

The Annunciator

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation

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“DEFEATING SIN, OVERCOMING OUR PASSIONS AND CHANGING FOREVER”

A BOOK BY FR. JOSEPH DAVID HONEYCUTT

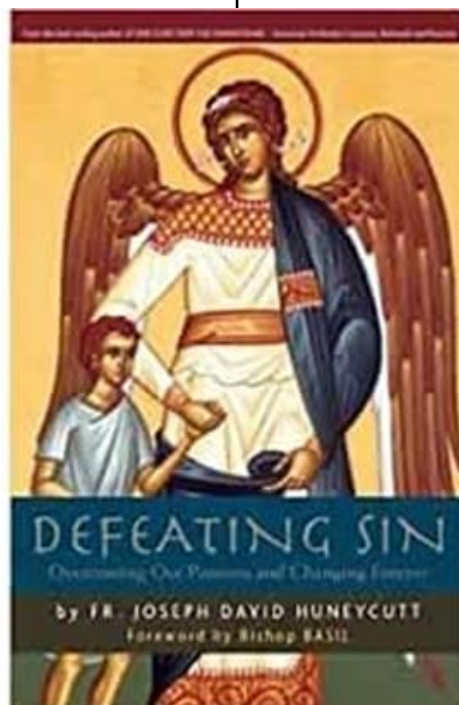
A Summary and Additional Comments by Father Paul Kaplanis

It is always beneficial to go back and re-study a great book. In this case, the book entitled above, written by Father Joseph D. Honeycutt is one of those books that is good to re-visit as an empowering spiritual tool. Father Joseph’s bold title of inspiring us to overcome our Passions and being victorious over our sins to the point of actually transforming ourselves is amazing. This article will focus on some aspects of Fr. Honeycutt’s book along with other thoughts regarding the overcoming of the passions.

As we approach Great Lent, we have the opportunity to ask ourselves if we are truly interested in such a dramatic, life-changing transformation. Do we really want to defeat sin, (as challenging as that may be), or do we wish to just accept the status quo and justify our actions? Are we willing to use the wonderful spiritual tools our Orthodox Church provide to heal us in body and soul? It is the author’s hope that

through repentance and learning how to make a good confession, that we may be able to reverse our course of behavior. If we are willing to put forth some effort, the results can change us forever!

In Father Joseph’s book, he uses the following acronym, “PALE GAS” in order to help us remember and identify the seven passions: P-pride; A-anger; L-lust; E-envy; G-gluttony; A-avarice (greed); and S-sloth. A clever acronym unfortunately has not been devised for the corresponding virtues, but let’s take a look at those opposites of the seven passions: Pride – Humility; Anger – Patience; Lust – Chastity; Envy – Contentment; Gluttony – Moderation; Avarice – Liberality; and Sloth – Diligence.



In order to understand the passions, we must trace their origin. Did the passions come as a result of the Fall of Adam and Eve; their disobedience of God’s one command? Did God create the first

humans, from the very beginning with the passions, which became sinful after the Fall?

Let's begin by researching the origin of our passions.

According to our author, he began with the assumption that man was created without the passions, and that the passions were a result of the Fall. He explains that he attended a lecture 1997 given by Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos who clearly stated that man was created with the Passions! A clarification here was needed. If God created the passions and we understood them as being sinful, then we would have to conclude that God created something that was not good. However, we know from the Book of Genesis that everything God created was good. So, how could He be the creator of the passions? The answer is clear: We must make an important distinction between desire before the Fall and sinful desire as a result from the Fall. Adam's gift of free will, which he received from God, also included desire, a longing, which was damaged after the Fall.

St. Maximos the Confessor, who lived in the 6th and 7th centuries states that "the bodily passions, in accordance with our pre-fallen nature are appropriate and even blessed, when they are directed toward God. It is what happens to the passions after the disobedience of Adam and Eve that we struggle with today." We inherit the consequences of their breaking of the one rule, which God commanded to his creation, "You may eat freely of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in that day you eat of it you shall die" (Gen.2:15-16).

As Bishop Basil of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese explains in the preface of this book, "As one struggles against a passion, one cannot help but simultaneously struggle to acquire a virtue." As we read above every passion has its virtuous counterpart. So, if we are able to accept and understand the origin of our passions, now we can dis-

sect them further.

In our secular understanding, when we think of passion, we understand it as something we desire. If we are passionate about something, it means that we are driven with desire to fulfill the task at hand. Many of the passions feel natural and pleasurable to us, but in reality, they usually cause us to suffer and end up drawing us further away from God.

