

# TOGETHER AGAIN

HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS ALUMNI MAGAZINE  
SPRING 2017

## INSIDE:

### 2016 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

DR. KYRIAKI KARIDOYANES FITZGERALD

---

### OVERCOMING CRISIS THROUGH CHRIST

BY REV. FR. DEMETRIOS KAZAKIS

---

### THE HISTORY OF POMFRET

A LOOK AT THE LEGACY

---



**ORTHODOXY  
IN THE  
DIGITAL AGE**

A LETTER FROM REV. FR. COSTARAKIS



Dear Alumni of HCHC,

What a joy it has been these past few months to serve with the officers and members of our Hellenic College Holy Cross Alumni Board! I am also so pleased to greet you all in this publication of *Together Again*, which allows us to share our witness in the Faith and reminds us how we can always come back home again to our beloved school!

I want to say THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to each and every one of you, my fellow alumni, for being a graduate of this beautiful school! Our Lord's Church becomes stronger each year as students complete their studies in the undergraduate and graduate programs, and are ready to get involved, and hopefully to serve with the same kind of attitude our Lord had when He knelt to wash the feet of His disciples.

As you know, servant ministry is needed desperately in any parish today that is going to have a positive impact on the community God has established. I THANK YOU, each and every one of you, for being a part of servant ministry, whether you are a parish priest, assistant priest, pastoral assistant, youth director, religious ed. teacher, choir director, chanter, coach, custodian—whether full-time, part-time, or

not having a paid position but giving your stewardship to our Lord and His Church.

THANK YOU!

I would like you to consider the possibility of sharing your personal testimony with our HCHC alumni family if you are open to doing so. Often, when people hear someone else reflect on their blessings and learn how they are helping to bring all closer to Christ, this, in fact, can become a source of increasing faith to us all and ignite a flame that can never be blown out.

In this publication you will see information on those who have graduated, their assignments, marriages, ordinations, baptisms, and other celebrations that have taken place in their households. We ask that you let us know when a loved one has fallen asleep and how we can reach out to his/her family and to offer our love and prayers as an alumni family.

Finally, I ask that we all join in prayer on a daily basis by saying this petition, which is prayed daily in the Holy Cross Chapel: "For this sacred school, the president, deans, faculty, staff, students, trustees, benefactors, and alumni, let us pray to the Lord."

Lord, have mercy!

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross and followed by stylized initials and a long horizontal flourish.

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Costarakis

# CONTENTS

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>FROM THE PRESIDENT</b> .....   | 4     |
| <b>FROM KOSTA E. ALEXIS</b> .....   | 5     |
| <b>REUNION 2016</b> .....   | 6-7   |
| <b>ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: DR. KYRIAKI KARIDOYANES FITZGERALD</b> .....             | 8-9   |
| <b>OVERCOMING CRISIS THROUGH CHRIST</b> BY REV. FR. DEMETRIOS KAZAKIS .....     | 10-11 |
| <b>RETURNING TO THE HOLY HILL: HOMECOMING 2016</b> .....                        | 12    |
| <b>HISTORY OF POMFRET</b> .....   | 13    |
| <b>HONOR SEPTEMBER 14</b> .....   | 14    |
| COVER STORY: <b>ORTHODOXY IN THE DIGITAL AGE</b> .....                          | 15-18 |
| <b>MEASURING SUCCESS: ANTHONY JONAS AND THE ITALIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN</b> ..... | 19    |
| <b>2017 ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CAMP AND YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE</b> .....          | 20    |
| <b>GIVING STRENGTH</b> ELIZABETH HAWKINS .....                                  | 21    |
| <b>AUTHENTICITY AND FAITH</b> REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER FLESORAS .....               | 22    |
| <b>STAFF SPOTLIGHT: HOWARD THOMAS, HCHC PLANT MANAGER</b> .....                 | 23    |
| <b>READY TO SERVE</b> BY BRIAN STEFANOVIC .....                                 | 24    |
| <b>LISTENING TO INTUITION</b> BY ANNA TEODOSIADIS .....                         | 25    |
| <b>SOCRATES HAD IT RIGHT: KNOW THYSELF</b> PETER KOULOURIS .....                | 26    |
| <b>CONVOCATION 2016</b> BY DR. DEMETRIOS S. KATOS .....                         | 27    |
| <b>WHY WE GIVE: ALUMNI IN THEIR OWN WORDS</b> .....                             | 28    |
| <b>WHY WE ATTEND: STUDENTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS</b> .....                         | 29    |
| <b>FACULTY PUBLICATIONS:</b> REV. DR. EUGEN PENTIUC .....                       | 30    |
| <b>CLASS NOTES</b> .....  | 32-34 |

---

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

PEGGY GIOVANE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MELANIE PAPPAS, CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
TANYA CONTOS, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR  
ZACHARY NICHOLAS, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



There are over 7.4 billion people on earth today and, from what we can tell, over 3 billion of them interact online and with social media daily.

When I first came to Hellenic College Holy Cross over four decades ago, I had a Smith-Corona self-correcting electric typewriter to compose letters and write papers. Professors used mimeograph machines to present us with tests and there was no such thing as a personal computer, tablet, or smartphone. Needless to say, it was a very different world.

This ever-changing world is the one which we are preparing our students to face and interact with over the next five, ten, and twenty years. It is a mammoth task, but not one we, as Orthodox Christians, can shy away from to remain a relevant faith in America and around the world.

My opinion is that we should use every method available to share the message of the Gospel, especially digital media. We won't alter our theology – rather, we will look to grow and strengthen the way in which we deliver the faith to the faithful.

Our future Orthodox clergy and lay graduates will enter a world that is replete with messages of theology from all perspectives and faiths. Families and parishes are no longer homogeneous communities. Rather, they represent the mosaic we call contemporary culture. So what are we to do?

Adapt and embrace this digital world, so that Orthodoxy, the one ancient true faith of Christianity, continues to bring the Word of God to all people.

As you will read in the following pages, many members of our Orthodox community have already embraced new and exciting ways to spread our faith digitally. We are blessed that so many of these pioneers are HCHC alumni and look forward to sharing their continued great work.

Here at HCHC, we are almost through a year of reflection to study our academic programs in preparation for new online continuing education and general education offerings. This task is critical for the continued educational, intellectual, and spiritual formation of our Archdiocese. We have enlisted the input of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, the hierarchs and priests throughout North America, along with lay members of our communities to offer insight and guidance.

Once implemented, the reach of Hellenic College Holy Cross will truly be global, so that all who wish to study, learn, and grow their faith will be able to do so through whatever medium works best for them.

May Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of His Holy, Precious, Life-Giving Cross, keep, preserve, and bless you for your continued interest in and support of our sacred institution.

*Fr. Christopher*

Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, DMin  
"It's all about the students!"

## FROM KOSTA E. ALEXIS



Dear Alumni,

We are so happy to bring you the latest edition of *Together Again*, the magazine for Hellenic College Holy Cross alumni.

With social media consuming so much of what we do today, our thought was to dedicate a portion of this issue to how our alumni are using this medium for good. When done right, social media can be more than just sharing pictures and updates – it can connect us in ways we never thought possible, allowing us to preach, teach, and engage with fellow Orthodox Christians. As you take what you have learned on the Holy Hill and go out to grow our faith, we are inspired to see how so many of you are using social media to preach our message of faith, hope, and love.

As the next 80 years of history of our beloved school unfold, it will be exciting to see how technology and media adapt and change. At the same time, our faith will keep us focused on the truly important things in this world. No matter what happens, Hellenic College Holy Cross will be here to educate, mentor, and train the next generation of Orthodox leaders.

Hellenic College Holy Cross is blessed to be an incredible, intimate community. Seeing alumni come back to teach, to guide, or just to talk with current students emphasizes the exceptionality of what has flourished here for the past 80 years.

Of course, we still want to see pictures and updates of what's going on in your life, so thank you for sharing those with us! And if you find yourself in Boston, please come back to visit, as you are always welcome on YOUR campus.

Kali Sarakosti! Kalo Pascha! Kali Anastasi!

