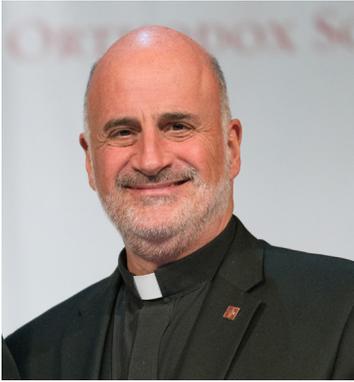


# PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017 | Volume III, Issue 9



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December is a month for looking back and for looking forward. Here on the Holy Hill, we are looking back on a very successful fall semester that—as you will read in this issue—was enriched by a broad array of memorable special events. At the same time, we are looking forward to a new year, a new semester, and the fiftieth anniversary of Hellenic College’s official founding.

But of course, like all faithful Orthodox Christians, we look forward first and most of all to the Nativity, the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that transformed the world in an instant and transforms our lives every single day. Let me share with you the closing words of a sermon on the coming of Christ that was delivered by the V. Rev. Dr. Leonidas Contos of blessed memory not long before he became the first President of Hellenic College Holy Cross some fifty years ago:

*“The time is upon us when our memory will be stirred anew to the awareness that the tiny radiant child, born on a still night, is God’s gift of newness of life to mankind. St. John wrote of Him that He came ‘full of grace and truth.’ He reports that many did not receive Him, did not know Him, because their hearts were empty of grace, their minds hostile to truth, their lives hardened in their earthly nature. But to those who did receive Him, who believe in His name, He brought the unspeakable gift. To them He gave power to become children of God.”*

Let us all open our hearts and minds this Nativity season to grace and truth. Let us marvel in the miracle of Christ’s holy birth and its promise of salvation. As we exchange festive greetings and gifts, let us remain ever-mindful of the greatest gift of all.

With love in Christ,



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

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## ANSWERING THE CALL: FR. JOHN KALANTZIS, US NAVY CHAPLAIN

The Hellenic College Holy Cross community was privileged to hear Fr. John Kalantzis, Captain in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps, in conversation with Fr. Christopher Metropulos, HCHC President, at the Maliotis Cultural Center on November 9. The program was part of our “Answering the Call” speaker series, in which, as Fr. Christopher said, “we invite inspirational Orthodox Christian men and women to share the influence of their faith in business, ministry, and life.”

Fr. Kalantzis, a native of Texas, worked in business for a decade after college before deciding that the priesthood was his true vocation. He enrolled at Holy Cross in 1992, bringing his wife and three young sons with him. Although most seminarians in those days were younger and unmarried, Fr. Kalantzis told the audience that “being an older student here was a fantastic experience.” After receiving his Master of Divinity degree with high honors in 1995 and being ordained soon after, he served as proistamenos of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons in the Archdiocesan District for two years before embarking on a long and distinguished career as a US Navy chaplain.

The life of a military chaplain, like that of any clergy, requires a willingness to move frequently—but also requires courage in the face of danger and a commitment to minister to all those in need, regardless of faith or the lack of it. “We provide for our own, the Orthodox Christians, but we are there for everyone,” Fr. Kalantzis explained. “We don’t judge anyone—we validate their humanity.”

Over the course of twenty years on active duty, Fr. Kalantzis has had a broad range of assignments all over the world, including in Iraq and aboard an aircraft carrier launching strikes against the Taliban after 9/11. “Being at sea is a profound experience in itself. You feel the power of God and the energy of creation so vividly.” With the rank of Captain and numerous service awards to his credit, he now serves at the Pentagon as Director for Policy and Strategy in the office of the Chief of Chaplains of the United States Navy.



Thanking Fr. Kalantzis for sharing his inspiring story with all of us, Fr. Christopher said, “As we celebrate Veterans Day here on the Holy Hill, we honor you, and we honor all the men and women in our Armed Forces. We realize that freedom comes with a price and requires sacrifice. All Americans should be unceasingly grateful for the service to which you and all our military devote yourselves so selflessly.”

In turn, Fr. Kalantzis expressed his thanks for the opportunity to return to his alma mater, praised “the generosity of heart...and gracious hospitality” shown to him by all he encountered here, and said, “I pray that the Lord will continue to bless your efforts... to properly prepare the future clergy of the Archdiocese. If I can help you in those endeavors, you have only to ask.”