The Fathers of the Church have written volumes of thoughts on the passions, not only defining them, but also talking about their own understanding and struggles. The dictionary definition of the Greek word, "Πάθος," "Passion," signifies literally that which happens to a person or thing, an experience undergone passively; a craving, such as anger, desire, jealousy, which violently dominates the soul. From the word passion, we also derive the word "passive." After the Fall of Man, the passions became such an overpowering force that in our hearts that we feel so natural that we can have them operate in our lives and we become their passive victim. St. Maximos describes the passions as being unnatural or contrary to nature and calls them "the gentiles of the soul." Many of the fathers also regard the passions as something intrinsically evil, a "disease" of the soul. St. John Climacus, in his work, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent", sees the passions as "alien to man's true self." Other Fathers look on the passions as impulses originally placed in man by God, which means they are fundamentally good, although presently distorted by sin. Quoting the Philokalia, Sts. Nicodemos and Macarios, explain that the passions are to be *educated*, not eradicated; to be *transfigured*, not suppressed; to be used *positively*, not negatively.

Let's take a moment to break out the passions into various categories and discover how they can be healed.

There are passions that result from repeated

sin.

Metropolitan Hierotheos offers the following:

“...when a sin is repeated often and lurks in our soul for a long time, it is called a passion... (the passions are) natural powers of the soul which have been corrupted by sin and by our withdrawal from God.”

Passions are wounds of the soul.

Fr. John Chrysavvgis in his book “In The Heart of the Desert,” says, “Passions are our inner sounds, those deep marks in the space of our heart that require healing...our passions indicate not so much that we are doing something wrong, but that we are not in control.”

The Passions are Habitual Sins.

“They may be habits of seeing, of hearing, of feeling, of thinking, of acting...There are habits, which have hardened over time, becoming like a second nature to us. Hence the grueling battle to break them, to redirect them.” (Fr. John Chrysavvgis, “In The Heart of the Desert”, pg. 54.

The Passions can enslave our will.

The Rumanian Theologian, Fr. Dumitru Staniloae explains that “the passions represent the lowest level to which human nature can fall...In fact, they overcome the will, so that the man of the passions, is no longer a person of will; we say that he is a person ruled, enslaved, carried along by the passions.”

When we are aware of the passions and when we are able to admit that they often rule us, we must seek the wisdom of the Church, participate fully in its sacramental and spiritual life and make room for the grace of the Holy Spirit within our bodies and souls since we cannot fight the passions on our own.

According to Fr. John Chrysavvis, in his book, “In the Heart of the Desert”, there are two approaches

in responding to the passions.

The first recognizes that the passions are intrinsically evil, they are a pathological condition with the source being the devil. In this scenario, a battle takes place to eliminate the passions. Listen to a few of the desert fathers.

Abba Poemen offers the following: “When David was fighting with the lion, he seized it by the throat and killed it immediately. If we take ourselves by the throat and by the belly, with the help of God, we shall overcome the invisible lion.” Another father, Abba Pityrion, the disciple of Abba Anthony said, “If anyone wanted to drive out the demons, that person must first subdue the passions; for then the demon of the passion that is mastered will also be banished. And so it is with each of the passions.”

In the second approach, the passions are considered neutral, natural impulses, which depend upon us whether they are directed toward their proper purpose recognizing that God is their source. They are to be educated, illumined, trained and transfigured.

“Some of the brothers happened one day to meet at Abba Joseph’s cell. While they were sitting there, questioning him, he became cheerful and filled with happiness, he said to them, ‘I am a king today; for I reign over the passions.’”

Abba Isaiah of Scetis in his Ascetic Discourses says that the passions are given to us for a particular sacred purpose:

Anger is to be directed toward injustice in the world.

Envy is given so that we may seek to emulate the virtues of the saints.

Desire is given so that we may thirst after God.

Could it be, that being humble enough to depend on God and have Him in our lives is the path to conquering our passions?

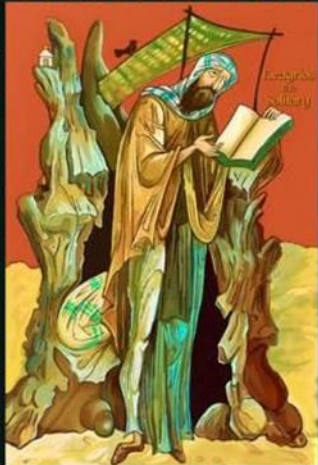
According to the author, being humble and depending on God is the truest path to conquering our passions. In his footnote regarding the virtues, our author says that the remedy for all the passions is humility. This conclusion comes once again from the Holy Fathers and in particular, St. John Climacus who says that "while the Passions are the result of disobedience, the Virtues are the fruit of obedience." Fr. Honeycutt says that it seems impossible to speak of obedience without humility.

