleep and awakening in the morning, all our life. So, sex is about Christ, about death and resurrection. In sex, I die to my ego so that a new "us" can be resurrected through the act. That's why it is vital that sex takes place within the context of a sacramental marriage, so the new "us" can be a committed, loving, eternal relationship. Outside marriage, sex might be a death to my ego, but there is no resurrected "us" to emerge as a new "life of a couple" in Christ.

All life is a series of little deaths and resurrections in Him, including every exhalation which is a little death and every inhalation which is a new resurrection of sorts. Let every breath praise the Lord.

Just writing this brings back your lovely faces and warm hearts to me. I am deeply honored and grateful to know you as I do.

With love and prayer,  
Dr. R

DR. ALBERT ROSSI — CROSSROAD LECTURER '04-'05  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF PASTORAL THEOLOGY, ST VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY

# THE DYNAMICS OF FAITH

GROWING UP, I HAVE ALWAYS FOLLOWED MY PARENTS' GUIDANCE in living a pious, Orthodox life. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that a teenager would become so involved in his surroundings outside of his family and church that he would begin to veer away from his Christian goals. This was a spiritual sickness that I suffered from before I was willing to take my beliefs to the next level; I decided to experience the significance, authority, and sheer beauty of my faith firsthand.

The CrossRoad program helped give me the boost I needed to take my first step in developing my own personal understanding of my faith. I would say without hesitation that being a part of the program was one of the greatest and most important experiences of my life. Not only did I find a more genuine understanding of Orthodoxy, but I also experienced the joy that it brings and the love that the Lord has for me. Ever since then I have worked to grow more and more in the knowledge of theology. It has made me a happier person, a more social person, and has given me an even greater optimism.

I have contemplated the application of my faith to my personal vocation. I now wish to become a lawyer, a Christian lawyer in good standing. I feel that my continuous will to honor, love, and bring glory to God can really make a difference in the world that we must contribute to as servants of God—to live in the world but not

of the world, as I have been told by my CrossRoad friends. Aside from forming my personal goals, I have also found true friendship through the program. I have experienced the meaning behind real Christian love, and I know that for the rest of my life, I will continue to love each and every single one of you, my true friends, until my dying day.

EDDIE HADDAD '05  
HOLY FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE, SUGAR LAND, TX, UNIV. OF HOUSTON

# A KNOTTED ROPE

WHAT HAVE I BEEN LEARNING? First I would like to recommend a book to ALL of you. Now I know what you are thinking: no time, no will, not interested. Well, just trust me and please read it! During CrossRoad, I asked Micah what would be a good book to buy from the Hellenic College bookstore and he went right to Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit. I read the title and wasn't too enthusiastic about reading a book about monks. But hey, I have an open mind. And well, please all of you go find it and read it or call me and you can borrow mine! It is a collection of stories about various monks in the Orthodox Church. It gives their life stories and then their counsels, and let me tell you, they are amazing people from whom we can all learn.

Second, I would like to tell you a story (really more of an idea) that my cousin Ellaney told me. She started out with a piece of rope and she held one end, and gave me the other. She then asked me to tell her a sin I had committed in the last week. I did so and she said, "Alright," and she cut this rope into two pieces, so that I was holding my end, and she hers. "That is your separation from God. You have sinned, missed the mark, and you have broken your connection." She then tied the two pieces together and made a knot. "That is your repentance reconnecting with God." She did this process with me maybe eight times until we were standing face to face with hardly any rope left. In fact, our rope had turned into a giant knot. There was a huge lesson here. We sin numerous times every single day. We break our connection with God every single day. But He has given us the beautiful gift of repentance. Every time we repent we not only reconnect with God, we also become closer and closer until we are standing before Him, closer than when we started. Through our repentance we become closer to God, with our knotted rope.

