

PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016 | Volume II, Issue 6



*Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
 and their words to the ends of the universe.*

- Psalm 19:4



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Passing from the spring to the summer, one Great Feast to the next, we celebrate and experience the richness of God's immeasurable love for us.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost fulfills all things regarding our salvation. This event is not merely an annual commemoration, but rather a daily affirmation of our graduates, who bear witness to Jesus Christ in their chosen lay and ordained vocations.

Their campus departure makes space for our largest contemporary group of summer students, attending summer session classes, the Kallinikeion Institute, the CrossRoad Summer Institute, Diaconate Program, and more.

Off-site, our returning undergraduate and graduate students fulfill the Gospel in parishes and summer camps, and travel the world for The Holy and Great Council, the 2016 National Clergy-Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Convention, St. Helen's Pilgrimage, missions work, and more.

These activities pronounce the living presence of the All-Holy Spirit in our community. I encourage everyone to learn more about our summer programs and register as possible.

We love you and we pray for you, as we do for all those participating in The Holy and Great Council. May God keep you safe and bless you for the continued contribution of your time, talents, and treasure to our sacred school.

In Christ,

Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
 President

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*Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made
 fishermen all-wise, by sending down upon them the
 Holy Spirit, and through them, drawing all the world
 into your net. O Loving One, Glory be to You.*

- Apolytikion of the Feast of Holy Pentecost



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ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

KYRIAKI FITZGERALD, MDiv, PhD

Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald, MDiv, PhD, the first woman to graduate from both of our schools, was honored as the 2016 Alumna of the Year by the HCHC Alumni Association during Commencement weekend.



Present at the event were His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, and distinguished clergy, alumni, faculty, and guests of the HCHC community.

Rev. Theodore Petrides, President of the HCHC Alumni Association, stated that Dr. FitzGerald was an obvious choice for the award, given “her many academic and scholarly achievements, her offerings as an Orthodox Christian therapist, and her championing of the causes of women and their role in the life of the Church.”

Dr. FitzGerald is a longtime faculty member of Holy Cross, a licensed psychologist, a certified pastoral counselor, and a prolific author. She is the founder of St. Catherine’s Vision, an international, pan-Orthodox organization of women scholars who, together with ordained and lay leaders of the Church, address contemporary concerns from an Orthodox perspective. *Encountering Women of Faith*, a series of volumes in which contemporary Orthodox women reflect on the influence of female saints in their own lives, is one of its fruitful products.

Dr. FitzGerald also has represented the Ecumenical Patriarchate at conferences, and has served on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. She has designed and facilitated two international conferences for Orthodox women in Damascus (1996) and Constantinople (1997) on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. She served as the only Orthodox Christian from North America on the bilateral conversations with the Old Catholics on the issue of the ordination of women. Most recently, Dr. FitzGerald served on the International Orthodox-Jewish conversations in Jerusalem, Israel.

HCHC is grateful to Our Lord for the contributions of Dr. FitzGerald to Orthodoxy both on our campus and throughout the world. Axia!

FOND FAREWELL

John T. Chirban PhD, ThD, (center), pictured with Demetrios S. Katos, PhD, Dean of Hellenic College, and Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin, HCHC President, has retired from Hellenic College, where he founded the Human Development program nearly forty years ago. The school’s longest-tenured professor plans to continue his academic research career, including a new publication this fall. Dr. Chirban was given the high honor of unanimously being elected Professor Emeritus by the HCHC Board of Trustees at their Spring 2016 meeting. We thank Almighty God for the tremendous contributions of Dr. Chirban to our faith, school, and society, and we pray that He will continue to bless his work.



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS OFFER ADVICE TO HCHC GRADUATES | Read more at www.hchc.edu/degree-recipient

Commencement weekend included warm celebrations for three men receiving honorary degrees for their extraordinary accomplishments and dedication to their Hellenic heritage and the Orthodox Church. The recipients offered their sincere gratitude for the honor while bestowing some advice on the 2016 graduates.