With God's help, our passions can be returned to their natural state. It is a lifelong healing process, which requires constant repentance recognizing that we may struggle with some of the same temptations our whole life. We also must realize that a transformation is a slow process.

As our Lord reminds us in the parable of the weeds and wheat, (Matthew 13:24-33), we must be careful not to try and pull all the weeds out at once, because we will also pull out all the wheat. As with the passions, we cannot just rip them out of our lives and return them to their natural state, the healing process must be slow and consistent, as we must constantly strive to be transformed.

During this transformation, we can also see ourselves as a work of art that needs restoration. When we call an expert in to restore "the art", he or she may spend an entire day on one square inch, but he/she feel it is worth it. Trying to restore the entire fresco quickly would destroy the original image and this entire image is irreplaceable. We are also irreplaceable and the path to God is a restorative healing process.

Defeating sin and overcoming the passions is certainly not easy, but if we put forth an honest effort striving for the virtues, we will rejoice in the way our life and all our relationships improve. Great Lent is that perfect time of the year, to rejuvenate our spiritual lives. In everything we need to win the struggle of the passions is placed before us by our Holy Orthodox Church. We could just surrender and revert to our old ways. We could rule the Great Lenten Period as being antiquated or only for the clergy and a few pious people, but this is not the case. It is here for the taking and God is ready to carry us to victory! May everyone have a fruitful and spiritual transforming Great Lent!



**If you arm yourself
against anger,
then you will never
succumb to
any kind of desire.
Desire provides fuel for anger,
and anger disturbs spiritual vision,
disrupting the state of prayer.**
Evagrius the Solitary

The complex block features a central illustration of a man in a brown robe and blue head covering, holding a book and a staff, standing in a desert landscape. The illustration is framed by a decorative border of blue and green floral and scrollwork patterns. The text is in a bold, serif font, with the author's name in red.

LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS

By Rev. Father Christos P. Mars

There are so many great hymns in our Church that speak to us about light, how light overcomes darkness¹. These hymns are not just prevalent during Great Lent and Holy Week services; we use them on a daily basis. Christ Himself tells us in the Gospel of John "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (Jn. 8:12)

Christ spoke these words in the context of the great lamps being lit at the conclusion of the Feast of Tabernacles. Thus, He declares Himself to be the fulfillment and the divine object of all celebrations of light. In the Scriptures, God the Father Himself is light (Jn. 1:4-9; 1 Jn. 1:5), an attribute He bestows on his followers (Mt. 5:14; Php. 2:15). Our Lord confirms His claim by performing the great sign of opening the eyes of a man born blind. (Jn. 9:1-7)

With this, the Church took this concept of light, especially the lighting of the lamps, and made it a central focus in the service of

Vespers. This hymn, whose name is familiar with Orthodox Christians, is called Phos Hilaron (Φῶς ἱλαρόν). It is an ancient Christian hymn originally written in Koine Greek. The hymn is known in English as 'Hail Gladdening Light,' or 'Gladsome Light'. It is the earliest known Christian hymn recorded outside of the Bible that is still being used today.



The origins of this hymn are first recorded by an unknown author in the *Constitutiones Apostolicae* which was written in the late third or early fourth century A.D. It is found in a collection of songs to be sung in the morning, in the evening, before meals, and at candle lighting. 'Gladsome Light' is to be sung at the lighting of candles in the evening and so

is sometimes known as the 'Candle-light Hymn'. Despite some of the words in the other three songs in the collection being from Scripture or in one case dated to around 150 A.D., 'Gladsome Light' is the first to be considered an actual hymn in the modern sense. It is certainly the first complete example. It is far more rhythmic than the others and is divided into twelve verses varying between five, six, eight, nine, ten and eleven syllables a verse. Basil the Great (ca. 330—

¹The hymn "We have seen the true Light..." from the Divine Liturgy, as well as the hymn "Come receive the light..." from the Easter Midnight service.

January 1, 379) spoke of the singing of 'Gladsome Light' as a cherished tradition of the Church, the hymn being already considered old in his day (though some attribute the composition of the song to Saint Basil himself).

