

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016 | Volume II, Issue 2



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Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from you, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in your arms, the Deliverance of souls, who grants us Resurrection.

- Apolytikion for the Feast of The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you this month with the Festal Troparion of the Great Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple—the conclusion of the forty-day celebration of the Holy Nativity.

Having spiritually received and renewed Christ in our minds and our hearts, we now prepare to turn our attention toward forgiveness and preparation for Great and Holy Lent on our Holy Hill.

We welcome both new and returning students and faculty, and look forward to a productive academic semester. We further joyfully anticipate the ordinations of several of our senior theological students, whose studies are made possible in large part through the generous support of Leadership 100, to whom we are exceedingly grateful.

In this month's newsletter, you will have an opportunity to see the architectural drawings of the proposed George J. and Angelina Kostas Student Center. The project is an exciting opportunity to create new and improved classroom, technology, and dining infrastructure for our students and community at large. It allows us further to expand our Bookstore offerings and broadcast our Orthodox Christian Faith to all ends of the world.

Already, we have collected more than half of the money necessary to build the facility. I ask for your continued prayers and support to make this dream a modern reality and pillar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and our Hellenic heritage.

Lastly, in a continued effort to update the service items and materials in our Holy Cross Chapel, I am requesting donations for chant books from Greece for our students, so that they may continue to grow in their love and knowledge of Byzantine music through these urgently required necessities, and be well-prepared to serve the Greek Orthodox faithful in parishes throughout our country.

May God bless you for your continued support of our school—the only fully accredited Orthodox Christian college in the Western Hemisphere and the oldest and largest Orthodox Christian school of theology in North America.

We love you and pray for you daily, and ask humbly for your prayers in return.

In Christ,



Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
 President

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HCHC WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS FOR SPRING SEMESTER



On January 21, HCHC welcomed fourteen new students for the Spring 2016 semester: nine to Hellenic College and five to Holy Cross. These students hail from ten states and abroad, representing seven GOA metropolises and three jurisdictions.

In his welcoming remarks, Hellenic College Dean Demetrios Katos said, "We have seen, especially in the past few years, that students are coming to Hellenic College Holy Cross with a strong desire to learn, which makes for a very engaging classroom experience. These are the kinds of students you are joining, and we know that you are also of the same ilk."

HCHC is building momentum as we prepare to welcome one of our largest incoming cohorts this fall.



PEIRAMATIKO-THESSALONIKI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT HCHC



Seventeen high school students and two teacher-chaperones from the Peiramatiko-Thessaloniki High School (Experimental High School of Thessaloniki, Greece) visited Hellenic College Holy Cross on Thursday, January 28. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about HCHC, including its programs and admission requirements.

The students, most of them upperclassmen, traveled to the United States to compete in an international Model UN Competition sponsored by Harvard University. They were one of three teams from Greece (and the only Greek state school) among teams from over 100 countries.

The school is the alma mater of His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios of America.

HOLY CROSS SEMINARIANS VOLUNTEER FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology students participated in the annual Seminarian Home Build Team with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans from January 11th-16th.

The nine-member, pan-Orthodox team, comprised of seminarians from Holy Cross, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York, and St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary in Pennsylvania, was led by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) USA representative Dan Christophulos and Fr. Mark Vair from St. Ephraim the Syrian Antiochian Church in San Antonio, TX.

"The opportunity to serve Christ through volunteering with my fellow seminarians was a tremendously rewarding experience," said Jonathan Howry, first-year seminarian at Holy Cross. "I'm thankful to IOCC and Holy Cross for the opportunity, and encourage others to participate in the future."

Housed in a dormitory room with bunk beds at Peace Lutheran Church in Slidell, the team worked with Habitat's St. Tammany West affiliate, which supervised the painting of two entire homes. Daily routine included morning prayers, breakfast, lunch, evening prayers, and fellowship activities. Time was further given to tour parts of downtown New Orleans, including the Lower Ninth Ward (most damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005), the French Quarter, and Bourbon Street.

"On site all week we worked with a small group of retirees who caravan across the country to help build homes," said George Bryant, second-year seminarian at Holy Cross. "We were



accompanied by fifteen high school students fulfilling one of their service projects. We also met the CEO, development director, and volunteer coordinator for Habitat St. Tammany West. I enjoyed the opportunity of getting to pray and meet with our other team members and the Habitat employees."

