



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary

SPRING 2025

CORNERSTONE

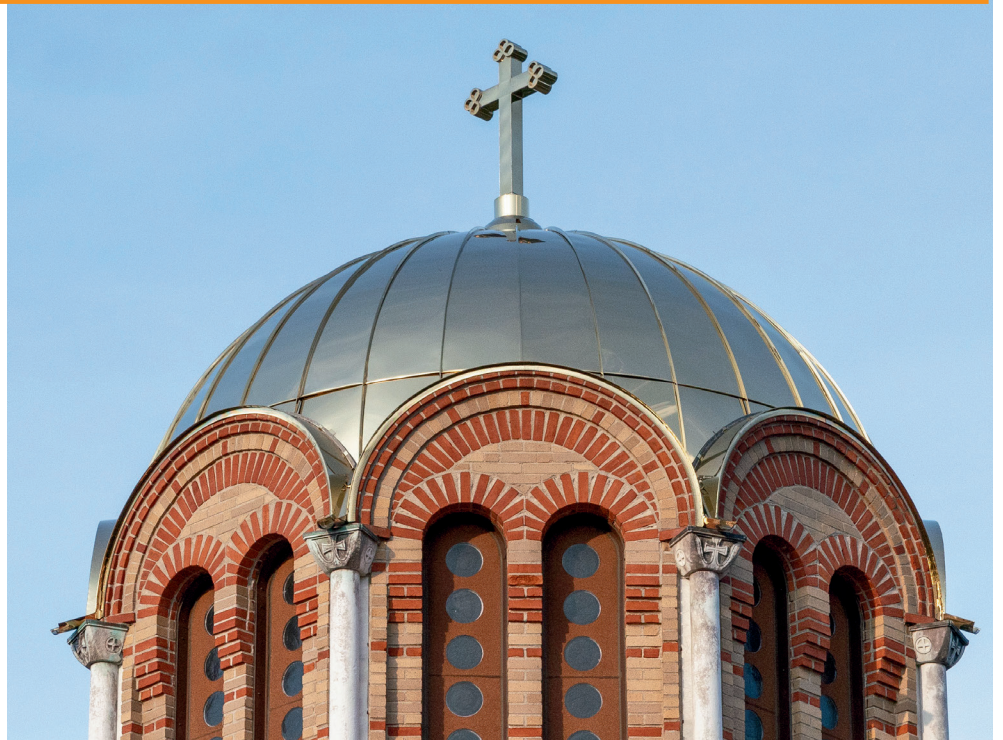
Educating the next generation of Orthodox Christian Clergy and lay leaders

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A MESSAGE FROM

President Demetri Katos

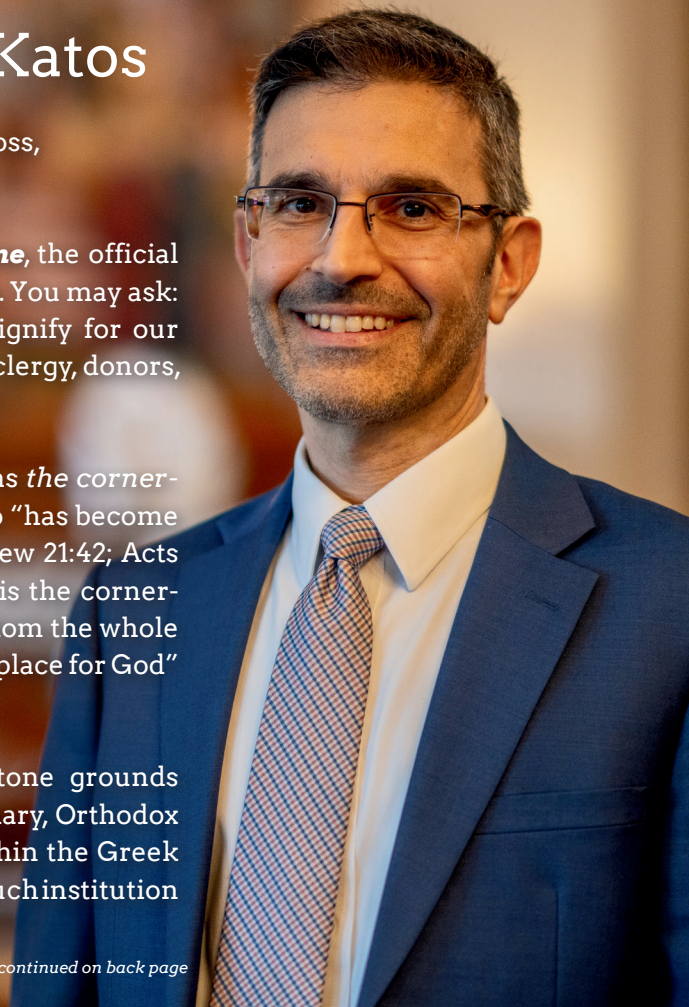
Beloved Friends of Hellenic College Holy Cross,
Christ is Risen!