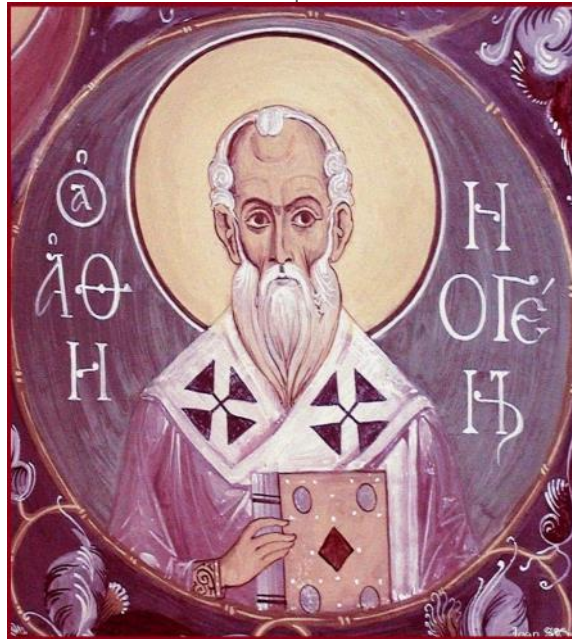
At that time in Jerusalem a candle was kept perpetually burning in the empty tomb of Christ, its glow a symbol of the living light of Jesus. As Christians gathered to worship, the hymn was sung and, in a tradition known as the lighting of the lamps, the candle was brought forth from the tomb, its bright, solitary flame calling the Church to celebrate their risen Lord.

Athenogenes, a saint who died around 305 A.D. whose feast day is on July 16th, is believed by some to have composed this hymn on the way to being martyred. He is often depicted as an elderly bishop with the executioner's arm paralyzed until the saint had completed his song. The Roman Martyrology states: "In Pontus, the birthday of Saint Athenogenes, is celebrated, he was an aged theologian, who, when about to consummate his martyrdom by fire, sang a hymn of joy, which he left in writing to his disciples."

Although Athenogenes would rather have been known for his pious work while alive, he is best remembered for his courageous tribute to the Lord in his final moments. The

entire hymn bears quotation, even though it lacks the solemnity of the chant. Its words are: *"Gladsome Light of Holy Glory of the holy blessed heavenly immortal Father. O Jesus Christ, arriving at the hour of sunset*

and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God, the Giver of life, and therefore the world glorifies You."



Of Athenogenes, Saint Basil had this to say; "The people use these ancient

words, and no one accuses them of blasphemy for singing 'We praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit God.' If you are familiar with the hymn of Athenogenes, which he left as a gift to his disciples as he went to his martyrdom by fire, then you know what the martyrs think concerning the Spirit" (Basil, On the Holy Spirit, Chapter 29).

Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem (634-638 A.D.), who was known for his poetry, is believed to have revised the hymn to what we read today.

Thanks to these great saints of our Orthodox Church, we have a hymn that we can sing every day that reminds us of the Light of Christ, and what we believe about Him!



PARISH REGISTRY

December 11, 2021-January 28, 2022

BIRTHS

Baby Girl born to Lindsey & George Evagoras

Baby Boy born to Eleni & Thomas Carras

Baby Girl born to Areti & Brandon Saurine

Baby Girl born to Katherine & Mark Jensen

Baby Girl born to Clea & Chris Kanelos

WEDDING

Glenda (Nicole) Hassan & Nick Coumanis

BAPTISMS

Parents: Anastasios & Jennie Pantazopoulos

Baby: Alexander Panagiotis

Godparent: Alexia Skouteris

Parents: John Paul & Pia Papadopoulos

Baby: Elsa Eugenia Milde

Godparent: Anna Pattaras

Parents: Edmund Mark & Rosemarie Nicholas

Baby: Scarlett Athena

Godparent: Stephen Wayne Nicholas

ASLEEP IN THE LORD

George G. Giannokostas

Paul Winegar

Kurt Knisely

Ioannis Music Lessons
Piano/Guitar/Ukulele/Mandolin/Bouzouki

Ioannis Papaspyrou
Cell: 404-921-4980

Composer/Arranger/Performer/Educator/Musicologist
Website: www.ioannismusiclessons.com
E-mail: ioannismusiclessons@aol.com

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Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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(You may also visit the Cathedral website, www.atlgoc.org, for more information about giving options.)

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(<https://www.youtube.com/c/atlgoc>)

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The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation

2021 Pastoral Report

Liturgical / Sacramental Life

1/1/20 — 12/31/20

1/1/21 — 12/31/21

Baptisms		
Infants	22	27
Adult	2	3
Chrismations	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	26	37
40 Day Blessings	21	29
Weddings	13	18
Funerals	28	23
Memorials	120	130

This does not include the monthly memorials that take place on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of every month

Hospital / Nursing Home/ Shut-in Visitation

Due to COVID Limitations at each Hospital and or Facility only 45 visitations were possible; however many phone calls were made.

Saint Photini Outreach Ministry

Average Participants 15

To engage a large number of parishioners to give glory our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through leveraging service-oriented partnerships with other non-profits, Christian and Orthodox organizations to implement programs that reach outside the walls of our Cathedral.