Metropolitan Sotirios (Trambas) of Pisidia

His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Holy Cross for his dedication to God, the Orthodox Church, and his missionary work in Korea and throughout Asia for more than forty years. Unable to attend the ceremonies, His Eminence videotaped a message from his monastery in Korea thanking HCHC for this wonderful honor and praising the school for all it has accomplished. In congratulating the graduates, he told them, “I assure you that you will also see small and great miracles in your ministries as long as you carry out your work for the glory of the Holy Trinity and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

His Eminence was the first Metropolitan of the Ecumenical Patriarchate’s Orthodox Metropolis of Korea, serving from 2004 to 2008. His Diakonia in Christ has established new churches, monasteries, mission centers, translations of ecclesiastical texts, and programs for people of all ages.

Andreas G. Tzakis, MD, PhD

In accepting his honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Hellenic College Dr. Tzakis told the graduates, “I want you to remember that this joyful day, that graduation, is not your destination. It is the bridge to fulfill your life’s goal—serving the community.”

A native of Greece, Dr. Tzakis is a world-renowned transplant surgeon best known for developing surgical techniques that make life-saving transplants possible, even for patients with the most complicated medical conditions. He is the founding director of the Miami Transplant Institute and recently built a transplant program at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida. He is Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Liver and Gastro-Intestinal Surgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Tzakis trains transplant surgeons around the world and has developed transplant programs in Greece, Brazil, and Israel.



George M. Marcus

Successful real estate entrepreneur and deeply committed philanthropist George M. Marcus also received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Hellenic College. He is the founder and chairman of Marcus & Millichap and chairman of Essex Property Trust. He is also a co-owner of two Greek restaurants in the San Francisco Bay area and the founding chairman of the National Hellenic Society.

Mr. Marcus told the graduates he credits his success to being bold and innovative when he first started out in business. “Open up your mind,” he said. “It’s all right in front of your nose every single day.”

HCHC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRANSITION

The HCHC Alumni Association elected Rev. Demetrios Costarakis (Hellenic '00, Holy Cross '03) as its new president at its annual meeting on campus during Commencement weekend. Rev. Costarakis succeeds Rev. Theodore Petrides (Holy Cross '90), whose Christ-loving leadership guided the organization for many years.



“The Alumni Association is comprised of clergy and laity from the GOA and multiple Orthodox jurisdictions,” related Rev. Petrides. “I am thankful for our association’s ability to improve communications among them, and increase our Parish Partner program that greatly supports our school through prayer and action.”

financial assistance, to advance the interests of HCHC, and “do all things in Him who strengthens” (Phil 4:13).

“HCHC alumni are the chief ambassadors of our schools,” said Rev. Costarakis. “No other school has its alumni so strategically situated in the lives of its constituents to effect a more profound and lasting impact upon their alma mater than HCHC graduates. I am humbled to follow Rev. Petrides, and hope to continue to effectively cultivate and realize the potential of our association into the future.”

HCHC offers its sincerest gratitude to Rev. Petrides for his time, talent, and love, and asks God’s continued blessings upon him and his family, as well as Rev. Costarakis.

The HCHC Alumni Association, founded in 1951, connects and reconnects alumni to one another and to HCHC in a mutually beneficial manner. Its purpose is to promote closer fellowship among its members, to preserve and strengthen alumni with their alma mater, to promote information about the institution, to actively recruit prospective candidates, to provide student

For more information on joining the HCHC Alumni Association, to update your contact information, or to become a Parish Partner, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at **(617) 850-1217** or email **alumni@hchc.edu**.

HCHC EXPANDS INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT TEAM

HCHC relies on the generosity of donors to fulfill its mission to stimulate, develop, and sustain ordained and lay vocations for service to the Orthodox Church and society. To facilitate this commission, HCHC has expanded its Office of Institutional Advancement to include Kosta E. Alexis and Frances E. Levas.