Lastly, I would like to share some of my own thoughts. It is so easy to be a good Christian with your CrossRoad friends around and close to you—at the ten days of CrossRoad, or at the reunion. The problem is that when we leave, personally I know that I get sucked back into my daily pointless pursuits and needs. Yet if we keep our CrossRoad friends close to us through email, phone calls and especially prayer, we never really have left each other and we can keep each other strong, like our amazing staff told us. STAY CONNECTED! CrossRoad was a blessing. It was a blessing for everyone who went, and I am a firm believer that the exact group of kids that went was essential to the spiritual success of the program. We all needed it; we all need each other. When He comes on Judgment Day, He will not ask you, "Why weren't you more like this person or that person, why didn't you do this or that?" He will ask: "Why weren't you, you? Why weren't you the you that I made you?"

"GOD CANNOT GIVE US HAPPINESS AND PEACE APART FROM HIMSELF, BECAUSE IT IS NOT THERE. THERE IS NO SUCH THING." CS LEWIS

DANIELLE HILLAS '05 — PROPHET ELIAS, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

# THE LITTLE THINGS THAT KEEP US SANE

AFTER WAITING MY WHOLE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER to have the chance to go to college, I'm finally here! It is both an exhilarating and a somewhat frightening time. There are so many new people and experiences—such as the great dining hall experiment. This is a test to see how famished I have to become before I'll break down and try something that looks a little bit like it has already been eaten. I have moved my whole life into 14 square feet. I can have a slumber party or get together just by walking down the hall. There are wonderful days and awful ones, and it is on these especially awful days that I have come to truly realize that God must want me to be here, or else why wouldn't I have already left? It is on these days that I begin to see all the little things that I take for granted normally but really mean so much.

Let's take one of these not so very good days as an example. It was a Tuesday, which is the day we have OCF here at University of Colorado, Boulder. I was frantically running around, and everything just seemed to be going wrong for not just me but everyone else too. I was stressed to my wit's end. With a chemistry test coming up in two days, an OCF meeting to run in a few hours, and with everyone telling me his problems, my mood was far from jubilant. I had pretty much had it when I walked into the dining hall to grab a quick dinner. I was carrying all of my school things and trying to get my tray. It was spaghetti and chicken night, two foods that, it seemed had been my sole sustenance for weeks. I was less than thrilled, but hungry and anxious to sit down. I was walking toward the door past the drinks. There was a little spot of water on the floor that probably no one had thought was a big deal. I was heading for the door one minute and the next minute I found myself plummeting towards the floor. Then I was sitting there covered in spaghetti. It was just like something you would see in a movie or on a TV show. From head to toe, I was just covered. The dining staff rushed to help me by giving me some rags to clean myself up. I held back my tears of embarrassment as I picked myself up off the floor and walked out, no longer hungry. There was no time to go all the way back to my dorm and change, so I walked over to the building where our OCF meeting would be held. I sat in that room with the smell of tomato sauce permeating in the air, taunting me as I waited. It was our fellowship café night with assorted hot drinks and discussion. I can tell you that fellowship has never been more of a gift to me than it was that night. That chance to sit there with my peers who have the same understanding and foundation in our faith was exactly what I needed. We didn't even have a really profound discussion that night, but that action of fellowship was a true blessing and saved my sanity.

Looking back now, I can see that every time I have had a bad day in college, God has given me that one little thing that I need to keep going. He knows exactly what I need and the right moment for it to show up. Sometimes I just need someone to listen to me, to see a friend I haven't seen in awhile, or to have someone offer a kind gesture, such as going out of the way to hold the door open. It is in all these little things that I have been seeing God lately—in ways I never

really thought about. It is these small loving actions that remind me that no matter how hard I try to mess things up or no matter how hard I think the world is trying to attack me, He is there watching over me and making sure I keep going. He is there guiding over my life, helping me keep my sanity and filling my life with love. I hope that you too can see all the little things God does everyday to shower us with blessings and make sure we keep going along our journey. God's blessings be with you!