"I strongly encourage everyone to consider an IOCC Home Build Mission Trip," said Holy Cross first-year seminarian Thomas Bartz. Like Peace Lutheran Church, I hope to one day discern, determine, and implement a niche ministry for my future parish neighborhood and community. I am very thankful for the opportunity to have participated and to continue in my studies at Holy Cross."

HOLY CROSS BOOKSTORE HOSTS FIRST SYMPOSIUM OF 2016



On Friday, February 5, Holy Cross Bookstore hosted its first Symposium of the spring semester. The event celebrated the release of the Holy Cross Orthodox Press publication *Tales, Rituals, and Songs: Exploring the Unknown Popular Culture of a Greek Mountain Village*.

Panayotis League, translator of *Tales* and Hellenic College Instructor of Modern Greek Studies and Music, led an interactive presentation that included readings by students and a live performance of folk songs from the book.

"The translation of this book was a two-year project," said League, a graduate of Hellenic College. "This event gave me the perfect opportunity to share my passion and work with my fellow faculty and students. I appreciated greatly their attendance and participation."

Copies may be purchased from Holy Cross Bookstore by phone at 800-245-0599 or online at holycrossbookstore.com.

FACULTY FEATURE: DR. GRAMMENOS KARANOS



Born in Thessaloniki, Dr. Karanos came to Boston to attend Harvard, where he earned a BA in Government, and later Boston University, from which he earned an MBA, all the while pursuing his study of and devotion to Byzantine and post-Byzantine music. In 2011 he was awarded a PhD in Byzantine Musicology and Psaltic Art by the University of Athens.

Reflecting on his work at HCHC to date, Dr. Karanos says, “Teaching here these past nine years has been one of the greatest blessings I have received in my life. I am also particularly happy about the success of the Boston Byzantine Music Festival, which has become a much anticipated annual event, and of the Certificate in Byzantine Music program. Having already produced seventeen graduates, it continues to attract students who are eager to study the sacred art of chanting with an ultimate goal of offering their musical ministry for the edification of the people of God.”



Dr. Grammenos Karanos joined the faculty of Holy Cross in 2007, becoming Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgical Music in 2011. In his years at HCHC, Dr. Karanos (informally known as Menios) has proven to be a superb successor to Photios Ketsetzis, one of the masters of Byzantine chant with whom he studied. Under his direction, the St. Romanos the Melodist Byzantine Choir, which includes male and female students, has performed for diverse appreciative audiences and recorded two CDs, *All Creation Trembled* and *Christ Is Born, Glorify Him!*

To study theology in the school of my own tradition seemed the most obvious and edifying thing I could do, thus making HCHC my choicest pick. I'm grateful to be here. As such, I am most looking forward to the spiritual formation that no other school could provide, and in forming relationships with clergy, faculty, and classmates that both challenge and deepen one's faith and intellect. Through this program, I hope to acquire the skills needed to teach theology at a level that engages the depths of the heart as much as the heights of the mind. Most of all, I am glad to have the loving support of my wife, Steffi, who has agreed to come along for the ride.

CORY JON MORK, St. Paul, MN
MDiv program | Holy Cross class of 2019



DONATION REQUESTS: LITURGICAL MUSIC TEXTS

LIST A

Georgios Progakis, Music Collection, vols. I-III	\$100
Konstantinos Papagiannis, Musical Parakletike, vols. I-III	\$125
Ierotheos Philotheitis, Patriarchal Music Ark, vol. I, Divine Liturgy	\$100
Ierotheos Philotheitis, Musical Handbook of Parakletike, vols. I-II	\$125
Communion Verses by Old Teachers	\$75
Petros the Peloponnesian, Heirmologion	\$75
Gregorios Protopsaltis, Kalophonic Heirmologion	\$75
Pavlos Fortomas, Festive Musical Hymnal, vols. I-VII	\$300
Simonopetra Monastery, Angelic Choir, vol. III, Polyeleoi & vol. IV, Divine Liturgy	\$125

