

PERSONAL ESSAY

Required for all degree candidates.

Degree Students: Please attach to this application a typewritten essay of no more than 1000 words (approximately 3-4 typewritten, double-spaced pages). In this essay, address the following questions:

- A. What has been the vocational and personal development that motivates you to apply for this particular program at this time? Include a sketch of your experience in parish life and/or ministry, and other relevant professional and volunteer experience, as well as your educational background and interests.
- B. What are your future ministerial or professional hopes and expectations, and how do you see this program helping you to achieve those goals?

Special Students: Please submit a one-paragraph statement explaining why you want to enroll in courses at Holy Cross. Please indicate if you plan to apply for a degree or certificate program at some point in the future.

MASTER OF DIVINITY ESSAY

Required for all Master of Divinity degree candidates seeking seminarian status.

Using a separate sheet of paper and a minimum of 500 words, please write an essay on **one (1) of the following topics:**

- A. Choose a saint or outstanding figure in the church's history whom you admire. Explain why you find this person intriguing. How can his/her teachings or example be appropriated in a modern American context?
- B. Read St. John Chrysostom's *On the Priesthood* (available at Holy Cross Bookstore). What does it say about a life of Christian ministry? How can it be applied in today's church?
- C. Tell us about how you envision the role of clergy and laity in the life of an Orthodox parish in America. How have your personal experiences influenced your understanding of church and ministry within the church?