Kosta E. Alexis  
Vice President, Institutional Advancement

## TOGETHER AGAIN

is published by  
Hellenic College Holy Cross  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
50 Goddard Avenue  
Brookline, MA 02445

### Executive Board Members 2016-2018

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Costarakis, President  
Rev. Fr. George Livanos, Vice President  
Rev. Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres, Vice President  
Alyssa Kyritsis, Secretary  
Nicholas Paleologos, Treasurer

### Alumni Representatives

#### Archdiocesan District:

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Kazakis

#### Atlanta Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. Soterios Rousakis  
Catherine Varkas Avrgis  
Stella Hondros

#### Boston Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. Vincent Minucci

#### Chicago Metropolis:

Julie Tziolas  
Alex Magdalinos

#### Denver Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. Vasileios Flegas

#### Detroit Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. Timothy Cook  
Eva Konstantakos

#### New Jersey Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. John Katsoulis  
Dr. Tom Papademetriou

#### Pittsburgh Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. Michael Gavrilos  
George Athanasiou

#### San Francisco Metropolis:

Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriakou

Letters to the Editor, submissions, comments,  
and suggestions are welcome and may be sent to  
[pgiovane@hchc.edu](mailto:pgiovane@hchc.edu).



### FOLLOW US



TOGETHER AGAIN

Class of 1966



Class of 1991



Class of 2006



# REUNION 2016

---

Holy Cross alumni from the classes of 1966, 1991, and 2006 returned to HCHC for Reunion in mid-May along with alums from the Hellenic College classes of 1991 and 2006. They enjoyed reconnecting not only with each other but also with the campus they once called home, never more beautiful than in late spring, when the ancient trees on the great lawn bloom and Jamaica Pond sparkles below.

Official reunion activities included the Alumni Association board meeting, a general assembly, a festive community barbecue (that invited many complimentary comparisons by alums to the food they remembered from their student days), Chapel services, and the President's Alumni Dinner [see the related article on Alumna of the Year Dr. Kyriaki FitzGerald (BA 1977, MDiv 1980)]. The dinner followed Great Vespers served by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, who also addressed the alumni after dinner and offered the closing prayer.



*His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Rev. Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, and the reunion classes of 1966, 1991, and 2006 proudly wearing their crosses.*

# ALUMNA OF THE YEAR: DR. KYRIAKI KARIDOYANES FITZGERALD

BA 1977, MDiv 1980



Kyriaki Karidoyanes FitzGerald, MDiv, PhD, a trailblazer in Orthodoxy as the first woman to graduate from both Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, was named the 2016 Hellenic College Holy Cross Alumna of the Year. The award is given annually by the Alumni Association to a graduate of notable accomplishment who has exemplified the values of the institution in his or her life and work.

Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides, President of the HCHC Alumni Association, has said that Dr. FitzGerald was an obvious choice for this 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 theologian, a licensed psychologist, a certified pastoral counselor, and a prolific author. She is perhaps most broadly recognized and praised for founding St. Catherine’s Vision (SCV), an

international, pan-Orthodox organization of women theologians who, together with ordained and lay servant-leaders of the Church, address contemporary concerns from an Orthodox perspective. Under Dr. FitzGerald’s editorial and spiritual guidance, SCV has produced the first two volumes of a widely acclaimed series called *Encountering Women of Faith*, in which contemporary Orthodox women reflect on the influence of female saints in their own lives.

Dr. FitzGerald represents the Ecumenical Patriarchate at ecumenical and inter-faith conferences. She has served on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. On behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, she designed and facilitated two international conferences for Orthodox women in Damascus (1996) and Constantinople (1997). 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. More recently, Dr. FitzGerald served on the International Orthodox-Jewish conversations in Jerusalem, Israel.



*Despina Prassas, Associate Professor of Theology, Providence College*



*George Stavros, Danielson Institute Director, Boston University*



*His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, and His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston presenting Dr. FitzGerald with an icon of St. Catherine.*

# OVERCOMING CRISIS THROUGH CHRIST

**REV. FR. DEMETRIOS KAZAKIS** (BA 2008, MDiv 2011), WHO CURRENTLY SERVES THE PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN WEST BABYLON, NY, SHARES THE CHALLENGES THAT HE AND HIS PARISHIONERS FACED DURING AN UNEXPECTED CRISIS.

Have you ever heard the expression “Life happens”? You are managing your daily routine. You have plans for the week and month. Perhaps you are planning goals for the year? Then all of a sudden it collapses. You think to yourself, how did this happen? The answer is: life happened. There is no way to plan for life. We prepare the best way we can, but nothing truly makes us totally ready. When a crisis enters our life, what do we do? No matter how big or small, sometimes the answer can be very simple. We keep faith in Christ and get to work!

This happened to my parish and me. We faced a crisis and emergency that we did not see coming. After all, that is the definition of a crisis: a time of intense difficulty and trouble when important and difficult decisions must be made. That was my life for the last year—a crisis.

All models of crisis/disaster management speak of a timeline that one has to move through to deal with the elements of the emergency. The model I was most familiar with was:

- The Unexpected Event*
- Assessment of Damage*
- Declaration of the Problem and Response*
- Recovery Time Objective*
- Resume Critical Routine*

I will give you my crisis timeline and how it was nothing like this basic, common model, but how Christ helped me in numerous ways. My crisis began

when I was 130 miles away from my church at Camp St. Paul in Litchfield, Connecticut, on July 21, 2015. My phone rang at 9:30pm. It was my parish council vice president. He told me our church was on fire, and that I had to get back as soon as possible.

This was my *Unexpected Event*. I hung up the phone. The sensation of thousands of thoughts going through my mind was dizzying. The feeling of helplessness was numbing. I had to literally tell my legs to run. I said goodbye to Fr. Elias Villas, the

camp director, began packing my bags for the 2½-hour drive back to Long Island, and answered the phone again, as my wife and all my parishioners began to call me in utter shock.

The *Assessment of Damage* began over the phone. Based on the information I was receiving, half of the church was gone. This disaster could potentially destroy our community as a whole! How were we going to recover from this? For a moment, while I was driving, I thought that we were going to lose our church and community. His

Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and a few local priests came to support our parishioners, as they were only twenty minutes away visiting another church at the time of the fire. I spoke to the Archbishop over the phone while I was driving, and His Eminence’s presence, although a great distance away, offered me great strength.

I arrived at the church at 1:30am to meet my wife and our parishioners. There were a lot of tears, but through that, we knew we would be all right. Days later, we had our first Divine Liturgy outside our burned church and we laid out our initial *Recovery Time Objective* and Restoration Plans. My last words to our community were: “We have work to do; time to get started!” We gathered half of the restoration time in a tent outside our church, and the other





half was spent in our tiny social hall. By Pascha of 2016, with scaffolding still around us, we *Resumed Our Routine* and we were miraculously able to gather in our church to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

The word *κοινωνία* defines community in the Orthodox Church as a 'body of Christ.' We, as a Church, will never cease to be. As long as we gather in the sight of God to glorify Him, we never end. In the time of crisis, we lose buildings or material possessions, but we will never lose our faith. Our community lives as a body with Christ as the head. Christ leads us, and we follow Him! This is one of the most valuable lessons I learned throughout this crisis management process.

What was missing from this crisis model, however, was *Personal and Spiritual Support*. The element of personal support was my saving grace. While alone and driving in the dark, I spent a total of 15 minutes 'alone.' This time was spent in heartfelt prayer, asking God for strength and guidance. The other two hours were spent on the phone with my wife, my family, my classmates, and brother priests checking in on me. For that time, and the several months after, my *κοινωνία* grew to thousands of people who supported our parish and me. How do we get through a crisis when life happens? The answer is, we get through it, with God, TOGETHER! There is nothing that we cannot accomplish with God's blessings. There is no crisis we cannot overcome. Let life happen! As faithful Orthodox Christians, as parishioners, clergymen, etc., we are the Body of Christ. We are never alone. We are together!





# RETURNING TO THE HOLY HILL: HOMECOMING 2016

The HCHC Alumni Association board returned to the Holy Hill for their semi-annual meeting. During their visit, alumni joined students at the Homecoming football game and for CAB's Fall Fest. Additional programming for students and alumni included a trivia night, an alumni vs. students basketball game, and an ice cream social. A fun time was had by all!