Education Ministry

Cathedral Lecture Tours

2021 Tours 7

Besides the 23 Lecture Tours that are conducted during the annual Atlanta Greek Festival (which did not take place this year due to COVID), groups from Elementary, Middle, High School, Colleges and Universities come during the year to view the Cathedral.

Sunday Catechetical School (2021-2022)	Enrollment	169	Staff	30
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Annunciation Day School (2021-2022)	Enrollment	160	Staff	35
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Afternoon Greek School (2021-2022)	Enrollment	27	Staff	4
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Annunciation Day Camp	Participants	136	Staff	32
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Participation open to all 3 year old to 8th Graders (3 Weeks) 2021

Metropolis St. Stephens Camp	2021 Participants from our parish	37	Staff	12
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Metropolis Winter Youth Rally	2021 Participants from our parish	54	Staff	10
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Metropolis Hellenic Dance Festival	Cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19			
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Metropolis Lenten Retreat	Cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19			
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“Road to Orthodoxy” Inquirer / Convert Classes (Two Sessions)	Average Adults	10
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Series of 13 classes scheduled throughout the year for potential converts and inquirers

“Journey to Oneness” Pre-Marital Seminars

A seminar offered throughout the year for all couples preparing for marriage (Required)

Godparents Seminar

A seminar offered throughout the year for parents and godparents preparing for the sacrament of baptism (Required)

Adult Religious Knowledge

Average 15 Participants

Every Wednesday Evening, classes are offered on various subjects and topics about our Orthodox Faith.

The Annunciation Cathedral Bookstore & Gift Shop

Beginning in 1972 the bookstore provides a ministry of making our people more aware of the literature available to them about the Orthodox faith, written in both Greek and English. Also available are icons and Church devotional items and supplies.

The Skandalakis Library and Media Center

The Library and Media Center is a ministry of making our people more aware of the literature and audio—visual materials available to them about the Orthodox faith, written in both Greek and English. It is also used on a daily bases by the Annunciation Day School, Greek School and Sunday School.

Church Service Support Groups

Chanters / Choir/ Men's Choir

Together they offer responses and lead the faithful during all Divine Services. All faithful are encouraged to join.

Youth Choir

Cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19

Participation open to all youth 1st to 5th Graders

Epistle Readers

2020-2021 Participants 19

Participation open to all 6th to 12th Grade Boys and Girls

This does not include the readings that are done during other times of the year (Epiphany, Great Lent and Holy Week, Christmas, etc.)

Altar Boys Ministry

2020-2021 Participants 31

Participation open to all 10 years to 12th Grade boys

Handmaidens Ministry

2020-2021 Participants 24

Participation open to all 4th to 12th Grade girls

Prophoro Baking

3 Participants

Pan-Orthodox Ministry (Atlanta Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood)

Monthly Meetings

Local Parish Activities / Services

Loaves and Fishes food program

Sunday of Orthodoxy Service

Christmas Candlelight Service and Concert

Youth Ministry

Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education and Junior Orthodox Youth Average 35 Participants

Participation open to all Kindergartners to 2nd Graders and 3rd graders to 5th graders

Greek Orthodox Youth of America

Average 35 Participants

Participation open to all 6th graders to 12th graders

GOYA Meetings

Socials

Service Projects

Fundraising Activities

Youth Basketball Canceled in 2021 due to COVID-19
Participation open to all girls and boys ages 7 to 14 years old

Annunciation Cathedral Basketball Camp Canceled in 2021 due to COVID-19

Cultural Programs

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2021 No Participates due to COVID-19

Atlanta Greek Festival 210 volunteers

Social Programs

Golden Group Members Approximately 75

Annunciation Day School Parents Volunteer Association Members 128 Families

Philoptochos Society Members Approximately 150

Philoptochos is a nationally chartered organization assisting the needy and the poor on an international, national, and local level. The Cathedral's Ypapanti Chapter supports the many activities within the parish, both through member volunteer time as well as financial means. The organization is active primarily in charitable programs and activities.

Greek Orthodox Old Fellows Society Average 15 Participants

College Outreach Committee Average 20 Participants

Monthly transportation to and from Church with luncheon afterwards.
Giving of bags during the holiday season (Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter)

Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult, Young Professionals Average 15 Participants

Once a month meeting and discussion on an Orthodox topic
Once a month fellowship brunch gathering

Parish Council 2022



Receiving the
Affirmation of
Office



Congratulations to our 2022 Parish Council Members

Voula Giannakopoulos, President

Ted Kipreos, 2nd VP, Administration

George Koulouris, Secretary

Bill Aicklen, Christina Callesis, Ron Hilliard, Kappy Lawandales, Michael Lignos,

Thomas McBride IV, Toni Taggart, Athanasios Tiliakos, George Vasilakis,

Alexandra Vatzakas, A.J. Williams, Peter Zaharis

Stacie Nefos, 1st VP, Administration

Michael Missailidis, VP of Activities

Constance Nagle, Treasurer

Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Thank you to the students, families, and volunteers for making the 2021 pageant possible!