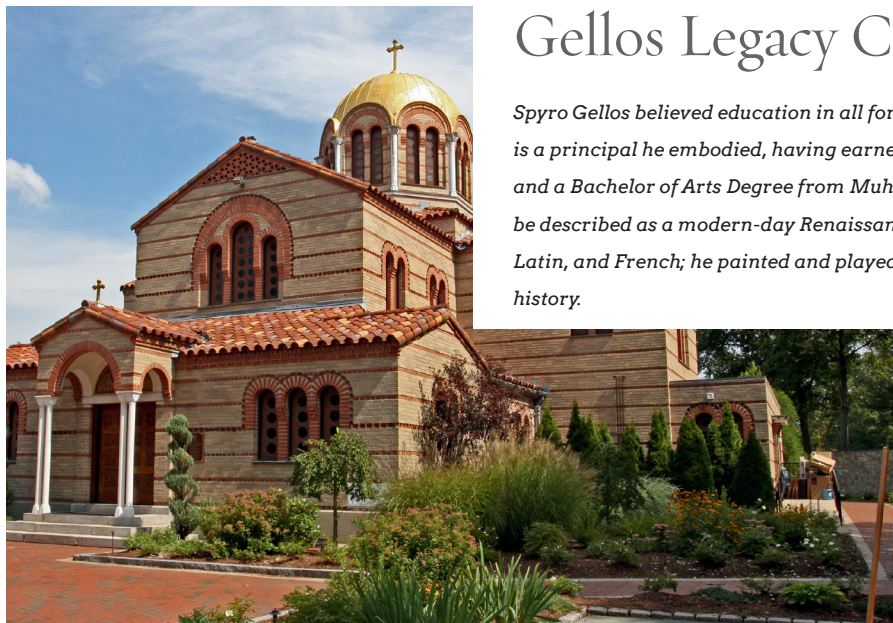
IT IS MY JOY to reintroduce **Cornerstone**, the official newsletter of Hellenic College Holy Cross. You may ask: why this name? What does **Cornerstone** signify for our school—and for you, our cherished alumni, clergy, donors, and friends?

In Holy Scripture, Jesus Christ is described as *the cornerstone*—"the stone the builders rejected" who "has become the *chief cornerstone*" (Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11). Saint Paul tells us that Christ Himself is the cornerstone upon whom the Church is built, "in whom the whole structure is joined together... into a dwelling place for God" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

This rich image of Christ as the cornerstone grounds our identity and mission. As the only seminary, Orthodox college, and graduate school of theology within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese—and in fact, the only such institution

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Gellos Legacy Celebrates Education

Spyro Gellos believed education in all forms for all ages was vital to a successful life. It is a principal he embodied, having earned a law degree from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Muhlenberg College. In fact, Spyro could rightly be described as a modern-day Renaissance man: He was fluent in English, Greek, Latin, and French; he painted and played violin, collected antiques and loved Byzantine history.

BY THE TIME he reposed in the Lord in June 2024, Spyro had decided his support education would continue long after his earthly life. Among the beneficiaries of his estate, Spyro left a generous \$4 million bequest gift to HCHC that

Enrollment Surging at HCHC

Hellenic College Holy Cross continues to experience a surge in enrollment. In Fall 2024, the number of incoming seminarians climbed to 30 (from six in 2021). Students from Hellenic College comprised one-third of this incoming class.

There has been double-digit enrollment growth for three consecutive years, averaging 22 percent growth per year during this period. Their undergraduate college student body has grown by 84 percent since the Fall 2021. Proactive outreach communications and rapid follow-ups on inquiries and applications over the past three years have sustained this steady and hard-won growth.

This year's applications are keeping pace with last year's record-breaking admissions season.

FR. JIM KATINAS - DEVELOPMENT

Scriptorium Initiative Earns \$50K Grant

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The HCHC School of Theology has received a grant of \$50,000 from the Pathways for Tomorrow Program in support of the school's Scriptorium Initiative. The grant will enable HCHC to establish a professional recording studio on campus, a foundational step toward launching the school's Continuing Education Program. Members of the Scriptorium Initiative team include Rev. Dr. Eugen Pentiu, Dr. James Skedros and Dr. Sebastian Mahfood.

"This most recent grant expresses the commitment of Holy Cross to extend its educational impact beyond the confines of the seminary," said HCHC President Dr. Deme-

trios S. Katos. "Thanks to the work of the Scriptorium team, we will be equipped to produce educational offerings to the faithful of the Archdiocese and to the clergy who serve them."

The grant comes from the Pathways for Tomorrow Coordination Program, a joint effort between the Association of Theological Schools and In Trust Center for Theological Schools. It will enable HCHC to produce master classes and high-quality digital content for clergy, lay ministers and Orthodox faithful and it aligns with the mission of Holy Cross to equip leaders with transformative resources for ministry. The proposed media center will facilitate live discussions, recorded lectures and multimedia resources that will reach more than 500 Greek Orthodox parishes across the U.S.

will support the education of students for generations to come.