*Students and alumni enjoyed Fall Fest on a beautiful autumn day.*



*It was close! The final score was 63-61. The students win by a bucket!*



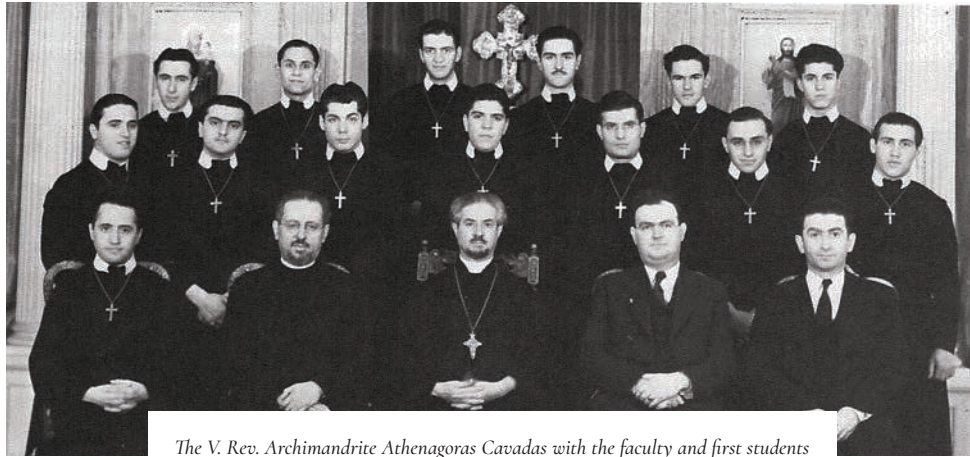
*Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriacou (MDiv 2001), Rev. Fr. Demetrios Costarakis (BA 2001, MDiv 2004) and Alex Magdalinos (BA 2001, MDiv 2004) enjoying trivia night with students.*



*Alumni-sponsored ice cream social.*



# THE POMFRET LEGACY



*The V. Rev. Archimandrite Athenagoras Cavadas with the faculty and first students*

When Holy Cross opened its doors in the fall of 1937, almost no one expected it to survive long, and no one alive today can fully appreciate the sacrifices made to ensure that it did. Other Orthodox ventures in the same location, an isolated estate in a remote Connecticut village, had failed. Yet, thanks to the vision of two extraordinary men, it would not only survive but thrive and expand into what we now know—eight decades later—as Hellenic College Holy Cross.

Greek immigrants had been arriving in large numbers since the turn of the last century. They looked to the Church to help them preserve their ethnic identity and language along with their faith, but there was no official ecclesiastical structure to oversee the informally organized parishes or assign priests. Even after the Archdiocese was created in 1922, all clergy were brought from Greece until the arrival of Archbishop (later Patriarch) Athenagoras in 1931 marked the beginning of a bright new era for Orthodoxy in America.

Soon after his enthronement, Archbishop Athenagoras became convinced that America needed a seminary to train American-born men for the priesthood. A towering figure in every way and an eloquent speaker, he visited 70 parishes to generate enthusiasm

for his plan. With that base of support, he announced at the 1936 Clergy-Laity Congress that the school would open the following year in Pomfret, Connecticut, at the estate already owned by the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Athenagoras knew that the key to the school's success would be a dynamic dean whose academic and spiritual leadership would shape the seminarians—most of them sons of uneducated immigrants—into leaders themselves. He found just such a man in another Athenagoras: Archimandrite (later Bishop and Archbishop) Athenagoras Cavadas, who brought to the role ideal academic and ecclesiastical credentials. His deep spirituality, combined with an intensely charismatic personality, made him the perfect role model for the students, who soon and forever after referred to themselves as “Cavadakia.”

The young men who made up the first class were awestruck by the sight of the Pomfret estate's elegant buildings and grounds, bought for a song during the Great Depression, but they were soon brought down to earth. The buildings had fallen into disrepair, the grounds were overgrown, and there was no money to hire help. So the students, overseen by the Dean and fed by the cook—the only employee apart from the

newly hired faculty—got to work cleaning, painting, mowing, and doing everything else that needed doing before the formal dedication on October 5, 1937. As each name was read to those in attendance, the crowd shouted, “Axios!”—something none of the students expected to hear until ordination.

One thing they did expect was to spend only two years at Pomfret and then complete their studies in Greece, but World War II changed everything. They could neither go to Greece nor import anything, such as essential textbooks, so they learned how to print their own books. Wartime rationing meant food shortages, so they grew their own produce and raised livestock too. Meanwhile, the campus was heavily damaged by the great hurricane of 1938 and two catastrophic fires, one of which gutted the main building and destroyed the 15,000-volume library. Through it all, they kept up their demanding studies and never lost sight of their goal to serve Christ.

Holy Cross left Pomfret for Brookline in 1947, after only a decade, but the legacy of those ten years can be felt to this day within the school and throughout American Orthodoxy. The Cavadakia were—and a precious few survivors still are—our greatest generation.

# HCHC DAY OF GIVING

# #HonorSeptember14

[www.hchc.edu/honorseptember14](http://www.hchc.edu/honorseptember14)

To our alumni and friends...

Thank you for helping us #HonorSeptember14. With your participation, we were able to create a strong social media presence and spread the word about our beloved school across the nation.

As you can see below, many of our alumni and friends sent in photos in their #HonorSeptember14 shirts! We welcome your ideas on how to kick off next year's campaign. Please email [pgiovane@hchc.edu](mailto:pgiovane@hchc.edu) with your suggestions.



Rev. Fr. Gregory Floor (MDiv 2005), HCHC Director of Admissions, and Stephanie Couchell (BA 2014), HCHC Enrollment Counselor.



Our future graduates thank you!



Current students Nicholas Moutopoulos and Fotini Dorrance.



Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh (MDiv 1999, MTh 2000) and Alyssa Kyritsis (MDiv 2014).



Rev. Fr. Demetrios (BA 2001, MDiv 2004) and Presv. Gloria Costarakis (BA 2005).



Rev. Fr. Gabriel Gadah (MDiv 2008), Rev. Fr. Michael Lambakis (BA 2003, MDiv 2006), Cynthia Kostas (MTS 2006), Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tagaropoulos (MTh 2007), and Rev. Fr. Christopher Xanthos (MDiv 2010).



# ORTHODOXY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

In every corner of the globe, people are connecting through digital media, and HCHC alumni are no exception. As you will learn here, some of our alums have been pioneers in disseminating the power and beauty of Orthodoxy via podcasts, streaming of services, social media, and other means of reaching the faithful online. Read and be inspired by their stories.

**THEO NICOLAKIS**  
(MDiv 1996)

Having worked in the digital ministry space for 22 years, Theo Nicolakis has an in-depth understanding of both technology and theology. He currently serves as Chief Information Officer for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and is responsible for all technology and telecommunications for the Church in America. Last summer, he also served as the CIO for the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church, which took place on Crete.



Thanks to seed funding from Leadership 100 and the blessing of Archbishop Iakovos in 1994, Theo founded the Archdiocese's Department of Internet Ministries, which was the first department of any Orthodox Church dedicated to technology ministry. "I felt the Church needed to leave its mark in the digital space, and also be a model in a paradigm for how ministry should take place online." Among the pioneering questions he has addressed through his

work is "What does it mean to express the Orthodox Christian faith in the liturgical life of the Church online?"

Theo entered his career field because of his experience and love of technology, theology, and ministry. One of the challenges he encountered early in his service to the Church was getting people to take technology seriously. "Over the years, we have set the paradigm for digital ministry in the virtual space." One example was bringing camping programs live online, beginning with the Metropolis of Boston Camp (then BDC) in 1995. "A lot of the things that people see and expect today, we pioneered and set the models for back in the 1990s and early 2000s."

Perhaps one of the most important long-term projects that Theo and his team undertook was putting daily devotional and liturgical aspects of the Church online. In 1998 they developed a computerized version of the *Typikon*, the liturgical guidebook of the Orthodox Church. This program calculated all the daily Scripture readings and liturgical services automatically. Known as the "Online Chapel," it powers parish websites, Bulletin Builder, and much more. Currently, the Archdiocese hosts almost 75% of Greek Orthodox parishes' websites.

Theo's vision has had a lasting impact. "We have empowered parishes with tools and models for digital ministry." In the late 1990s, Holy Cross Church in Belmont, California, approached Theo about broadcasting their Divine Liturgy online and became the first Orthodox parish to have weekly broadcasts. The request was made in order to meet the need of a single parishioner, but opened the door to a much broader legacy. "I think that story encapsulates the essence of what our ministry has been over the years."