Kosta E. Alexis is the new VP of Institutional Advancement. He joins HCHC after six years at Tufts University, where he served as the Director of Development for Tufts’ School of Arts and Sciences. Kosta studied at James Madison University, and completed graduate coursework at Harvard University. He and his family are members of St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cambridge. Kosta may be contacted at **(617) 850-1303** and **kalexis@hchc.edu**.

Frances E. Levas is the new Director of Development. She holds a BA in Business Management from Simmons College, and is fluent in Greek. Frances is the President of the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos Society and a member of the National Philoptochos Society. She is a parishioner of Taxiarchae/ Archangels Greek Orthodox Church in Watertown. Frances may be contacted at **(617) 850-1268** and **flevas@hchc.edu**.

We welcome Kosta and Frances, and ask Almighty God to bless their important work for the successful operations and expansion of our schools.



AN ACTIVE SUMMER ON THE HOLY HILL

The summer is a busy time here at HCHC, with a variety of programs for groups of students who bring a renewed love for Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and enthusiasm for the diverse learning opportunities and Orthodox Christian fellowship both to our campus and throughout the world, including Greece.

St. Helen's Pilgrimage

The Pilgrimage is a mandatory study-abroad program for all Holy Cross Master of Divinity students, both male and female. This year's group, under the supervision of Dr. Timothy Patitsas, embarked right after Commencement on an itinerary that began with brief visits to sites of importance to Orthodox Christians in England and Italy before three weeks of Modern Greek language study in Thessaloniki. Some of the students will spend an additional month in Greece in an optional program of intensive language study.

CrossRoad Summer Institute

This tremendously popular program run by the Office of Vocation and Ministry is a ten-day academic summer institute that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make major life decisions in the context of their Orthodox faith while also enjoying fun excursions in and around Boston. This year's sessions are June 18-28 and July 5-15.

Diaconate Program

The nine-day Diaconate Program brings a very different group to campus: individuals from all walks of life, many with active secular careers, who want to serve their parishes as permanent deacons. This educational and formational initiative of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) and Holy Cross is primarily for those in the GOA but also accepts participants from other jurisdictions.

Asia Minor Travel Seminar

A small, select group of HCHC students will be leaving the US for the month-long Asia Minor Travel Seminar which goes from July 17-August 13. The focus this year will be on Greek Orthodox Christians of Cappadocia.

The Kallinikeion Institute

Back on campus, The Kallinikeion Institute's 2016 session runs July 25-August 13. This program, open to HCHC and outside students, offers two intensive Modern Greek courses. Participants combine their language studies with museum visits, concerts of Greek music, poetry readings, and other aspects of Greek cultural life.

Summer Courses

Please join us next year for our three-week summer courses which will begin the third week in June, 2017. Taught by seasoned faculty, these courses cover topics ranging from Byzantine chant to Hebrew to philosophy.

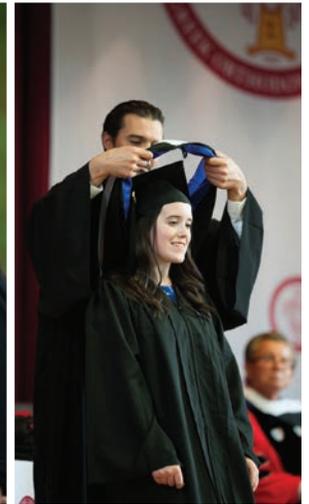
For more information about our summer programs, please visit www.hchc.edu.

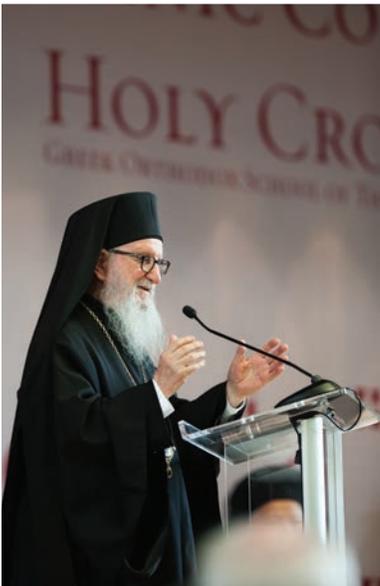




HCHC 74th COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!