KATIE MAGERKO '04  
ST. CATHERINE, GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

## ANOTHER CROSSROAD

MY FELLOW CROSSROAD GRADUATES,

We are all now at another crossroad. We are all either seniors in high school, or college freshmen or sophomores. Each of these times holds a particular challenge that can only be faced with help from God. As a high school senior, you have the blessed opportunity to be led by God to a college or university. I know that this seems obvious, but too many of us get caught up in what we want. We forget that if we just hand it over to God, He will show us where we need to be. Freshmen have a whole other challenge. We are not quite sure what we are doing or where exactly we fit in on campus. We can really learn a lot about ourselves and our relationships, especially our relationship with God. Sophomores will soon face the decision of a major—yes, it can be changed after you decide, I realize that. But most of you, however, will put many hours of consideration and prayer into the decision before you make it. These are difficult times in our lives. We are all at a point where we can simply rely on ourselves (which never works) or we can give our stresses and pains to the Lord and ask for His help.

Dr. Rossi shared three very important phrases with us; "I do not know, I know that God knows, and I trust Him." I find myself looking to these words everyday. I also remember to work on saying the Jesus Prayer for ten minutes a day. Where I live in Atlanta there are always sirens. When I hear a siren, I say a prayer and do my cross for those in need, remembering also to appreciate that I am healthy and safe. For those of you who live in the city, try this. Refuse to get used to the suffering around you; find a way that you can help those in need. Remember what we did at CrossRoad and do these projects at your Churches with your OCF and YAL. I know that it can be hard to stay in the Church, especially when you are far from one. There may be an Orthodox Church that you do not know of that you could visit. If you are in the city, try out a few of them and find where you are comfortable and can worship God, and let Him work through you. I know that CrossRoad taught us how to stay connected and I believe that this is the key to staying in the Church. I know that we are all



learned ways to stay connected, but we must work to keep the relationships alive. God has shown me that friends and family are needed in order to stay with the faith. He has brought people into my life who have brought me closer to Him. Our relationship with God is the most important relationship that we have.

In my CrossRoad notebook, I found the following quotes: Mother Cavrila said, "What does God want me to do? Be here or go there? The answer was: God is not interested in where you are or what you do... He is interested only in the quality and quantity of the love you give. Nothing else. Nothing else." Blessed Father Justin Popovich said, "To become completely holy, both in soul and in body, that is our vocation." These two quotes speak to me, saying,

"Yes, you have a reason to become a better person. You have a reason to go out into the city and work." They teach me that the most important thing that I own is not a thing at all; it is the ability to give love to those around me. They also say to me that our actions will almost always speak louder than our words. Father Nick shared with us the quote by Francis of Assisi, "Share the Gospel always and sometimes use words." Most of us live in areas that are full of non-believers. I live on a college campus in the middle of Atlanta. I see those people and find that no matter how strong they seem, they will always fall because they do not know that they can give their problems to God. I pray that all of us, as we go through the stress and hard times that go along with college, will turn to God—and to those people that He has given us—and ask for help. College is "the best years of our lives." I do not know about you all, but I want God to be with me in both the best years and the worst.

Love in Christ,  
Sarah Kalaris

SARAH KALARIS '05 — ANNUNCIATION, MOBILE, AL  
AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

## A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

GROWING UP I WAS NOT AN ACTIVE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN, and one might even have gone as far as to call me a persecutor of Christ. This may sound extreme, yet I feel as though anyone who takes others away from Christ is a persecutor of the Lord. So how do I dare to write now about my experiences on my path toward God? The only comfort I have is that my story may allow for others to find God's love. My journey started only just over a year ago. I was a junior in high school and I decided to go to a movie with a friend. It was a movie that I saw advertised over and over. It was upon seeing *The Passion of the Christ* that my spiritual journey began.

We often hear people speak about vocation, especially when we are deciding what college to go to. We are told to pick something we are interested in, and thus make it our major. What is vocation then?