**REV. FR. BARNABAS POWELL**  
(MDiv 2010)

Fr. Powell did not grow up Orthodox. When he did embrace the faith, those around him understandably had a lot of questions about Orthodoxy in general and his decision to convert. "One of the best things I did when I converted was write a booklet for my family and friends explaining what drew me to the faith and why we did what we did."

When he was ordained and became the pastor of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Church in Cumming, Georgia, Fr. Powell began putting his homilies on YouTube. "The foundation of everything was the YouTube videos," he says. "Then I started writing a daily devotional reflection that I called "Faith Encouraged" and put it on Facebook, and it really started taking off. Now it reaches about 5,000 people a week" via Ancient Faith Radio ([blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged](http://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged)).

This online outreach resulted in a number of people, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox, being drawn to visit Fr. Powell's church and learn more about Orthodoxy, so the parish began offering a course called Orthodoxy 101. "Because I came from the non-Orthodox world, I knew what people would be looking

Looking back, Theo says, "It has been a humbling journey to serve the Church in this capacity. My experience as a student at Holy Cross was extremely informative. The School of Theology gave me the academics, discernment, and spiritual formation to be a trailblazer for digital ministry."



**STEVEN CHRISTOFOROU**  
(MDiv 2013)



While Steven Christoforou was working as a Wall Street attorney, he felt something pulling him to serve the Church. Listening to his head and heart, he chose to enroll at Holy Cross. Two years after graduating, he

became the Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Office of Camping Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

One of the first things Steven did in these new roles was to think about how best to bring the Gospel to people and reveal Christ at work in their lives. While brainstorming, he and his team looked at such digital media platforms as YouTube. Their first video project was “Be the Bee”—a reference to St. Basil the Great’s metaphor comparing flies, which are drawn to what is filthy, with bees, which are drawn to what is sweet. In the first episode, Steven explained that this metaphor is an excellent guide for making everyday choices. He later elaborated on this, suggesting that, just as bees don’t even notice filthy things, we can rise above the temptations of sin and keep our attention on God and His Kingdom. Every episode ends with the reminder: “Be the bee and live Orthodoxy.”

Through the power of digital media, Steven and his team are able to reach huge numbers of people every week and receive messages from all over the world. He says, “People are using “Be the Bee” as part of their youth and young adult groups; parents are watching with their children. We get messages from people who are reconnecting with Christ and the Church after falling away, and even from those who are converting to Orthodoxy because of the series. It connects with people and helps them understand the beauty of the Church.”



Steven stresses that the series needs to be more than entertainment: its purpose is to encourage people to participate in the life of the Church and not simply get wrapped up in the online program. “The ultimate goal is to bring people back to Christ and take the first steps with them into His Kingdom.”

As for the future of media in the Church, Steven observes, “I see people being overly enamored of it. I see a lot of them putting out content without thinking about how or why it works. We need to be careful...there needs to be honest and well thought-out ministry. A video won’t be effective just because it’s a video.”

at and looking for.” The course laid the foundation for “A Journey to Fullness” ([journeytofullness.com](http://journeytofullness.com)), a series of video programs meant for use in Orthodox parishes, home study groups, youth groups, and any other context in which people gather to grow in Christ through a deeper connection to Orthodoxy.

Fr. Powell acknowledges the power of media to reach the broadest possible audience. “Media is the perfect way to start building a language to talk to people about the faith, but it’s a tool, not an end in itself.”



*“BECAUSE I CAME FROM THE NON-ORTHODOX  
WORLD, I KNEW WHAT PEOPLE WOULD BE  
LOOKING AT AND LOOKING FOR”*

**-Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell**

**ANBERIN PASHA**  
(MDIV CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2019)

Anberin Pasha is a second-year student in the Master of Divinity Program at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

A native of India, she arrived on campus after earning a master's degree in documentary film from the University of Florida and completing an internship with International Orthodox Christian Charities in Serbia. It was a gentle and enlightened monk in Serbia who taught her about Christ's love and she soon realized she had found her true faith.



Here at HCHC she has found the spiritual foundation for her creative endeavors, which include a documentary film in progress, "Love to the End," and running the Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) on-campus media ministry laboratory. Both of these efforts are exciting because they bring Orthodoxy to the greater world through current visual and digital media.

Managing the OCN media lab is especially gratifying for Anberin because of the success that the OCN has had in reaching millions of Orthodox Christians on a weekly basis. HCHC students now have the opportunity to learn in this cutting-edge laboratory the challenges and effectiveness of using various forms of media.

In terms of using media to reach Orthodox faithful and others, Anberin notes that "It is everything today. Everything is visual and the only way to grab attention is visually."

Studies have shown that the average attention span is roughly 15 seconds for adults and less for kids, so any messaging, let alone Orthodox messaging, has to be brief but make an impact.

By understanding current media outlets, opportunities, and trends, HCHC students can think about how they can share their

faith when they leave campus. Whether it is through video, podcasts, live streaming, or blogging, they are trained to connect with a worldwide pan-Orthodox audience.

They are learning to "put work into action" as Anberin notes, because "so many HCHC students have powerful creative skills that just need to be guided, mentored, and unleashed."

**REV. DR. NICHOLAS G. LOUH**  
(MDIV 1999, MTH 2000)

Fr. Louh has the rare distinction of serving as the Senior Pastor of the church where he grew up and once served as an altar boy: St. John the Divine Church in Jacksonville, Florida. He left his native Florida to attend Holy Cross, from which he obtained both the Master of Divinity degree with highest distinction and the Master of Theology. He then remained in Massachusetts to earn a Doctorate of Ministry from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, with an emphasis on pastoral counseling.

That emphasis remains a hallmark of Fr. Louh's ministry, with the benefit of digital media. He says that the role of media is very important in how his parish connects with parishioners. "What we try to do every day is post an inspirational message on social media." This includes sharing sermons, live-streaming the Divine Liturgy, offering daily messages, and broadcasting 30-second spots on area radio and television stations. "Early on, this was about our local church, but over time we have connected with people who are all over, some of whom are not even Orthodox...It allows us to have real-time connection with our community at a time when many people gather information from social media..."

Some people have actually made the choice to become Orthodox because of our social media presence."



The newest initiative from Fr. Louh and his wife, Dr. Roxanne Louh, a clinical psychologist, is a live online call-in show on Ancient Faith Radio called "Healthy Minds, Healthy Souls." Just launched this January, the show is "meant to help us become the people God desires us to be in our everyday lives." It covers an array of topics, including marriage, family, forgiveness, coping with anger, strengthening faith, and much more. For more information, please visit [www.stjohnthedivine.com](http://www.stjohnthedivine.com) or [www.healthymindshealthysouls.com](http://www.healthymindshealthysouls.com).



## MEASURING SUCCESS: THE ITALIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN

**ANTHONY JONAS**

BA 2015

During his freshman year at the University of Illinois as one of 26,000 students, Anthony Jonas began to look for “a more personal learning environment, one that would foster my individual academic success.” By the end of that year, he had decided to transfer to Hellenic College, where “the biggest strength is how much people are interconnected.” That decision was welcome news to his parents, both of whom are HCHC graduates. Anthony’s father, Rev. Fr. Nicholas Jonas, received his MDiv from Holy Cross in 1984, and his mother, Presvytera Anastasia (Kocefias), graduated from Hellenic the following year.

Anthony’s major in Human Development and minor in Elementary Education dovetailed perfectly in an internship at the Italian Home for Children, which provides programs for children with emotional, behavioral, and educational special needs.

Presvytera Chrysoula Kourkounti, HCHC’s Community Engagement Placement Coordinator in the Office of Vocation & Ministry, had been a clinician at Italian Home and thought it an ideal internship setting for Anthony. “I am so indebted to Presvytera Chrysoula and the OVM,” Anthony says. “I would never have known about Italian Home otherwise. I wanted to work with kids with special needs but didn’t know how.”

On the strength of that experience, Anthony was offered a full-time position there as an assistant classroom teacher of pre-K and kindergarten students. “A lot of our kids come from really traumatic backgrounds, so besides teaching traditional school subjects, we’re also teaching them how to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way. The greatest measure of our success is their success.”



## 2017 ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CAMP AND YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

Every January, youth and camp workers gather from across the United States and Canada for worship, fellowship, and professional development. This Youth and Camp Workers Conference (YCC for short) is a pan-Orthodox initiative of the canonical Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States. Each year on a rotating basis, a different jurisdiction organizes the YCC. This year, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through Y2AM (the Department

of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Office of Camping Ministries) had the honor of hosting. Held at Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Austin, Texas, the theme of YCC17 was "The Seamless Garment: Towards a Unified Model of Ministry."