"Spyro always gave generously to the education efforts within the parish, whether that was through our preschool program or by bringing in speakers," said Fr. Nicholas Pallis, Emeritus Proestamenos who served St. Nicholas GOC in Bethlehem, PA for 18 years. "He expressed a desire to

give to Hellenic College Holy Cross, so I facilitated a meeting with someone from the school. From there, Spyro's generous spirit took over.

"Because of his own life experiences, he had a lot of empathy for people who were not educated. Spyro wanted to change that and help educate as many people as possible with the gifts God entrusted to him," added Fr. Pallis.

Added Fr. Jim Katinas, HCHC Vice President for Institutional Advancement, "A gift like this from Mr. Gellos is transformational, one that will impact so many future students. I only wish that we got to know Mr. Gellos in this life. Often-times, HCHC is the beneficiary of gifts and bequests from people we never really know."

If you are interested in leaving a legacy with HCHC, contact Fr. Katinas at 617.731.3500 or by email at jkatinas@hchc.edu. You can also visit www.HCHCHPlannedGiving.org to learn more about a range of giving options.

FROM THE DESK OF

Father Jim Katinas

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

IT'S HARD TO EVEN ENVISION the Greek Orthodox Church in American without Hellenic College Holy Cross. Where would priests come from? Where would our lay leaders – pastoral assistants, youth directors, etc. – come from? Where would we send our students who want to be educated and nurtured in an Orthodox Christian environment? HCHC is the heartbeat of the Greek Orthodox Church; pumping lifeblood to the church throughout this United States – and beyond.

Going forward, we are creating opportunities for new ways for HCHC to continue directly benefitting parishes. For example, the school's online program allows students from all over the country to take classes in Bible, church history, dogmatics and so much more. Imagine the impact that will have on a parish the next time these students are called on to lead a Bible study or a ministry, to teach Sunday School or run an adult Catechism. It all happens here at HCHC.

We are building the church of tomorrow. This is where our ordained and lay leaders will come forward. They are going to be staffing our parishes, running our Metropolis and national ministries and, most important of all, they are going to be our clergy, our priests and our hierarchs.

By sharing stories of our students, staff and supporters of HCHC, our aim is to inspire you as much as we are inspired on a daily basis. And by being inspired, you'll want to continue supporting HCHC and ensure its future – and the future of our church.



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in the Western Hemisphere—HCHC is the cornerstone of Orthodox Christian life in America.

For more than eight decades, this sacred hill has quietly shaped the spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral heart of our Church. Our alumni serve as parish priests, educators, youth ministers, chaplains, bishops, theologians, marriage and family counselors, psychologists, and faithful lay leaders. In every parish and every ministry of the Archdiocese, you will find someone formed by HCHC—someone shaped by Christ and sent to serve.

Through this newsletter, we look forward to sharing the stories that flow from this mission: stories of transformation, of callings answered, of leadership formed in faith and love. You will meet students, faculty, alumni, and supporters who are building up the Church in their

own corners of the world—and who remain rooted in the cornerstone we all share.

To our clergy, presbyteres, Philoptochos sisters, Archons, alumni, parishioners, and every faithful steward of our Church: thank you. You are co-builders of this cornerstone. May our shared work in Christ continue to bear fruit.

With gratitude and love in the Risen Lord,

Demetri Katos, PhD
President
Hellenic College Holy Cross

HONORARY DEGREES

HCHC Honors Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Helen A. Carlos with Honorary Doctorates

Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology awarded honorary degrees to two esteemed leaders whose contributions have shaped both the life of the Church and the mission of the school.

At the 2025 Commencement Ceremony held at the Maliotis Cultural Center, Protopresbyter Fr. Alexander Karloutsos received an honorary Doctor of Theology from Holy Cross, while Helen A. Carlos, a longtime Trustee and philanthropic leader, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities from Hellenic College. These recognitions were approved by the Board of Trustees during its March 2025 meeting presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros in acknowledgment of each honoree's exceptional service.

Fr. Alexander Karloutsos has served the Church and the United States for over five decades in key leadership roles, including as Vicar General of the Archdiocese, Spiritual Advisor to the Archons, and liaison to public institutions. He played a central role

in the creation of the St. Nicholas National Shrine, the Dormition Church in the Hampsons, and the Camp David Interfaith Chapel. Fr. Karloutsos was also instrumental in the restoration of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. His work has earned international recognition, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mrs. Helen A. Carlos has provided transformative leadership to HCHC as a distinguished trustee, supporting critical academic and spiritual initiatives. She is the founder of the St. Helen's Pilgrimage for seminarians and a strong supporter of the CrossRoad Summer Institute and Office of Vocation & Ministry. Mrs. Carlos' service also includes leadership roles within Leadership 100, the Archdiocesan Council, and support for the Diakonia Retreat Center and St. Photios Na-

tional Shrine. She credits her late parents, Andrew and Eula Carlos, and her husband, Ron Hilliard, for their lasting influence and support.

These honorary degrees reflect HCHC's gratitude for two individuals whose faith, leadership, and generosity have strengthened the Church and inspired future generations.