## HOLY CROSS HOSTS BOOK LAUNCH CELEBRATION FOR REV. DR. EUGEN PENTIUC



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in conjunction with École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem, hosted a reception on Sunday, November 19, to celebrate the publication of Fr. Pentiu's latest book, *Hosea: The Word of the Lord that Happened to Hosea*, released just the week before by Peeters Publishers. Fr. Pentiu, a prolific author, is Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Holy Cross and Hellenic College Holy Cross Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Paul Peeters, whose family has published important scholarly works since 1857, came from Belgium to make the formal presentation of the new volume at the reception.

The new monograph on the Book of Hosea, published under the auspices of the famous biblical school, École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem, represents the tireless work of a group of international biblical scholars, with Fr. Eugen J. Pentiu as main author and team leader. *Hosea* is the second volume, after *Philippians* (Peeters, 2016), to appear in the newly created B.E.S.T. (acronym for *La Bible en Ses Traditions/The Bible in Its Traditions*) series recently launched by École Biblique in Jerusalem.

Fr. Olivier-Thomas Venard, O.P., B.E.S.T. Executive Director, and several colleagues traveled from Jerusalem for the book launch. "It's a great pleasure for me to honor my friend, Fr. Eugen, today," said Fr. Venard, "...and we are thrilled to inaugurate our English-language series in an Orthodox institution. It's a dream come true to be with you today." Fr. Pentiu thanked Fr. Venard and all those present for acknowledging his efforts, but insisted that "this is a collaborative work—they invented the genre."

The B.E.S.T. continues a long tradition of École Biblique, which created the first Study Bible, *La Bible de Jérusalem* (Cerf, 1956), also known as *The New Jerusalem Bible*. The new digital Study Bible offers the modern reader a fresh scriptural translation based on the Old Greek

(Septuagint and second-century A.D. Jewish translations), Hebrew (Qumran and Masoretic), Syriac (Peshitta), and Latin (Vulgate) texts, accompanied by a wide variety of study notes divided into three sections: text, context, and reception.

The layout for each volume in this series attempts to imitate the Medieval *Glossa Ordinaria* ("Standard Gloss"), consisting of patristic annotations placed in the margins of the Latin Vulgate of Jerome. This ingenious layout emphasizes the polyphonic centrality of the biblical text as well as the irreducibility of the rich and multifaceted interpretations that the former has generated in various communities of faith throughout the centuries.

Dr. James C. Skedros, Dean of Holy Cross, noted, "During four working summers between 2010 and 2016 as 'researcher-in-residence' at École Biblique in Jerusalem, Fr. Pentiu, an internationally recognized biblical scholar and Semitist, has proved one more time his refreshing creativity, deep erudition, and passionate love for the Word of God. With this ecumenical-in-scope publication, Fr. Pentiu has brought great honor to Holy Cross and to Orthodox biblical scholarship. Thank you, Fr. Eugen, for your tireless work and genuine dedication to our school!"

## FAMILY LIFE ON THE HOLY HILL

THE PAGONIS FAMILY

Everyone knows that Holy Cross Chapel is the crown jewel of our beautiful campus, but few visitors know that there is a whole community within our HCHC community just up the hill beyond the Chapel. It's where our married students live, many of them with young children, in townhouse clusters aptly named Halki Village and Dendrinos Village that together really do make up a village.

These young families interact with each other informally every day and through the Married Students Association, which organizes a variety of meetings, retreats, and social events. Children can safely play on the large playground, ride their bikes in the traffic-free area just outside their homes, and sled down the hill in winter. Parents and children alike form friendships at HCHC that enrich their lives greatly, not only while they are here but long after they leave.