Philoptochos News

The 2019-1021 Philoptochos year concluded on a positive note!

As with so many philanthropic organizations, our Philoptochos philanthropic fundraisers and “in person” gatherings have had to be either postponed or curtailed due to the continuing presence of Covid-19.

It was with genuine regret that the 2022 annual Vasilopita Luncheon was cancelled. This is always one of the most popular events in our community, where thousands of dollars are raised every single year by our Cathedral Philoptochos to support the children who reside at Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, New York.

Despite this cancellation, the members of our Cathedral Philoptochos voted to send \$3,000 from our treasury to St. Basil as our 2022 donation.

Philoptochos would like to thank all those who so generously purchased the homemade spanakopita and tiropita pans and the “Greek seasonings jars” fundraiser held during December 2021. It was a very successful event, not to mention a very delicious fundraiser! Many thanks to our great volunteer chefs and generous patrons!

A second fundraiser was also held in December. The annual Philoptochos Christmas Charity Coffee was hosted by Suzy Lamas in her lovely Druid Hills home. A lively and enthusiastic group of Philoptochos members were in attendance, The proceeds from this event will be donated to “Go Against Traffick” which is an organization that works with other non-profits to to END human trafficking in Northeast Georgia through education awareness training.

Philoptochos will be donating \$2,000 to this wonderful organization thanks to our incredibly generous Christmas Coffee attendees!

Additional donations:

At the end of every calendar year, our Philoptochos chapter has a tradition of making financial donations to various organizations whose work we trust, admire and wish to support. Despite our fundraising challenges, Philoptochos is pleased to report that we made the following financial donations:

A \$1,000 donation to” International Orthodox Christian Charities” (IOCC) for relief to tornado victims

\$1,000 to Nicholas House ,an Atlanta homeless shelter that keeps families together regardless of composition and helps them achieve self-sufficiency.

This donation was earmarked for the purchase of winter coats for the children

A donation of \$3,000 to the “Loaves and Fishes” food ministry at St. John the Wonderworker” Orthodox church in the Grant Park area. Philoptochos has long been a strong and generous supporter of this wonderful ministry.

Very soon, all women in our parish will be receiving an invitation to join Philoptochos to help support, participate and underwrite our philanthropy!

Even if you cannot attend meetings your financial support will enable Philoptochos to continue its outreach of serving those in need.

Please support us as generously as you are able when you receive your membership letter!

Warmest wishes to all our Cathedral family for a safe, happy and healthy 2022!

Hellenic Dance Festival

Congratulations to the Annunciation Cathedral dance groups - Yi, Anemos & Fotia (High school group) for winning silver and Areti (Adult group) for winning bronze at this year's Hellenic Dance Festival!



Yi, Anemos, and Fotia—Our High School Dance Group



Areti—Our Adult Dance Group



Annunciation Day School

Annunciation Day School (ADS) is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. We encourage parishioners to learn more about our Preschool and K-8th grade programs by attending virtual open house tours on January 19th or 25th and, for parents of kindergarten applicants, a special *All About Kindergarten* session will be offered on January 26th.

To reserve a space please RSVP to Eva Franze at reception@adsatlanta.org

Applications are due by FEBRUARY 1st and can be accessed at www.adsatlanta.org under the admissions tab. Cathedral members in good standing receive 5% off tuition.

ADS will have a busy spring beginning with the Annual Spartan Fun Run! Other events for the students include the Kennesaw State Maker Bus visit, a Father & Daughter Dance, the Mother & Son Recreation and Fun afternoon, the Middle School Dance, Petting Zoo visit and two graduations in May! If interested in attending the Fun Run use the link below.

Saturday, March 26th- 5K Spartan Fun Run (for sponsorships, please email marketing@adsatlanta.org)

We also want to thank our Cathedral Parish families who have donated to the school's Annual Fund campaign. With your generous donations, along with the ADS Spartan community, including parents, grandparents, staff & board members, we have reached 60% of our goal raising just over \$28,000! These funds help continue the development and growth of our school. If you would like to make a contribution to this year's Annual Fund to help us reach our \$50,000 goal, please visit adsatlanta.org/our-annual-fund. You may make donations in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Spring is
on the
way!