HCHC PROMINENT AT HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL

Pentecost 2016 marked a significant milestone in the history of the Orthodox Christian Church, and HCHC President Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos and more than 20 students actively participated.

Rev. Fr. President Christopher T. Metropulos joined a team of professionals that offered live commentary on the Divine Liturgies celebrated at the beginning and close of the long-anticipated Holy and Great Council of the Holy Orthodox Christian Church in Crete. It was the first such meeting in 1,200 years.

Two broadcasts were offered. The first on the Feast of Holy Pentecost on June 19, and the second on the Feast Day of All-Saints on June 26. The commentary was available on several websites, and directly translated into several languages.

“It was an honor to journey through one of the most sacred services in Orthodox Christianity celebrated by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW as the first amongst equals, along with the heads of the Autocephalous Churches throughout the world,” said Rev. Fr. Metropulos. “It was an experience, a flashback in time for Orthodox Christians, a glimpse of a glorious future, as well as a window for those who are seeking guidance and true direction for their lives to experience the breath of the Holy Spirit.”

This is the third time Rev. Fr. President has been asked to provide live commentary in English for historic occasions over the past two years. In May 2014, he offered the live English commentary from Rome for the worldwide televised broadcast of the historic meeting of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch BARTHOLOMEW in Jerusalem. A few months later, he was invited to return to Rome to provide the English commentary for Pope Francis’ visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople (Istanbul) in celebration of the Feast Day of St. Andrew.



The Holy and Great Council
Pentecost 2016
“He called all to unity”

Joining Rev. Fr. President at the Holy and Great Council were Hellenic College Holy Cross students, whose names are listed below. These students worked tirelessly under the auspice of the Greek Orthodox Church in America to assure the event’s successful operations and broadcast.

The Holy and Great Council, an event expressing the witness of the Orthodox Church to the Gospel of Christ, has been in the planning stages for several decades and marked the first time the heads and representative bishops of Autocephalous Orthodox Churches have come together for such a Council in over 1,000 years. The historic event took place June 19-26, 2016.

For updated information on the events and actions of the Holy and Great Council, please visit www.orthodoxcouncil.org, www.goarch.org, www.myocn.net, and www.hchc.edu.

The following HCHC students were chosen for the high honor of assisting with the Holy and Great Council this month:

Alexander Avgeris
Bryce Buffenbarger
Rev. Dn. Lucas Christensen
Stavronikitas Damianakis
Alexandra Drechsler
Dean Franck
Matthew Jouthas
Andrew Kalina

Diana Khalil
John Kokenis
Theodore Lyketsos
Angelo Maginas
Nicholas Mataragas
Rev. Dn. Scott Patrick O’Rourke
Menios Papadimitriou
Antonios Papathanasiou

Elias Pappas
Jordan Parro
Michael Sergakis
John Strzelecki
Dean Tiggas
John Zecy



Congratulations to our 2016 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology graduates, who received their crosses during Stavrophoria Vespers on Friday, May 20. Members of the class are pictured here with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, and Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, HCHC President.

MDiv | Rev. Dn. Lucas Christensen, Borislav Dinkov, Thomas Felactu, Cassandra Garibaldi, Aaron Gilbert, William Kallas, Christopher Kolentsas, Ioannis Michaelidis, Rev. Dn. Scott Patrick O'Rourke, Alexander Orphanos, Andrew Otto, Demetrios Panteloukas, Fotis Papis, Rev. Dn. Christopher Retelas, Michael Saur, Michael Sergakis, Zachary Thornbury, Dean Tiggas, Constantine Trumpower, and Demetrios Wilson

MTS | Stavroula Alexaki, Christopher Helali, Andrew Kalina, Irene Koulianos, Rev. Dn. Peter Leneweaver, Jason Oneida, Jennifer Rice, Nicholas Roumas, Rev. Kyriakos Saravelas, and Rev. Gregory Trakas

ThM | Dragoljub Garic, Sarah Jenks, and Nicholas Mamey

FEAST OF HOLY ASCENSION

*O Christ our God, You ascended in
Glory and gladdened Your disciples
by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your
blessing assured them that You are the
Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.*

- Apolytikion of the Feast of Holy Ascension



THE ICON OF PENTECOST

The Pentecostarion, which comprises the fifty days between Pascha and Pentecost, is the most beautiful period in the life of the Church. Just as Great Lent and Holy Week prepared us for the Resurrection, so too the Pentecostarion prepares us to receive the Holy Spirit.