If you were to ask me this question two years ago, I would probably have given you the response, "it is the career you choose." Growing up outside the church gave me a completely secular definition of many things in society. The idea of a calling seemed to me more of a statement of what one is good



at. This idea stuck with me even in the early stages of returning to the Orthodox Church. To me the priesthood, which interested me, was just a career. I acknowledged the fact that it is something more than a job, but I was far from the understanding that it is vocation, a call from God, that leaves you unfulfilled until you achieve it.

It took me a long time to realize this, and in truth I have to say that without the CrossRoad program and the help of Hellenic College, I would never have come to this understanding. It was CrossRoad that helped me realize what a call is, and it was Hellenic College that has allowed me to truly understand what it is I am called to. Will this call lead me to ordination? This only God knows. What I do know is that my experiences in both the CrossRoad program and at Hellenic College have made me the Orthodox Christian I am today. I pray with all my heart and soul that all who read this are inspired to find their call, no matter what it is. Remember, "Life is not about a title, it is about a person."

JONATHAN RESMINI '04 — ST. DEMETRIOS, WESTON, MA  
HELLENIC COLLEGE

## HERE IS THE ROAD: FOLLOW IT

I RECENTLY READ A MOVING STORY IN [BEGINNING TO PRAY](#) BY METROPOLITAN ANTHONY BLOOM. In this story, the author describes a situation in communist Russia where a woman and her small children were hiding in a dark abandoned house. The woman's husband was a supporter of the Tsar and she knew that if she were to be discovered in this dark house, she would be shot by the communists. What was to become of her children? Would they be shot also? You can imagine the feelings of despair and helplessness this woman felt. While her soul tried to find some consolation in God, the only reality she saw was that of darkness, fear and helplessness.

One evening there was a knock at the door, a loud noise piercing the darkness. Her heart jumped. Should she answer? Was it the communists coming to shoot her? In a blind leap of faith she answered the door. Standing there was a young woman whom she did not know. The woman stepped into the house and informed the mother that the police had discovered where she and her children were hiding. This news meant certain death for the mother and her children. Suddenly, this young stranger understood what it meant to be a Christian. She understood the unconditional love given by God to humanity, and she replicated it. She said to the mother, "You go with your children, and I will stay behind and say that I am you. You have children; I have nothing. Save yourself and I will die in your place." The mother, not having time to thank the woman, gathered her children and fled, giving one last glance over at this angel. The young stranger was later found shot.

In this moving story we understand what it means to be a Christian. Francis of Assisi says that we as Christians must, "Preach the Gospel every day and occasionally use words." The young woman in the story fulfilled her Christian vocation by showing absolute and unconditional love. Christ commands us to love our neighbor; we must love our neighbor in a way that Christ loved us. This is one of the basic principles of our faith: to show the same love to others that God showed us. The true Christian, as many Church fathers say, must feel in his heart love for all aspects of God's creation. The true



HELLENIC COLLEGE

Christian must possess a heart that, when hearing of hurt anywhere in creation, is overwhelmed with love and compassion. The woman in the above story had such a heart.

The CrossRoad program taught me that the real vocation of a person is to be a Christian in the truest sense of the word and not just in title. As I am still in the beginning stages of my spiritual life, I constantly look for what it really means to be a Christian. When I come across stories such as the one I related above, I understand what love actually means. The stories inspire me to put into practice what I learned at CrossRoad. To quote St. Paul, "Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away" (1 Cor 13:8). It is my prayer that the whole world, with me as the least in it, may be given the Grace of possessing such love and passing it on to our brothers and sisters, and to all creation.