Hellenic College Holy Cross alums added a strong presence, with the following 36 attending:

### *Left to right:*

Rev. Fr. Anastasios Athanasiou (MDiv 2015)  
 Rev. Fr. Michael Gavrilos (BA 2008, MDiv 2011)  
 Rev. Fr. Aris Metrakos (MDiv 1989)  
 Jonathan McClish (BA 2011, MDiv 2015)  
 Sotiri Michalatos (MDiv 2017)  
 Jacob Saylor (MDiv 2011)  
 Eva Konstantakos (MTS 2003)  
 Rondal Burkard (BA 2012, MTS 2014)  
 Steven Saragianis (MDiv 2015)

Christian Siskos (BA 2012, MDiv 2015)  
 Constantine Trumpower (MDiv 2016)  
 Evangelia (Palis) Koutroubas (BA 2015)  
 Konstantinos Koutroubas (MDiv 2014)  
 Rev. Fr. Vasileios Flegas (MDiv 1998)  
 Anthony Ruggiero (BA 2012, MDiv 2015)  
 Theodore Cherpas (MTS 2014)  
 Rev. Fr. Andrew Lentz (MDiv 2009)  
 Rev. Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras (MDiv 2005)

Bishop Gregory of Nyssa (MDiv 2006  
 & Dean of Students)  
 Rev. Fr. Patrick O'Rourke (MDiv 2016)  
 George Athanasiou (BA 2008, MDiv 2011)  
 Borislav Dinkov (MDiv 2016)  
 Rev. Fr. Kosmas Kallis (BA 2012, MDiv 2014)  
 Yanni Michaelidis (BA 2012, MDiv 2016)  
 Chrysanthe Tiggas (BA 2007, MDiv 2010)  
 Dr. Gramenos Karanos (Prof of Byz Music)

Presv. Anna (Colis) Kallis (MDiv 2013)  
 Mary Long (MDiv 2006)  
 Jamil Samara (Internet Ministries)  
 Christina Andresen (MDiv 2013)  
 Nicholas Lionas (MDiv 2013)  
 Kyra Limberakis (OVM)  
 Steven Christoforou (MDiv 2013)  
 Cassandra Garibaldi (BA 2013, MDiv 2016)

Not pictured but present: Rev. Dn. Chris Avramopoulos (MDiv 1998), Presv. Jessica O'Rourke (BA 2014)

# GIVING STRENGTH

**ELIZABETH HAWKINS**

MDiv 2009

When Elizabeth Hawkins decided she wanted to pursue a career as a hospital chaplain, she didn't realize that she would be paving the way for future lay chaplains. While a student at Holy Cross, she was not sure what she wanted to do professionally, but did know that she wanted to study theology. Then she participated in the hospital ministry class and, through her volunteer placement at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, learned about hospital chaplaincy as a career option. She spoke with other hospital volunteers from other jurisdictions. "Ever since Christ walked among us, Christians have been called to visit the sick," she says. "I think we are always looking creatively at what we're taught [and asking] how do we apply the same spirit of truth to America in the 21st century? I didn't realize that no one had asked that question before."

After graduating from Holy Cross in 2009, Elizabeth began her Clinical Pastoral Education with a general residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, in her first year. The next year she specialized in end-of-life care. This training was essential in order for her to be board-certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains, the highest level of chaplaincy. Throughout her training, her

peers were always welcoming to her as an Orthodox Christian and interested in her perspective on various issues.

In June 2013, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit commissioned and endorsed Elizabeth as a lay chaplain. This recognition set in motion a larger discussion that ultimately resulted in the formal approval of institutional chaplains by the Holy Eparchial Synod and the opportunity for lay people to work as chaplains. They would thereafter be respected fully in their institutional workplaces and fulfill their duties in accordance with the protocol of the Orthodox Church. In October of that year, on the Feast Day of St. Luke the Evangelist, Elizabeth became board-certified by the APC.

Currently, Elizabeth works in the pediatric palliative care and neurology units at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. "Getting to meet and walk with the children and families on their journeys and being able to offer hospitality and support...is always a learning process and always strength-giving," she says.



*“EVER SINCE  
CHRIST WALKED  
AMONG US,  
CHRISTIANS HAVE  
BEEN CALLED TO  
VISIT THE SICK”*

# AUTHENTICITY AND FAITH

**REV. DR. CHRISTOPHER FLESORAS**

BA 1993, MDiv 1996



Of the many blessings he felt during his years on the Holy Hill, Fr. Flesoras remembers most gratefully “the relationships nurtured at HCHC that were by far the greatest gift. Friendships were forged on a campus dedicated to Christ, in classes about Christ, and in services glorifying Christ.”

After graduation, Fr. Flesoras married Kristen (Krissy) Kyriazis, a California native like himself, and continued his education,

earning an MS in Development and Counseling in Higher Education at Northeastern University and then a PhD at the University of California, Davis, in the Foundations of Education and Christian Pedagogy in the Byzantine East. Fr. Flesoras was ordained to the Holy Diaconate in 1996 at his home parish, Annunciation Church in Modesto, California, and to the Holy Priesthood the following year at Holy Cross Church in Belmont, California, where he served as second priest under Rev. Fr. Peter Salmas. In 2001 he was assigned to a parish of his own, St. Anna in Roseville, California, where he remains to this day. To serve at the altar is, he says, “humbling and precious.”

In addition to being a busy parish priest, Fr. Flesoras has served as a military chaplain, attached first to the 115th Regional Support Group of the National Guard, then to the 162nd Combat Communications Group of the Air National Guard (with the rank of Captain), and now the 195th Wing of the Air National Guard. He also teaches as an Adjunct Professor at William Jessup University near Sacramento and at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

Fr. Flesoras and Presvytera Krissy were blessed with two children, Constantine in 2006 and Gianna in 2008, and loved their full and fulfilling life as a clergy family until a diagnosis of cancer for Presvytera turned that life upside down. After a long and courageous battle, Presvytera passed away in 2014 a few weeks before her 42nd birthday. While devastated by the early loss of his beloved wife and the mother of his young children, Fr. Flesoras reflects that this tragedy has deepened his understanding of ministry and ability to console those who also struggle with grief. “Being fully aware of my unique brokenness, I can only attempt to find healing, maintain joy as a father to my children—the greatest gift, attain peace, and persevere in love.”



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# HOWARD THOMAS

HCHC PLANT MANAGER



When Howard Thomas began working at HCHC part-time in 1989, he never imagined that he would still be here today. “I started out part-time with a construction company that was doing some work on the campus. In 1990 I came on full-time as a carpenter. Then about 15 years ago, they made me the Head of Buildings and Grounds.”

Asked what he considers the biggest change at the school since those early days, Howard says without hesitation, “The way we take care of the place—that has changed immensely. We used to do whatever we had to do to make things work. We’d

joke about duct tape and WD-40 being our main tools, but it wasn’t far from the truth. We used to do everything by hand. We had one tractor with no cab and had to clear snow with that—3am in the freezing cold, we’d be out there.”

All that changed some years ago. “We finally had the equipment and the resources we needed to do things right,” Howard recalls. Still, New England winters can tax even the toughest men and equipment, especially the epic winter of 2014-15, when the Boston area was buried under nine feet of snow. Howard and his crew worked around the clock for days on end, keeping roadways clear and shoveling snow off the roofs of buildings that were in danger of collapsing.

As if the work weren’t hard enough, Howard also has the longest commute of anyone at HCHC. In 2004 he moved back to his native Maine with his wife and two daughters. Howard had no shortage of job offers close to home, but he chose to stay on at our school. For almost 13 years he has left Maine every Sunday night or before dawn on Monday to make the drive to Brookline. “It’s three-and-a-half hours on a good day.”

Why does he do it? “This job has been great for me in a lot of ways, and I still enjoy it.” So do his brothers Richard and Rodney, who have worked at HCHC almost as long as he has. Several others on the grounds crew have been here for over a decade too, which is surely a testament to their boss. But Howard deflects any praise by saying, “I’m only as good as the guys I work with. Most of my success comes from them.”

# READY TO SERVE

**BRIAN STEFANOVIC**

HOLY CROSS CLASS OF 2017



In my final semester as a seminarian at Holy Cross, I am forced to look both backward at my time here and also forward to my life after school. As anyone can attest, it is a bittersweet moment.