THE TUSSING FAMILY



THE HALIKIAS FAMILY

THE YUAN FAMILY



THE HARGRAVE FAMILY



THE CORNETT FAMILY



THE SWANSON FAMILY



*From the moment we arrived on campus from our cross-country trek beginning in Southern California, we were received as family. While I may be the only enrolled student, all of my family members—my wife Anna and our daughters, Miriam and Zoe—feel every bit a part of the active communal life here, whether at daily worship in the Chapel, social gatherings in the Caf, time on the playground, or chats amongst classmates and faculty. My wife is able to audit chant classes with me, which piques her own interest and seems beneficial for future parish placement.*

*There is certainly no feeling of divide between student and family life in my experience here, and this has been very comforting, considering the efforts made by my entire family in support of my pursuit of a seminary education and the call to the priesthood.*

**- Anthony Cornett**  
Second-year seminarian,  
Holy Cross

# MENIOS PAPADIMITRIOU | HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2018

There is a period of adjustment for every student starting a new school, but Menios Papadimitriou had more adjustments to make than most of his classmates when he enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross three years ago. Having earned his bachelor's degree at Florida State in Tallahassee and a law degree at Tulane in New Orleans, he was used to big schools in warm places. Arriving on the Holy Hill—in January—was quite a change, in more ways than one.

"I had never been here before," says this Florida native. "I didn't know one person here. I had no experience with snow and my first afternoon on campus it started to snow." And snow. And snow—the record-breaking winter of 2014 brought more than nine feet of snow to the Boston area. "I hated it at first, but those snow days gave me the chance to really get to know the other students and do a lot of reading. I'd always been interested in Church history, but didn't know how much I didn't know until I came to Holy Cross."

Reading one particular book actually had a lot to do with Menios' decision to enroll at Holy Cross in the first place. "After law school, I worked in a law firm for three years but really wasn't happy—except in church." His aunt suggested that he read *The Mountain of Silence*, in which author Kyriacos Markides charts his own search for authentic Orthodox spirituality. "I was hooked right away and stayed up all night reading the whole thing." It wasn't long before Menios took a leap of faith and left a budding law career behind to study for a higher calling.

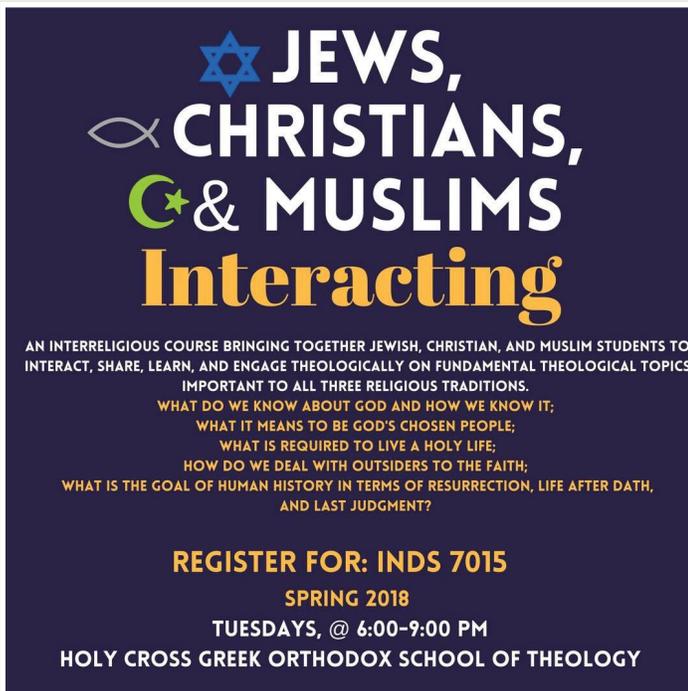
In addition to his classes at Holy Cross, Menios has taken full advantage of the school's membership in the Boston Theological Institute, a consortium of local theological schools that allows students in any of them to cross-register at any of the others. "I've taken at least one BTI course every semester." He is now coordinator of the Harvard/MIT Orthodox Christian Fellowship chapter and participates in the Cambridge Roundtable on Science, Art, and Religion. After living in HCHC campus housing initially, Menios was offered the opportunity to work for MIT as an RA and in their Office of Student Life, which allowed him to take classes at MIT too. A course on conflict management there "has galvanized my desire to work in ministry."

As if all that were not enough to fill every waking minute, Menios has made time to speak at numerous parishes about the value of an HCHC education. He has also done extensive research and field work in Greece and Turkey on a fellowship from the NY Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor, which is administered by HCHC. He recently delivered a paper on "The Metropolis of Caesarea in Cappadocia in the Nineteenth Century" at the 25th Biennial Conference of the Modern Greek Studies Association, where he also participated in a panel discussion on the Greek Orthodox Church in late Ottoman Anatolia. "I'm so grateful to HCHC," he says, "for opening all these doors for me."