CHRISTOS STRUBAKOS '04 — HOLY CROSS, WINDSOR, ONTARIO  
GREEK ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY OF TORONTO

## CALLED TO BE CHRISTIAN

**IF YOU WANDER OFF THE ROAD TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT, YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE BEHIND YOU SAYING, "HERE IS THE ROAD. FOLLOW IT."** — ISA 30:21

In the two years before I left for college I had begun to worry about going away. I wasn't worried about being away at school, or the workload, or the terrible food, at least not at that point. What I was worried about was slipping away from the church. There were many times I just flat out did not really want to go to church for one reason or another. I still did anyway; after all, it's the family routine after all. But that was the problem. It was routine.

So fall 2005 finally rolled around—my first year in college. I am now completely on my own. What I discovered was the complete opposite of the very thing I was nervous of. On my first Sunday in Champaign, the Divine Liturgy could not have been more perfect. After three days of everything being completely new and different, there was a sense of familiarity there for me in the church. I knew the hymns, I knew many of the other students, and I even knew the priest.

Every Tuesday night I have OCF. A meal is prepared for us and we have an hour-long discussion on various topics. On a typical night there can be anywhere from thirty to fifty people there. One night while I was walking to the OCF House I realized that wherever I go, anywhere in the world, I will always be home if I have an Orthodox Church within reach. Everything I took for granted about my faith has been magnified a hundred-fold because it is who I am. My Orthodox Faith is my identity. By going away to school, I believe that my faith has only grown stronger.

One of the things we were taught is that we should not have to worry about anything, because as long as we are doing our best, and working our hardest, God will sort the rest out. I found the quote from Isaiah a few weeks after CrossRoad and I think it is a perfect fit. I have it posted on my bedroom door at home and my closet door here at the dorm. When the bed seems more comfortable than the

church, or something else comes before the fellowship and learning at OCF, the verse is a holy reminder, a nudge to get back on the right path.

MARIANNA RUGGERIO '04  
ST. HARALAMBOS, NILES, IL — UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

## THE CHALLENGE OF TRADITION

**LET A WOMAN LEARN IN SILENCE WITH ALL SUBMISSION. — 1 TIM 2:11**

One of my greatest struggles since returning to school has been trying to reconcile my seemingly completely different lives of church and school. At CrossRoad, I was able to learn from the Bible and the staff, knowing that what they said was true. I had many conversations about the role of women in the Church and left with a sense of understanding, my anger having dissolved with knowledge. Yet at school, I struggle with submission and have never been described as silent. As a founder and head of the Gender Equity group, I have learned to identify and speak out against sexism even when the incident is minor.

I have learned, through CrossRoad, to approach the group meetings with love and compassion, striving to eliminate stereotypes through discussion rather than calling out each person who holds gender biases. Through CrossRoad, I know that though political struggles in this world are of little importance, I am still committed to fighting for the rights of all people. When I recently read this verse in 1 Tim, I was more confused than I was upset. Anger is no longer my first reaction; I know I am viewing the words differently than I should. Yet, I struggle to understand why women, according to St. Paul, cannot teach and why none of the books in the Bible is written by women.

Quite randomly, I discovered the book *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, by Sue Monk Kidd, who while not Orthodox, is Christian and through the book discusses her own struggles with gender in the Church and how she eventually found peace. I have only begun it so I have not determined if it will lead me to understanding, or even to submission; I am at the end of the first part, and with the author am wrestling with the verses and traditions that create a feeling of isolation from the Church, all while I seek to overcome this isolation.

MICHELLE TORSKI '05  
ST. CATHERINE, BRAINTREE, MA



## CROSSROAD 2005 REUNION

It was 6:30 pm on Thursday November 10th, and we were going to pick up the first wave of CrossRoaders from O'Hare airport. Excitement rushed through us as we were wondering whether the amazing connection we had experienced at CrossRoad would still be alive. As we pulled up to the arrival gates, anxiously anticipating this unreal situation, Chuck ran toward us and the reality of the weekend began to set in. We expressed our feelings by screaming at the top of our lungs, literally, and continued this ritual as we made our way to and from the airport six more times the following day. After our last pick-up we looked around Anna's basement and could not believe that we were once again in a room with 13 other CrossRoaders.