Pentecost by Theophanes the Cretan, 1546. Tempera on board, 57x39 cm. Monastery of Stavronikita, Mt. Athos.

body. The disciples had previously been in communion with Christ, but now, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they become members of His body and temples of the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor 12:27; 1 Cor 6:19).

Consistent with the witness of Scripture (Acts 1:14), many of the earliest surviving images of Pentecost include the Mother of God. In these images, she appears in the midst of the twelve disciples, all of whom are standing on level ground with tongues of fire resting above their heads. After the defeat of Iconoclasm in 843, a new image was developed in which the disciples—without the Mother of God—are shown seated on a semi-circular bench (known as a *synthronon*), found in the apse of the sanctuary and reserved for the higher clergy. If the earlier iconography was a simple illustration of the biblical event, the new image was a symbolic depiction of the Church embodied in its hierarchy gathered together in a council. The image shown here (above), which is based on a much older Byzantine prototype, represents the classic form that the iconography of Pentecost was given after the end of Iconoclasm.

Here we see twelve figures seated in two groups of six, arranged in strict hierarchical order, beginning with the two chiefs of the Apostles: Peter, on our left, and Paul, on our right. Those next to them holding Gospel books are the Evangelists Matthew and Luke (to the left), and John and Mark (to the right). Paul, Luke, and Mark were not among the original twelve disciples (cf. Acts 1:13), but the iconographer has placed them here in keeping with the icon's aim, which is not to depict a historical event, but to present us with a symbolic image of the Church, and of the Spirit's abiding presence in the Church through the Apostles and their canonically ordained successors.

At the feast of the Ascension we sang: "The Lord ascended into the heavens so that He might send forth the Holy Spirit into the world." The divine economy of salvation, which began with the Annunciation, now reaches its conclusion. At His conception, the Word of God clothed Himself in our human nature, and now, at Pentecost, human beings are "clothed with the Spirit" (cf. Luke 24:29), who makes them members of Christ's body, for "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5), and "all who have been baptized into Christ, have been clothed with Christ" (Gal 3:27). In this way, the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost constitutes the birth of the Church, which is Christ's

At the center of the *synthronon*, between Peter and Paul, a space has been reserved, framed by an open door or window rising up behind it. This space is for Christ the High Priest (Hebr 4:14), who has ascended into the heavens but who continues to be invisibly present as the head of the Church.

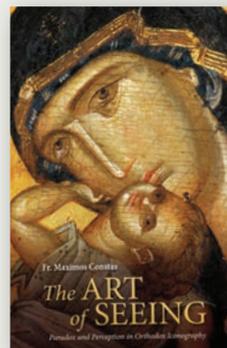
From a dome-like hemisphere descend twelve tongues of fire in gently curving trajectories. These can be understood as descending toward the heads of the Apostles (which in this icon, unusually, lack halos), or perhaps as resting there (in place of halos) and pointing toward their divine source. St John Chrysostom associates these fiery "tongues" with the Word of God, because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, the incarnate Word. The work of the Spirit is not different from the work of Christ, but continues His work and actualizes His presence, just as warm breath (*pneuma*) is the condition for the possibility of speech (*logos*). The form of the tongue, Chrysostom says, also indicates that the Apostles are called to teach, and "the teacher of truth needs a tongue of fire filled with grace."