After graduating from college, I worked as an engineer for six years. Going back to school was not easy, and yet I had wanted to attend Holy Cross for ten years. At first, it was difficult to readjust to dorm life and cafeteria food, to homework and writing papers (a task most engineers are unfamiliar with). There is always the tug of war between the academic, spiritual, personal, and communal aspects of being a student, and yet there is a good balance here. There are many demands and high expectations; however, there is also a strong element of compassion offered to us by the faculty and administration when we need it the most, a

genuine desire to see the students grow and the Church succeed.

I have been fortunate this year to serve as Ecclesiarch of Holy Cross Chapel, facilitating the day-to-day operations of the Chapel in conjunction with the clergy and fellow student leaders. The life of the Chapel establishes each of us in a daily rhythm that leaves us open to the constant possibility for repentance, and when taken, it brings us closer together than any demanding class or challenging situation. If I simply reduce the school to an academic institution, then I have missed the purpose of Holy Cross—transformation.

I would certainly say that I will miss the relationships that I have formed here on campus the most, but more important than that, I will miss the community as a whole.

I am challenged every day academically and spiritually. I have always been an organized person, and I have spent most of my adult life planning for the next venture, looking ahead to the next opportunity, preparing contingency plan after contingency plan. I decided this year that I would try to focus on my time here at school and the opportunities and relationships that present themselves to me on a daily basis. I hope to return to Colorado in the not-too-distant future. God willing, I am hoping to be ordained one day, but ultimately, I simply desire to serve the Church in whatever capacity I am able, whether it be as a priest or a lay member of a parish. I am excited—and a little nervous—about my future prospects, but for now, I'm simply trying to enjoy my last months at Holy Cross.



# LISTENING TO INTUITION

**ANNA TEODOSIADIS**

HELLENIC COLLEGE CLASS OF 2017



Deciding to come to Hellenic College was an easy decision for me. I thought, what better place to learn about my faith and pursue my education at the same time? Growing up just outside Seattle, I was very involved in my parish, St. Demetrios, and the whole Greek community—Greek school, Greek dancing, singing in the choir—but I didn't have a real understanding of the basis for all of these things. Then I participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and won at the parish level for my speech on being "the light of the world." That provided me with a scholarship to Hellenic College and a pathway to an education rooted in Orthodoxy.

I'm so glad I came here for college. I'm a Human Development major with a minor in Religious Studies. My professors don't just teach the subject matter—they explain the Orthodox perspective. All the faculty members—even ones I haven't had—are

so welcoming and supportive. I could

not imagine going anywhere else. This is a one-of-a-kind place.

Besides my studies, I'm an Ambassador, working with Admissions. This work has taught me how to speak to kids and relate to them. It's also taught me more about being Orthodox. And I've learned that I love to teach and now see that as a potential future career. Last summer I worked at St. Sophia Cathedral's camp in Crestline, California, teaching campers about Orthodox life, and loved it. On campus, I've also been involved in the Psychology Club and co-founded the Green Initiative Club. Among other things, we're looking into the possibility of raising bees to make honey.

After graduation, I plan to work at our family bakery and café in Seattle while exploring the idea of teaching, as well as helping my church in any way that I can.

# SOCRATES HAD IT RIGHT: KNOW THYSELF

PETER KOULOURIS BA 2016



When Peter Koulouris talks to prospective students around the country as an Admissions Counselor, the knowledge he enthusiastically shares with them about HCHC isn't something he's learned—it's something he's lived. Peter's first exposure to our school was in 2011 through CrossRoad, the hugely successful summer program for high school juniors and seniors. "I didn't know too much about Hellenic College, but those ten days made a real impact."

However, as much as he enjoyed that experience, Peter applied to Hellenic with the notion that he would stay for only a year or two. "I'm a painter, so I had planned to transfer to art school or maybe study architecture, but then my perspective changed, largely because of something my grandfather told me. Every single day growing up, I had spent hours with him and really valued his wisdom." Peter's grandfather advised that, since people change a great deal between 18 and 25, along with their interests, it's best for them to figure out who they are before they decide what to do in life. "I decided that it was more important to ground myself in an environment with the

same values I grew up with. If we're raised to be good Christians, we should become educated alongside other good Christians. Society is so broken today that it's far too easy to lose this identity."

So Peter spent all four years of college at Hellenic, majoring in Management and Leadership because "you can go into anything you want with that education as a base." He made many wonderful friends on campus and agrees with another of his grandfather's axioms: "Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are."

Peter graduated last year and immediately joined the Admissions team, with whom he has traveled to such far-flung places as California, New Mexico, Tennessee, Alabama, and Colorado. "It felt kind of strange at first, working for the school I went to, but it's been very interesting to see behind the scenes, so to speak. I truly believe in HCHC's mission. We have something extremely special here and I want other kids to have the same rich experience I had."

Last September, Peter was especially happy to welcome his own brother, Nikolas, as a freshman at Hellenic College. "HCHC is growing in a great new direction with Fr. Chris as President, and I'm glad that my brother and I are both here at this exciting time."



# CONVOCATION 2016

**DR. DEMETRIOS S. KATOS**, MDiv 1994, DEAN OF HELLENIC COLLEGE,  
SPOKE AT THE 2016 ACADEMIC CONVOCATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE  
OF MORAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT. HERE ARE  
KEY EXCERPTS FROM HIS REMARKS:

As we begin a new academic year, we have the opportunity to reflect upon the purpose and goals of our time here on campus. Read our mission and vision statements and you'll find at their core a commitment to moral, intellectual, and spiritual development to foster a vocation of service to Church and society.

We have campus codes of conduct that cultivate our moral ethos, curricula that provide an education for our goals in life, and a Chapel at the heart of campus that binds us together in worship.

For this new academic year, exert every effort to grow morally, intellectually, and spiritually during your time here on campus, whether you are in the dormitory, the classroom, or the Chapel. Don't cherry-pick: strive to integrate all three to create for yourself a rich, unifying educational experience. It will prepare you to achieve your life's aspirations, and it will reward you richly during your matriculation here and for many years to come. Realize that there

are no shortcuts to spiritual progress, and start the process at the very beginning by making an honest assessment of who you are and what you would like to achieve. Thrill in the joys of the life of the mind and discover for yourself something new every day.

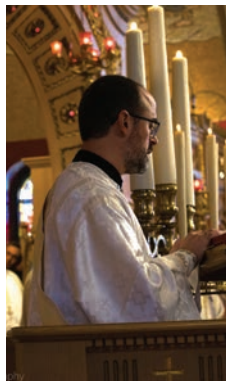
Above all, spend time thinking. Set aside periods for quiet contemplation in which you will challenge yourself to apply all that you learn in every class. How does your learning prompt you to act and think differently? What has it taught you about the world and the God who created it? What is your response to such a God?

I and my colleagues vow to do our best in providing you with an equally exhilarating educational experience. What we ask in return is that you take full advantage of these opportunities and prepare yourselves morally, intellectually, and spiritually so that you will succeed in your jobs and ministries to the fullest. Let us begin a new year with renewed commitment to one another and to our sacred task!

# WHY WE GIVE

## ALUMNI IN THEIR OWN WORDS

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR GRADUATES FOR THEIR SUPPORT. WHEN WE ASKED SOME OF THEM WHY THEY GIVE TO HCHC, THIS IS WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:



**Rev. Fr. Gregory J. Floor**

MDiv 2005

Aside from the amazing education I received, the countless *koumbari* that have been added to my spiritual family since graduating, the job that was offered me in which I now serve, the ability to support my family and raise my children in the Faith, the unparalleled Christ-centered community that I get to serve each day, the daily services offered, the beauty and serenity of the 52-acre campus, and my dedicated colleagues with whom I work, I give because Hellenic College Holy Cross is the only accredited Orthodox Christian college, graduate school of theology, and seminary in the Western Hemisphere. I give because it has given me so much and because I very much believe in her mission to educate and prepare the next generation of lay and ordained leaders in America.



**Rev. Fr. Vincent Minucci**

BA 2009, MDiv 2012

I give because I believe in HCHC. I believe in its mission, its vision, and its success. Without Hellenic College Holy Cross, I wouldn't be the person I am today. The education I received, the friendships I made, and the love I experienced on that blessed campus formed me into who I am. I wish I could give more and hope that, one day, I will be able to.