Free Support of Annunciation Day School

PUBLIX Fundraising

Do you shop at Publix? If so, please help ADS with their fundraising efforts and enter our school name in your on-line Publix account! Follow these easy steps:

- 1) Log-in to your account at Publix.com (or create a new one)
- 2) Go to My Account, scroll down to the bottom of the page
- 3) Click on My Publix Partner and search for Annunciation Day School
- 4) Your phone number on your account will now be linked to ADS. At checkout, simply enter your phone number on the keypad. That's it!

Thank you for supporting ADS!

APOGEE State Scholarship Fund

This program uses Georgia State Tax dollars to fund private school scholarships. You can decide where your state taxes are being allocated! Here's how it works: Individual filers can contribute up to \$1,000, joint filers up to \$2,500, and C Corps up to 75% of GA tax liability. Additionally, S Corps and/or partners in an LLC can contribute up to \$10,000 each year. You will receive a dollar-for-dollar GA tax credit for the amount of your contribution. If you pay your taxes throughout the year, you can still participate. The tax credit is based on your total GA tax liability (6% of your stated adjusted gross income) and not on what you may or may not still owe the State at the end of the year.

To redirect your state tax dollars today, simply visit www.apogee123.org and choose Annunciation Day School as your recipient school.

Go to the forms page of the Apogee website

Fill out the forms online or print forms and mail them to Apogee

Write a check to Apogee Scholarship Fund* (or pay via credit card on Apogee's website)

Be sure to choose Annunciation Day School as your recipient school

If you have any questions, please visit <https://apogee123.org> or contact Apogee's Executive Director, John Panessa at 404-419-7123. You may also contact Sophia Tsiotsias, at stsiotsias@adsatlanta.org Director of Communications and Development.

**Thank you to the following parishioners for participating in the
Apogee Scholarship Program to date:**

- Chris & Patti Arapoglou
- James & Helen Panos-Burk
- Manuel & Deidre Chaknis
- Stephen & Maria Chininis
- Drs. Greg & Christine Esper
- Nicholas Grivas
- George & Eleny Katsoudas
- Eric & Amanda Kocefias
- Jimmy & Toulia Kostopoulos
- Mark & Dimitra Moraitakis
- James (Jimmy) Nakos
- Costa & Vickie Panos
- Solon & Marianne Patterson
- Justin & Christine Seymour
- Dr. Andrew & Vicky Soulimiotis
- James & Francene Tucker

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



BEACON OF HOPE IOCC's Humanitarian Work

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
2500 Clairmont Road | Atlanta, GA

Lou Zagami, IOCC Development Officer will lead a discussion on IOCC's worldwide humanitarian programs and answer questions about how you support people in need around the world

In lieu of the tray normally passed to support IOCC on Souper Bowl Sunday, donations can be made online on our Cathedral's website (atlgoc.org)

Saint Photini Outreach Ministry



Saint Photini Outreach Ministry Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" SOUP COLLECTION

When: Sundays, Feb. 6 & Feb. 13

Where: Carlos Hall

REQUESTED ITEMS - POP-TOP CANNED:
Soups, Stews, Pasta & Chili (NO Glass)

Donations will support **URGENT** pantry needs of our neighbor, *Toco Hills Community Alliance*

Saint Photini Outreach Ministry

The Saint Photini Outreach Ministry (SPOM) is our Annunciation Cathedral's vessel which supports efforts that involve reaching out to those in need or who are suffering in other ways.

Saint Photini Outreach Ministry Visitation Committee - Shut-Ins/Homebound

- ♥ Our Cathedral's SPOM Visitation Committee continues to brighten the spirits of our Shut-Ins/Homebound through phone calls, wonderful hand-painted cards with inspirational messages sent quarterly, as well as cards sent throughout the year for Birthdays, Christmas, Valentines and Pascha!
- ♥ Due to the recent Covid variant, our in-person visits to our Shut-Ins/Homebound has been placed on a temporary hold. We look forward to being able to visit in the near future!
- ♥ The SPOM Visitation Committee is our Cathedral's vessel to contact and visit our Parish Homebound/Shut-Ins. Parishioners should call the [Cathedral office at 404-633-5870](tel:404-633-5870) to add a loved one to this list.