## HOLY CROSS RECEIVES ATS INNOVATION GRANT

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology has received an innovation grant from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) for an inter-religious course to be offered during the Spring 2018 semester. The course, *Jews, Christians, and Muslims Interacting*, brings together Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faculty and students to interact, share, learn, and engage fundamental theological topics important to establishing a relationship among the three religious traditions. The grant is part of the Educational Models and Practices in Theological Education initiative of the ATS.



**JEWS,  
CHRISTIANS,  
& MUSLIMS  
Interacting**

AN INTERRELIGIOUS COURSE BRINGING TOGETHER JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, AND MUSLIM STUDENTS TO INTERACT, SHARE, LEARN, AND ENGAGE THEOLOGICALLY ON FUNDAMENTAL THEOLOGICAL TOPICS IMPORTANT TO ALL THREE RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT GOD AND HOW WE KNOW IT;  
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE;  
WHAT IS REQUIRED TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE;  
HOW DO WE DEAL WITH OUTSIDERS TO THE FAITH;  
WHAT IS THE GOAL OF HUMAN HISTORY IN TERMS OF RESURRECTION, LIFE AFTER DATH, AND LAST JUDGMENT?

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(4) how we deal with outsiders to the faith; and (5) what the goal of human history is in terms of resurrection, life after death, and last judgment. Instructors for the course are Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis (Holy Cross), Rabbi Or Rose (Hebrew College), and Imam Taymullah Abdur-Rahman. As part of the course, the students and instructors will visit and attend services at a synagogue, a church, and a mosque.

Commenting on the grant, Holy Cross Dean James Skedros noted, "The historical trajectory of the Orthodox Church places it in the middle of the traditional lands of Judaism and Islam. The relationship between Muslims, Jews, and Orthodox Christians, first in historic Christian lands and later in Anatolia and the Balkans, provides evidence of coexistence of pious believers along with ill treatment, persecution, etc. The Orthodox Church, and therefore Holy Cross, is well positioned to lead in the area of mutual learning and understanding among the three religious traditions. We are very excited about this opportunity."

When asked about the goals of the course, which will be open to students from all member schools of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis, Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Theology and Professor of Dogmatics, highlighted the mutual respect of each other's faith tradition as critical to the success of the course. "Interfaith dialogue," says Fr. Clapsis, "does not require one to give up or to invalidate one's religious convictions; rather, one is expected to hold on to one's faith while trying to be informed about and to understand another's faith."

The course will be team-taught by faculty from the three faith traditions and focus on five theological/religious topics that each faith tradition holds as a critical marker of self-identification: (1) what we know about God and how we know it; (2) what it means to be God's chosen people; (3) what is required to live a holy life;

## GIVING THANKS

*We would like to extend a huge thank you to all who supported Hellenic College Holy Cross on Giving Tuesday! Because of you, we are able to educate future Orthodox leaders and provide them with the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to ensure that the Orthodox Church in America remains strong. On behalf of the entire HCHC community, **THANK YOU** for your generosity!*



## ACADEMIC SERVICES WORKSHOPS SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

HCHC's Academic Services Office has hosted a number of workshops this fall semester, each focused on a specific strategy to help students do their best work and get the most out of their education. As Academic Services Coordinator Eileen Maguire observes, "Undergraduates are sometimes overwhelmed by the amount of work required at the college level. Oftentimes, the skills that brought success in high school do not yield the same results in college...These workshops help students develop new skills that have been proven to work." Topics covered have ranged from time management to effective note-taking and tailoring study habits to different learning styles. In anticipation of the semester's end, December workshop topics will include preparing for exams and reducing stress.

In addition to the workshops led by Ms. Maguire, there have been separate sessions for undergrads and graduate students on avoiding the pitfalls of plagiarism, both taught by Dr. Kathleen Ryan, and one on writing research papers, taught by Hellenic College's Dean, Dr. Demetrios Katos. Dr. Katos strongly endorses the program, saying that "these workshops are meeting a real need in supporting our students'



education." About the workshop he taught, he says, "I was very impressed with the level of engagement by the students, who have expressed their appreciation very positively." Student comments certainly bear that out. One participant described the experience as "very informative, well-paced, and entertaining." Another described the information offered as "extremely useful...an invaluable asset."

### HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

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