**George F. Athanasiou**

BA 2008, MDiv 2011

I give back to HCHC in thanksgiving for all the school has given to me. I truly believe that if we invest in our past, it will set a firm foundation for our future. Investing in our alma mater assists those who will one day follow in our footsteps.



# WHY WE ATTEND

## STUDENTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

WE ASKED STUDENTS TO TELL US WHY THEY CHOSE TO COME TO HELLENIC COLLEGE. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR ANSWERS:



**Diana Khalil**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
*Management and Leadership*

I actually transferred here from a state school in Pennsylvania because there I did not feel challenged. I was looking for an environment that would encourage me to thrive not only academically, but also in my personal and spiritual life.

Here at Hellenic College, I've been able to stay true to my culture and faith in a community which encourages nothing but that, in a world that so rarely does. Since being here, I've grown exponentially as an individual in all aspects and I'm truly grateful for that.

**Anasatasis Phyrillas**, Reading, Pennsylvania  
*Religious Studies*

I wanted to be able to study what I love, and that is the Orthodox faith.



**Savvas Bournelis**, Canton, Ohio  
*Religious Studies*

When I visited Hellenic College through the CrossRoad Institute, I felt right at home. Since day one of returning as a freshman, I can firmly say I have no regrets in choosing HCHC. I would

not be the person God wants me to be if I did not come here. I have grown tremendously in all ways: spiritually, intellectually, and personally. This is a very special place and I thank God for guiding me here to experience all of the amazing opportunities HCHC has to offer.



**Nikolas Koulouris**, Fayetteville, New York  
*Management and Leadership*

I didn't come here for seminary. I want to go into international business and always pictured a large university

for myself, but this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. My brother (who graduated last year) spoke to me about all the opportunities this institution has. And we are surrounded by individuals striving to become not only better students but also better Christians. We have access to all that Boston has to offer, and I knew that it would be easier to make meaningful relationships in the small yet urban environment that we have here.

**Bailey-Despina Thabit**, Toledo, Ohio  
*Religious Studies with Human Development minor*

I came here to grow spiritually as well as academically and to form Christ-centered relationships.





# FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**REV. DR. EUGEN J. PENTIUC**

Besides teaching, Rev. Dr. Eugen J. Pentiu, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, is currently involved in several major scholarly projects.

*Hosea: A New Translation Based on Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, and Latin Texts, with Study Notes*

Fr. Pentiu is a main contributor to École Biblique's (Jerusalem) newly designed digital Study Bible, *The Bible in Its Traditions*. His contribution, *The Book of Hosea: A New Translation Based on Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, and Latin Texts with Study Notes* is to be published this year by the well-known academic press Peeters.

*The Role of the Bible in Orthodoxy*

Fr. Pentiu is currently teaching an online course-module, *The Role of the Bible in Orthodoxy*, as part of the Bible Translation Diploma program organized by the American Bible Society under the direction of Dr. Simon Crisp (UK). The program, accredited by Link Campus University in Rome, comprises Orthodox students from EU countries.

*The Bible in Byzantine Liturgical Texts*

Fr. Pentiu has just begun the research for a project seeking to collect all the scriptural (Old and New Testament) references, hints, and key-terms imbedded in Byzantine Greek liturgical texts (*Menaia*, *Triodion*, *Pentekostarion*, etc.) on a computer program developed by Dr. Michael Colburn in cooperation with Fr. Pentiu.

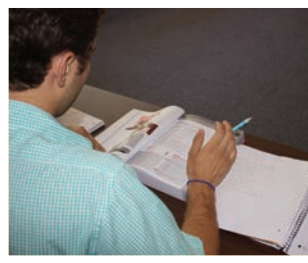
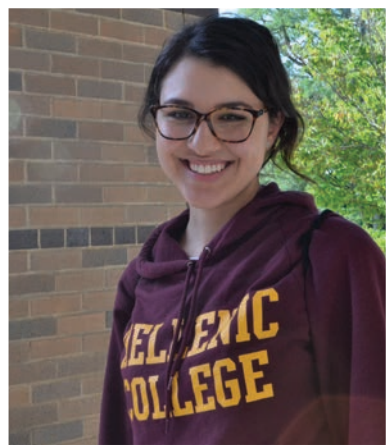
*Holy Week in Sounds and Images: Byzantine Liturgical Interpretation of Scripture*

Fr. Pentiu is writing a new book under contract with Oxford University Press and titled *Holy Week in Sounds and Images: Byzantine Liturgical Interpretation of Scripture*, a sequel to his last monograph with Oxford, *The Old Testament in Eastern Orthodox Tradition* (2014). The current monograph aims to illustrate how imaginative and creative the Eastern Orthodox Church tradition has been in selecting, interpreting, and decanting biblical texts, images, and themes into the liturgical imagery and theology of the Holy Week services.



DISCOVER

# HELLENIC COLLEGE



## SEMESTER OF FAITH

Experience a semester of accredited, faith-based education surrounded by fellow Orthodox Christians.

**LEARN MORE**

[www.hchc.edu/admissions/semester\\_of\\_faith](http://www.hchc.edu/admissions/semester_of_faith)

## CHRYSOSTOM SCHOLARSHIP

Finalists at all levels of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival are awarded four-year tuition scholarships varying in value according to division and placement up to \$30,000 per year.

**LEARN MORE**

[www.hchc.edu/admissions/scholarships](http://www.hchc.edu/admissions/scholarships)

## CROSSROAD

Discern your life calling and match your God-given gifts with the needs of society at this ten-day summer vocational program.

**LEARN MORE**

[www.crossroadinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadinstitute.org)



Hellenic College  
**HOLY CROSS**  
Greek Orthodox School of Theology

**APPLY TODAY!**

Phone: 617.850.1285 | Web: [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu)

Email: [admissions@hchc.edu](mailto:admissions@hchc.edu) | [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [y](#)

# CLASS NOTES



*Theodora Vaporis* (BA 1984) lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, and is a partner in the law firm of Black, Slaughter & Black, P.A. Theodora has the honor of being the first non-clergy graduate of Hellenic College to be appointed to the HCHC Board of Trustees.



*His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa* (formerly George Tatsis, MDiv 2006) was elected Secretary of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops at the 7th Annual Meeting.



*Dr. George E. Demacopoulos* (MTS 1995) was appointed Fr. John Meyendorff & Patterson Family Chair of Orthodox Christian Studies at Fordham University.



*Sam Williams* (MDiv 2013) served as the Director of Youth and Young Adults at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wyckoff, New Jersey, from September 2013 through August 2016. In September 2016, he started as the Pastoral Assistant at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia.



*Peter Cade*, (MDiv 1996) completed his Master of Education degree in Mental Health Counseling from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, in 2015. He is a mental health counselor in private practice at Peace of Mind Counseling in Clive, Iowa. Peter and his wife Lisa are active members at the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George in Des Moines.



*Forum on Modern Slavery* - Turkey, February 6-7, 2017

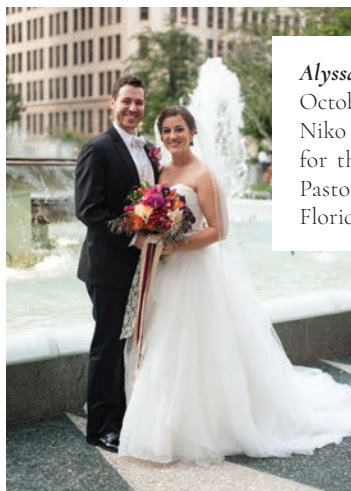
His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, together with the speakers and participants of a Forum on Modern Slavery that was co-sponsored by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church of England.



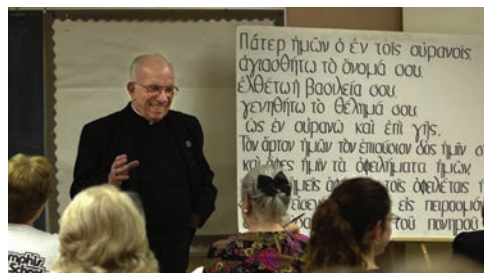
The baptism of Stephen Demetrios Kazakis took place on October 15, 2016, at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, West Babylon, New York. Stephen is the son of *Rev. Fr. Demetrios Kazakis* (BA 2008, MDiv 2011) and Presvytera Dianna Doukas Kazakis. Celebrating his baptism were *His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh* (MDiv 1985), *Rev. Fr. James Doukas* (BA 1973, MDiv 1976), Stephen's grandfather, and many other local clergy of Long Island. Stephen's godfather is *George Athanasiou* (BA 2008, MDiv 2011) of St Paul Cathedral, and North Royalton, Pennsylvania.

