Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach the advent of spring and the anticipation of renewed light and life, so too we turn our minds and hearts toward prayer, fasting, and forgiveness, as we begin Great and Holy Lent.

Great Lent is not only a time of increased services and spiritual reflection for our students and HCHC community, but an opportunity for attentiveness to our work and study in fulfillment of our mission.

We welcome with joy and anticipation His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios of America, who plans to visit with us several times this coming month.

Likewise, we prepare diligently for our first annual Board of Trustees retreat.

Lastly, we extend our hearts and arms to our alumni in what will become the first semi-annual video conference session, where I will offer updates on our school and answer as many questions as possible.

I myself will continue this month to travel to Presidential Engagement Gatherings throughout the country, greeting as many of you as possible in person and sharing with you our bright future.

I invite everyone to visit our campus during Great Lent to take advantage of the beautiful services, which are so diligently prepared and served by our community. Plan to spend a morning or an afternoon touring our campus and visiting Holy Cross Bookstore, which offers the largest selection of Orthodox books and liturgical supplies in North America.

We love to see you and hear from you, and pray for you always.

May God grant us all His Blessing for a beneficial season of repentance leading toward salvation.

In Christ,

Rev. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin
President
Reaching Out to the World During Spring Break

For many college students, Spring Break is a time to relax, rest, be renewed, and even have some fun. For numerous Hellenic College Holy Cross students, though, it’s a time for putting their faith into action. Thirty-two HCHC students will be traveling around the world on a variety of short-term mission trips during Spring Break, and 14 HCHC alumni will be leading these trips! This is by far the greatest number of HCHC students and alumni/ae ever to participate in such Spring Break mission trips.

Twenty-one students will travel with Project Mexico to build a home for a needy family in Tijuana, while also spending time at the St. Innocent Orphanage. HCHC’s Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity worked in conjunction with three HCHC graduates, Presvytera Merilynn Andruchow and Zach and Sophia Swanson, among others at Project Mexico, to organize this group. Four students will be traveling with the OCMC into Kenya’s bush country to share their faith with Turkana tribespeople who have never heard of Jesus Christ. They will be led by OCMC Executive Director and Holy Cross alumnus Fr. Martin Ritsi. And then there are seven HCHC students, among dozens of other Orthodox college students participating in OCF’s Real Break trips to Guatemala, Constantinople, Thessaloniki, Jerusalem, and New Orleans. These groups will be led by ten HCHC graduates and will be offering outreach and mission. They will be working at an orphanage in Guatemala, building a home with IOCC in New Orleans, encouraging persecuted Christians in Palestine and Israel, and supporting the Patriarchate in Constantinople.

2015 participants in Real Break Thessaloniki with host priest Fr. Spyridon Kalaitzoglou at the “Vima” of St. Paul (where he was said to have preached) in Volos, Greece.

In Thessaloniki, a group led by OVM Assistant Director Dn. Michael Tishel will be involved in outreach to Gypsy children, prison ministry, a catechism program for the deaf, and a free medical clinic offered by Ormylia Monastery.

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded his followers “to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:14). In a small and humble way, HCHC is participating in this great commission with its Spring Break activities. It is through these experiences, along with other cross-cultural mission programs and classes, that HCHC enhances our students’ educational experience and challenges them to cultivate a healthy, universal vision of our Orthodox Christian faith.

FDF

During President’s Day weekend, the Hellenic College Holy Cross Ambassadors represented the school at this year’s 40th annual Folk Dance Festival in Anaheim, CA. HCHC students provided general information about the school and gave testimonies describing their experiences. They also spoke with prospective students and distributed HCHC materials. A fun perk was meeting some of the cast members of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2,” including Nia Vardalos!

Admissions High School Senior Overnight Program

On February 18, the Office of Admissions hosted its first High School Senior Overnight Program. Prospective and accepted students experienced a “day in the life” of an HCHC student. They met and socialized with current students, observed classes, ate in the cafeteria, and stayed overnight in the dormitory.

Each attendee also had the opportunity to meet individually with representatives from Admissions and Financial Aid to discuss how attending HCHC could become a reality for them.
New Release: *Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Monasteries*

Holy Cross Bookstore is proud to announce the release of the highly anticipated *Atlas of American Orthodox Christian Monasteries*, edited by Alexei Krindatch. The *Atlas* contains more than 100 color photographs and 150 pages of text highlighting the nearly 80 Orthodox Christian monasteries in the United States. It also features an introduction to monasticism by Archimandrite Irenei Steenberg of ROCOR and a short history of monasticism in the United States by Monk Moses Worcester of the Serbian Orthodox St. Herman of Alaska Monastery. The book was sponsored by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America and is based on a 2014 study that the editor prepared for the Assembly.

The *Atlas* is already one of Holy Cross Bookstore’s best-selling books, with over 330 copies shipped immediately after the book arrived from the printer! Contact the Bookstore to order your copy today. **Save 15% through the end of March** by mentioning this ad over the phone or entering the discount code “15March” while checking out at holycrossbookstore.com.

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**STAFF PROFILE**

**George Stefanides | Staff Accountant**

As HCHC’s Staff Accountant, George is primarily responsible for the proper execution of the school’s accounts payable function and payroll processing. However, since his employment three years ago, he has contributed significantly to a wide variety of projects initiated by the Finance Department. George was instrumental in setting up both the Purchase Order and Purchasing modules in Jenzabar, the school’s CRM system. He is currently involved in the roll-out of the school’s intranet site to be hosted by ADP. Once completed, the site will provide all employees with required personnel forms and allow them to manage their benefits online.

George received his undergraduate degree from UMass, Boston. He also earned a Master’s Degree in Theological Studies here at Holy Cross. He is a history buff with an amazing knowledge of Orthodox Christian history. And, if we might add, a really nice, gracious fellow to have on staff.

The Finance Department is thankful for all the hard work George has performed over the years and has benefited tremendously from his contributions.
1. Archdiocesan Council member Tony Stefanis, his wife Lottie, and Leadership 100 member Marianthe Logothetis enjoy fellowship with Fr. Christopher at the Four Seasons Atlanta.

2. HCHC Ambassadors joined His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta at the celebration for the 34th anniversary of the Dedication of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, FL.

3. Students watching the game and enjoying fellowship at the HCHC Superbowl 50 party.

4. Fr. Christopher meets with the Honorable Ifigenia Kanara, Boston Consul General of the Hellenic Republic.

5. Students playing intramural basketball.