Standing in the space that opens up before the apostolic throne is an old man dressed in royal clothing, often identified by an inscription as a personification of "the World." He appears projected against (or emerging from) a dark void. His age indicates that the world is subject to corruption, that it has "grown old like a garment" (Hebr 1:11), and is "sitting in the shadow and darkness of death" (Luke 1:79). Yet he holds a cloth containing twelve scrolls symbolizing the universal preaching of the Apostles, some of whom appear to be speaking to him and blessing him. Neither the Church nor the world can live without the Holy Spirit. We who are members of the Church need the Church's unceasing invocation of the Holy Spirit, for wherever the Holy Spirit is, there is the Church, and wherever the Church is, there is the Holy Spirit.

V. Rev. Archim. Maximos Conostas

Senior Research Scholar

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology



V. Rev. Archim. Maximos Conostas is a Senior Research Scholar at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He is an internationally recognized scholar and theologian whose most recent publications include an edition and translation of St. Maximos the Confessor, *The Ambigua*, and a book on icons, *The Art of Seeing: Paradox and Perception in Orthodox Iconography*, both available at Holy Cross Bookstore.

HOLY CROSS BOOKSTORE



Holy Cross Bookstore has been entirely renewed with selections of icons, liturgical items, prayer ropes, books, and more exclusive to North America directly from Greece. These fine quality items represent the first stages of a vast expansion of HC Bookstore that will include candles, clerical shirts, vestments, narthex furniture and more. An on-campus move and a more robust website are anticipated to accommodate increased growth until a new student center is constructed.

Gift cards, rewards points, and easy payment options are now possible through the implementation of a state-of-the-art, cloud-based point-of-sales system, utilizing modern technology. To purchase products and learn more, please visit holycrossbookstore.com.

HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX PRESS

Hellenic College Holy Cross offers its sincerest thanks and gratitude to Dr. Anton Vrame, longtime Director of Holy Cross Orthodox Press, who left his position on June 1. Dr. Vrame's contributions have brought increased recognition to our school and our Church. We ask Almighty God to continue to bless him and all of his work!

Building on the shoulders of giants, Holy Cross Orthodox Press, along with *The Greek Orthodox Theological Review*, is moving

forward to position itself as the leader in Orthodox Christian publications and writings in the Western Hemisphere and world. A new director and renewed editorial board will soon lead the implementation of a strategic plan to actively solicit the world's most prominent scholars and theologians to publish new and topical works that promote greater understanding and thoughtful contemporary dialogue.

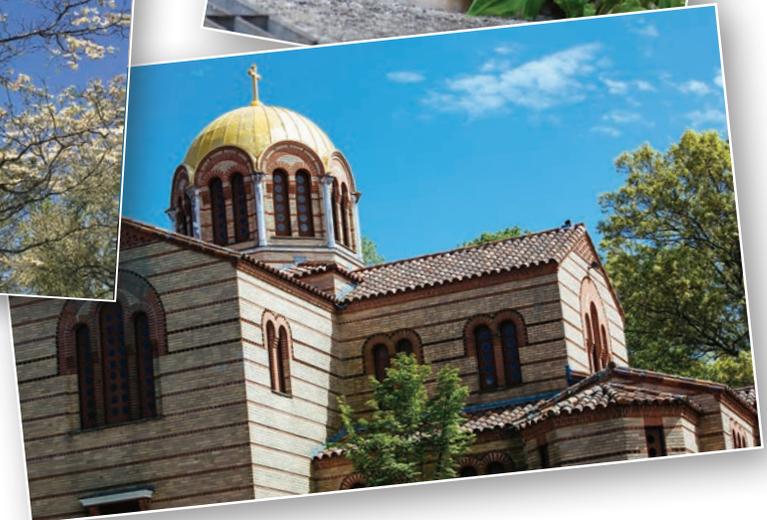
A NEW WEBSITE

HCHC is initiating the first stages of an expansive, completely redesigned website that will showcase modern technologies and ease of information, further fulfilling the mission of our institution and Church to bring the Gospel to all people. The new website is made possible through the generosity of an individual donation, and is expected to launch in early 2017. We thank God for this generous gift, and look forward to sharing more of this work and our future online ministries.



“Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.”

- Psalm 150:6



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