We filled this weekend with fun activities, beautiful church services, many serious conversations, and some not-so-serious conversations. We kicked off the weekend with dinner and a bonfire at Anna's, and then relived our precious memories while watching the CrossRoad DVD all together. The next morning we ventured downtown via train to visit the beautiful city of Chicago and its renowned tourist attractions (most importantly the Bean. It does exist!). Upon returning home from the city, we made a quick change and headed up to Kenosha, Wisconsin to the St. John Chrysostom Monastery for their (and Chrysa's) feast day vigil. When we returned home we stayed up late laughing and creating more of the many infamous jokes of the weekend. The next morning we made the journey down to Chrysa's church, Sts. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills, and participated in Divine Liturgy with Chrysa's dad, Fr. Nick Jonas. That day, we had to say our first five sad goodbyes. After this, the remaining ten of us enjoyed a lunch provided by the parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen, and then went bowling near Chrysa's house. That night we ate dinner downtown in Greek Town provided by Anna's church, Sts. Peter and Paul. We were accompanied by and given an opportunity to speak with her priest, Fr. Angelo Artemas. Returning home from our excursion to Greek Town, we went on to experience the most amazing and spiritual night of our lives. For the next nine hours—no exaggeration—we talked about various struggles, spiritual issues and conflicts in our lives. We shared stories, laughter, and tears. It was at this point that we decided we had never laughed nor cried so much in one weekend.

There are no words that can possibly describe the emotions felt, lessons learned, and the connections restored through this reunion weekend. By the end of the weekend we realized that this reunion was truly necessary to recharge our souls. We had forgotten the extent of the great importance we have in each other's lives and we decided that we must never let that happen again. Our connections were not only alive; they were built upon and strengthened. Although the entire group could not make it to Chicago, we carried everyone in our thoughts and prayers and in that way we were able to relive the full experience of CrossRoad. What we learned at CrossRoad was amazing—but as anything else, it weakens over time. This reunion and more reunions to come are vital in reviving the impact of CrossRoad. Through these gatherings we hope to continue to help each other not only retain our faith but also to act it out to its fullest. We decided that the following quote fit perfectly to sum up this unforgettable reunion: "But one washing does not last a lifetime; we must renew it or the dust returns to cover us."

ANNA COLIS '05 — STS. PETER & PAUL, GLENVIEW, IL — CHRYSA JONAS '05  
STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN, PALOS HILLS, IL

## WHAT THE CROSSROAD PROFESSORS HAVE BEEN UP TO

**DR. DEMETRIOS KATOS** (CR Professor '05) has recently written an article for the Journal of Theological Studies entitled "Socratic Dialogue or Forensic Debate? Judicial Rhetoric and Stasis Theory in the Dialogue on the Life of John Chrysostom." The work is a literary analysis that offers a new explanation for the structure and composition of a very important early Christian text. He also wrote an essay, "In the Image of God: Mystical Theology and Secular Vocations," for the soon-to-be released book *Christ at Work: Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Vocation*, published through the Office of Vocation & Ministry. He has recently completed a proposal to write a book that will explore the important theological and societal influences in the life and work of an early Christian writer named Palladius. The tentative title of this work is *Palladius of Helenopolis: Origenist Monk, Bishop, and Writer*. As an administrative board member of the Pappas Patristic Institute, he helped to plan and organize its second annual conference on the theme "Wealth and Poverty in the Early Church" that took place last October. He is currently planning the annual conference for the Orthodox Theological Society of America, which will take place in Boston, June 7-9, 2006. He is loving every minute of it, but wishes he had more time to cook and listen to music.