TOTAL: **\$1,100**

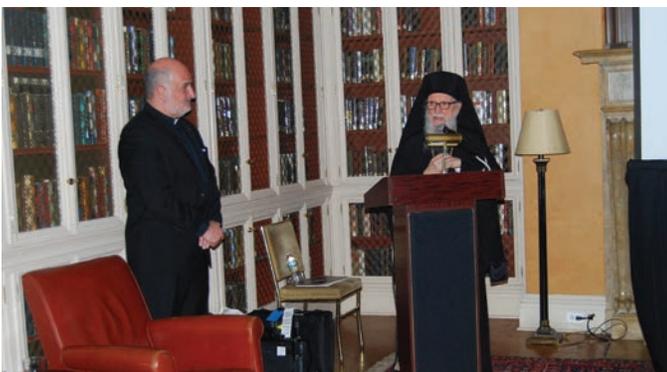
LIST B

Ioasaf Dionysiatis, Collection of Communion Verses	\$75
Ioannis Lampadarios & Stefanos A' Domestikos, Musical Pandekte, vol. IV, Divine Liturgy	\$100
Georgios Raidestinos, Holy Week	\$75
Iakovos Protopsaltis, Doxastarion, vols. I-II	\$125
Petros Philanthidis, Athonias	\$100

TOTAL: **\$475**

To make a donation, please call 617.850.1280. Thank you!

PEG EVENT



His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios of America and Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin, speak at the first HCHC Presidential Engagement Gathering (PEG) hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Christopher P. Daifotis at The Harvard Club in Manhattan on January 14, 2016.

HOLY CROSS BOOKSTORE



Great Lent Materials Available!

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at checkout and take **\$5 OFF** any order)

Call us at 800-245-0599
(mention this ad and take **\$5 OFF** any order)

STUDENT CENTER UPDATE

The George J. and Angelina Kostas Student Center is the fulfillment of a lifetime of one primary individual, enriched in the love and service of the Greek Orthodox Christian Church and Hellenic culture — Mr. George J. Kostas. Today, Mr. Kostas' generosity and vision provide the foundation through which Hellenic College Holy Cross will serve Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the next century, and preserve for all time the love and sacrifice of those before us who established our school for shining forth the Word of God in North America.



We welcome your active participation and ask for your prayers as we prepare to undertake this historic project.



HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. John Chirban's past work with actress Lucille Ball was the basis of a cover feature story in a November 2015 issue of *Closer Weekly*.

Dr. Stamatia Dova gave two invited lectures at the Departments of English and of World Languages at Suffolk University, "Achilles in the Republic" and "Heracles, Odysseus, and the Poetics of *katabasis*." She also led a field trip to the Greek collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston for her courses "The World of Greek Heroes" and "Concepts of Success and Failure in Ancient Greece: Honors Seminar." She has also served for a third year as a member of the National Screening Committee for the Fulbright Foundation in New York.

On December 6, **Panayotis League** presented a paper entitled "Echoes of the Great Catastrophe: Resounding Anatolian Greekness in Diaspora" at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology at the University of Texas at Austin. On December 12, he presented a talk and performance entitled "Shades of Eros in Modern Greek Song" at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC as part of a festival celebrating the work of Sappho. League was also a featured soloist in the sixth annual Byzantine Christmas concert at First Church Cambridge on December 22.

STUDENT UPDATES



Incoming first-year students **Katherine Ketchum** and **Sophia Petrou** were two of 44 students nationwide to earn the Faith Scholarship for Academic Excellence. The award is made to students who display "exceptional scholarly intellect... and a magnificent spirit of charity, philanthropy and good citizenship." Congratulations!

MEMORY ETERNAL

The Hellenic College Holy Cross Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and community extend their most heartfelt sympathies to our President, Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, on the falling asleep of his beloved mother, Helen (Metropulos) Dalambakis on Sunday, January 24, 2016 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Originally from Astoria, NY, and the daughter of Greek immigrants from Thrace and the island

of Limnos, Helen held positions at various publishing firms in Manhattan before moving to a warmer climate. She was extremely proud of her children, Elyse and Rev. Fr. Christopher, and, this past October, experienced the love and joy of our community at his inauguration on our campus.

Funeral services were conducted at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, the immediate past parish

of Rev. Fr. Christopher, where Rev. Fr. James Katinas, former Director of Institutional Advancement at Hellenic College Holy Cross, is now the parish priest.

The family requests that donations on behalf of Helen Dalambakis be made to Hellenic College Holy Cross to support scholarships for well-deserving students.

May Helen's memory be eternal!



FEAST OF THE THREE HIERARCHS VIGIL



AXIOS!

Michael Tishel, CrossRoad Director in the Office of Vocation & Ministry at HCHC, was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on January 7, 2016, by His Grace Bishop Daniil of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada, and Australia at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Boston, where Dn. Michael's father, V. Rev. Fr. Patrick Tishel, serves as Rector.



HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS

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