Among those pictured are the following Holy Cross alumni: *His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France* (MDiv 1987), *His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles* (MDiv 1980), *His Eminence Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires* (BA 1978, MDiv 1980), *Rev. Fr. Stavros Kofinas* (MDiv 1974), *V. Rev. Patriarchal Deacon Nephon Tsimalis* (BA 2006, MDiv 2008), *George E. Sarraf* (MTh 2008), *Katerina Pekridou* (MTh 2007), *Sophia Kyrou* (Semester of Faith 2016).





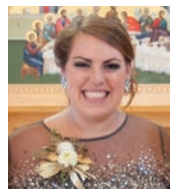
**Alyssa Loutsion** (MDiv 2014) married **Niko Kyritsis** (BA 2011) on October 10, 2015, at All Saints Church in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Niko currently works as the Web Developer of Internet Ministries for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Alyssa is the Pastoral Assistant at St. John the Divine Church in Jacksonville, Florida, where the couple resides.



**Rev. Fr. Nicholas L. Vieron** (MDiv 1947) at 91 is still teaching in retirement an adult Greek class for the 45th consecutive year to students outside the Annunciation community of Memphis, Tennessee. The 14-week course begins in January, on the holiday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., reflecting the type of world Dr. King envisioned— a cross-section of students from all walks of life. This year Fr. Nicholas has 44 students!



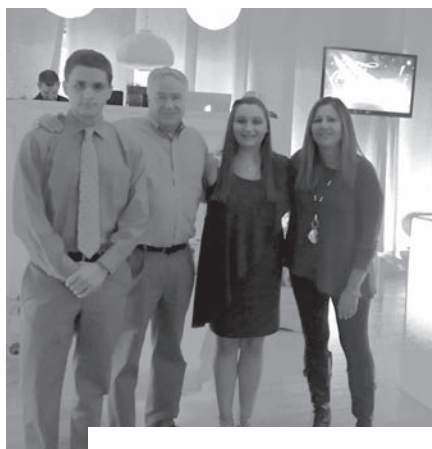
**Rev. Dn. Stephanos Ritsi** (MDiv 2012) and **Dkn. Alexandria Ritsi** (BA 2012), with their son **Moses Anastas** (2), have been missionaries, through OCMC, in Albania for four years. They work closely with Archbishop Anastasios and the youth and young adults of the Orthodox Church. They are preparing for an OCMC Mission Team, which will minister to young adults in Albania. (Photo of: Dn. Stephanos, Dkn. Alexandria, and Moses Anastas with His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios).



**Angeliki Constantine** (BA 2009, MDiv 2012) is currently working as the Project Coordinator at the Department of Religious Education of the GOA.



**Rev. Fr. Joseph DiStefano** (MDiv 2005) is now serving St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Youngstown, Ohio. His wife, **Melanie (Tsikouris) DiStefano** (MDiv 2003), is teaching elementary school at Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy and Preschool in Warren, Ohio. Their son Michael will be 13 in April!



**Lynne (Constantine) Openshaw** (BA 1993) is married to husband Rick, and has twin sixteen-year-olds, Nicholas and Theodora. She is now a published author, writing under Lynne Constantine. Her first book is *Circle Dance*, a family saga about a Greek American family and her second is *The Veritas Deception*, a conspiracy thriller. She has a new book coming out with HarperCollins in October. Her website is [www.lynneconstantine.com](http://www.lynneconstantine.com).



**Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides** (MDiv 1990) and **Rev. Fr. George Livanos** (BA 1984, MDiv 1987) had a blessed pilgrimage to the Holy Land, staying in Taybeh, the only Christian village left in Palestine, and also the home of five HCHC students. The Khoury family is praying all HCHC graduates visit the Holy Land soon. Photo left to right: Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides, **Elena Khoury** (BA 2007), **Daoud Khoury** (BA 1980), **Nadim Khoury** (BA 1983), and Rev. Fr. George Livanos.

TOGETHER AGAIN



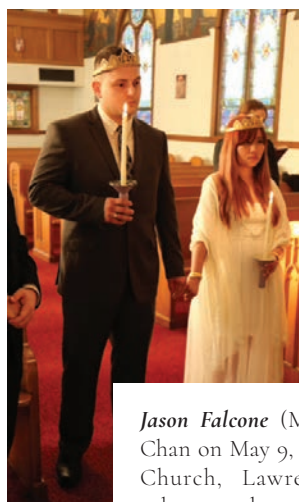
**Donna Elias Levas** (BA 2009) and her husband, Kosta Levas, welcomed a daughter, Fotini, on May 13, 2015. Fotini's grandmother is Frances Levas, HCHC's Director of Development.

**Rev. Fr. Anthony Salzman** (MDiv 1989) and **Presv. Christine (Paninos) Salzman** (MTS 1989). Fr. Anthony is having an Iconography workshop May 7-12, 2017 at the Atlanta Metropolitan Diakonia Center. ([www.ilicons.us](http://www.ilicons.us) for more info.) Photo is of Fr. Anthony, Presv. Christine, daughter-in-law Anna, and grandchildren Amalia and Silas Anthony.



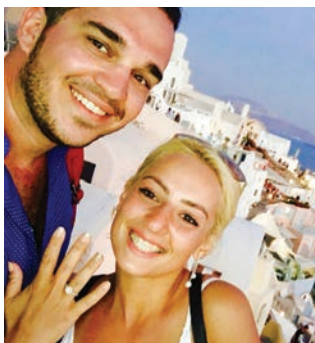
**Rev. Fr. Jason Houck** (MDiv 2005) and **Presv. Alexandra (Gilman)** (MTS 2006) joyfully announce the birth of their fourth child, Philip, born December 16, 2016. Fr. Jason serves in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pictured: Philip, Lydia (7), Paul (5), and Silas (3).

**Thanasi Pantazelos** (MDiv 2010) married Asimina (Boutzoukas), (whom he met through the OVM CrossRoad program) in November 2014. He recently opened *ToppSalad* Restaurant. Because he has worked for the Admissions, Alumni, and Development offices of HCHC, his dream is to return to serve the Church in a lay or ordained capacity.



**Jason Falcone** (MDiv 2015), married Cadie Chan on May 9, 2016, St. George's Orthodox Church, Lawrence, Massachusetts. He subsequently was deployed overseas as a battery commander in the Army.

**Rev. Fr. Michael Varvarelis** (MDiv 1977), spent Christmas day with 11 of his 15 grandchildren at his son's home.



**Marios Adamakis** (BA 2015) proposed to **Mariam Livanos** (BA 2017) last August, on Santorini, Greece. Marios is currently an HR Administrative Assistant in the Framingham Massachusetts Public School system.

**Tom Papademetriou**, PhD (BA 1988, MDiv 1992) was promoted to the rank of full Professor of Historical Studies at Stockton University (New Jersey), where he has taught since 2001. For spring 2017, he was awarded membership (a prestigious residential research fellowship) at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He continues to research the history of the Orthodox Church under Ottoman rule, and is preparing a sequel to his recently published book, *Render unto the Sultan: Power, Authority, and the Greek Orthodox Church in the Early Ottoman Centuries* (Oxford, 2015). In summer 2016, he taught the Asia Minor Travel Seminar at the Center for Asia Minor Studies in Athens, Greece, for the Hellenic College-New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Asia Minor and Pontus.

# A LEGACY WORTH PRESERVING



Hellenic College Class of 2016



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Class of 2016

TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE LEADERS OF ORTHODOXY  
THROUGH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL OR ESTATE, PLEASE CONTACT

**KOSTA E. ALEXIS, Vice President, Institutional Advancement**  
Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology  
50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445  
[kalexis@hchc.edu](mailto:kalexis@hchc.edu) or 617.850.1303



Hellenic College, Inc.  
50 Goddard Avenue  
Brookline, MA 02445-7496

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Providence, RI  
Permit #333



**SAVE THE DATES**

HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS  
**ALUMNI REUNION**

**MAY 17-20, 2017**

*Celebrating the classes of*  
**1992 | 2007 | 2017**