**FR. TED STYLIANOPOULOS** (CR Professor '04), next to his teaching and parish duties, has attended two conferences, published several articles, and edited a book entitled, *Sacred Text and Interpretation*. This book contains articles of a Fall 2003 conference of Orthodox scholars on the interpretation of the Bible and includes Fr. Ted's introduction and a separate article. This past June, he participated in a huge conference of about 500 people in Rome in which he gave a paper, "Sacred Scripture and Christian Unity." Another article entitled, "Concerning the Biblical Foundation of Primacy (of the Pope)" was published in Italy and America last summer. He would be happy to e-mail these articles to anyone interested. Fr. Ted also wrote an essay for *Christ at Work: "A Life Worthy of God": Vocation According to St. Paul*. The greatest event and joy to Fr. Ted was the birth of his first grandchild, Fayrah Fotini, in March 2004, who calls him "papou" to his delight.

**FR. EUGEN PENTIUC** (CR Professor '05) recently published a book entitled *Jesus the Messiah in the Hebrew Bible*. At a Religious Studies Symposium that was held here at Hellenic College/Holy Cross on December 6, 2005, Fr. Pentiuic gave a response to a lecture presented by Paul Hanson, a professor of Harvard Divinity School, called "The Hebrew Roots of Messianic Expectation: A New Perspective." He is currently working on a textbook for teaching the Old Testament from an Orthodox perspective, and on an article called "Messianism in the Apocryphon Baruch 2."

**DR. JAMES SKEDROS** (CR Professor '04) continues to teach classes on Byzantine History and Church History at Holy Cross. He was granted a sabbatical leave during the Spring 2005 Semester (something for which academics live!) where he was free from his teaching responsibilities and was able to write a couple of articles on the veneration of the saints in the life of the Orthodox Church. One article will appear as a chapter in a new book dedicated completely to Byzantine Christianity (and being published by a non-Orthodox press!). In this chapter, he investigates the way Byzantine Christians celebrated the feast days of some of the more popular saints. He continues to love the work that he does and is thankful to have the opportunity to pursue his professional interests, all the while keeping life in perspective; that is, in the perspective of our Creator and of God's creation closest to him, his family.



# Vocation & Ministry

ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE

Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Ave., Brookline, MA 02445

## A WORD FROM FR. NICHOLAS C. TRIANTAFILOU

Christmas carols have such sensitive yet profound theological messages. One could spend an entire Christmas fast period studying each stanza of the myriad of carols and would only begin to scratch the surface of their edifying words. As I reflect on our CrossRoad program which you, the alumni, have made possible, along with the sterling work and ministry of our director and her staff, I think of one little carol. The carol is "The Drummer Boy." And the phrase within the carol is, "I'll play my drum for him. I'll play my best for him." Thank you for giving your best to the CrossRoad program and your best to your family, your Church, and to the society in which you live. It is a privilege for me to be associated with CrossRoad and to have been the chaplain this past year. I look forward to seeing you all in the various venues of our Church life. May God's grace always be with you.

FR. NICHOLAS C. TRIANTAFILOU  
CROSSROAD CHAPLAIN '05  
PRESIDENT OF HELLENIC COLLEGE AND HOLY CROSS

## DATES FOR THE COMING YEAR

### CROSSROAD 2006 DATES SET!

CrossRoad 2006 will take place June 23 – July 3

### NEW CROSSROAD PROMOTIONAL DVD SET FOR RELEASE

The Office of Vocation and Ministry (OVM) has produced a new promotional DVD which will be distributed this January to all Orthodox parishes in the United States and Canada. Please contact the OVM to have a DVD sent to a current high school junior or senior you know!

### CrossRoad Fund Established

The Office of Vocation and Ministry has established a CrossRoad Fund in order to sustain the program beyond 2007. Donations may be made out to Hellenic College CrossRoad Fund and forwarded to the OVM.

### Contact Info:

CrossRoad is a program sponsored by the Office of Vocation and Ministry, Hellenic College, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445. 617-850-1309 Visit us online at [www.crossroad.hchc.edu](http://www.crossroad.hchc.edu).