Upcoming Saint Photini Outreach Ministry Events

Our SPOM starts 2022 by inviting you to participate in the following events!! *Look for full details in upcoming Cathedral communications!*

IOCC Souper Bowl of Caring Events

† Speaker from International Orthodox Christian Charities (Sunday, Feb. 13) (<https://iocc.org/>)

- **Lou Zagami, Development Director Officer, IOCC.** Lou will visit our Cathedral and will lead a discussion on IOCC's worldwide humanitarian programs and answer questions about how our Cathedral supports people in need around the world. ***Come meet Lou in Carlos Hall after the Liturgy.***

In lieu of the tray normally passed to support IOCC on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, donations can be made on our Cathedral's website. atlgoc.org

† Saint Photini Souper Bowl of Caring – Soup Collection (Sundays: Feb. 6 & Feb. 13)

- SPOM will be collecting **ONLY canned** soups, stews, pasta and chili. (No Glass) in Carlos Hall.
- Donations will support URGENT pantry needs of our neighbor, *Toco Hills Community Alliance*.

We invite you to join and participate in the philanthropic and outreach events sponsored by our Annunciation Cathedral's Saint Photini Outreach Ministry. We welcome new ideas and fellowship!! Please contact Vickie Klemis at vickieklemis@gmail.com to be added to this growing ministry for future meetings and activities.

"Just as Christ met Saint Photini where she was in her life, our Annunciation Cathedral Saint Photini Outreach Ministry strives to follow the example of our patron saint to reach out and meet people where they are."

Golden Group News

Our Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 16, was a wonderful get together that many Golden Group participants were able to attend. We thank our Annunciation Day School students for cheerfully treating us to a festive holiday performance and our Parish Council for hosting our delicious Christmas Lenten lunch. Our day of friendship and camaraderie concluded with our annual gift exchange, this year facilitated by Barbara Hall's beautiful singing of a Christmas carol.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our New Year's Luncheon on Thursday, January 20, out of an abundance of caution due to Covid concerns. Hopefully, we will be able to get together for our Valentine Luncheon on Thursday, February 17, at 10:30 am in the Kartos Ballroom. Please save the date on your calendar. The Daughters of Penelope will host the luncheon and our annual BINGO game with a wide ranging selection of prizes for the lucky winners.

AHEPA

Did you know?

- AHEPA was founded by eight men of the Atlanta Greek American community. Nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren live in Atlanta today.
- AHEPA's first Chapter - Atlanta is referred to as the Mother Lodge Chapter #1. Charlotte and Birmingham Chapters were also founded in the fall of 1922 and within one year 32 Chapters were founded across America. Marietta's Chapter #519 was founded in 2000.
- On June 23 -26, 2022 we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of AHEPA at the District Convention in Atlanta. All events are open to everyone. See you there. More details to follow.

We are asking anyone who may have archival information from the original founders or the early years of the organization to contact us at ypolizos3@hotmail.com or 404-831-6508.



AHEPA



The USO was thrilled with the 750+ lunch bags we donated to our Troops. The picture shows the Troops coming through, picking up lunches and waters to get on their buses for their respective military bases.

Thanks to the Daughters of Penelope and AHEPA for their support.
Thanks to Athens Pizza for providing lunch.

The folks at Callaway Blue Water were very pleased that we donated the remaining bottled water, which had been donated to the Greek Drive Thru, to our Troops. They stated that they look forward to helping us in the future.
So, start drinking Callaway Blue.

This is the second year we have done this and to think we went from 250 lunches last year to 750 is amazing. We are so blessed to have people like you in our community who want to get involved and give back.

God bless you and God bless our Troops.
Happy New Year!



Atlanta

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Join us for the 100th Anniversary of AHEPA

Celebrating our Past, Present, and Future



Save the Date!
June 23-26,
2022

Schedule and reservation
information on our website:
WWW.AHEPA100.ORG

Lykion Ton Ellinidon

All of us at Lykion ton Ellinidon Atlanta wish you a Happy New Year 2022 with good health, strength, patience, and creativity.

LYKION TON ELLINIDON
ATLANTA



The pandemic has impacted many aspects of our cultural and educational activities these past 2 years. We had to cancel many events including the Atlanta Greek Film Expo, our annual Vasilopita celebration, monthly book club, and many others.

On Sunday, January 30th, our Atlanta Greek Film Expo will present the award-winning film 'My Name Is Eftihia' at the Plaza Theater. A reduced number of tickets (available via Freshtix.com) will be sold for everyone's comfort and safety. We hope that conditions will change as the year progresses, so we can continue to bring single films at regular intervals.

Our book club will resume in February. We are all looking forward to an in-person session and lively discussion of Victoria Hislop's book 'Carte Postales from Greece'. Looking forward to better times, and all the best,
The Lykion President and Executive Board

We are
back!
**Atlanta
Greek Film
Expo,**
a project of
Lykion ton
Ellinidon.

ONE SHOW ONLY!

SUNDAY
JANUARY 30, 2022
4:00PM

PLAZA THEATRE
1049 PONCE DE LEON AVE NE, ATLANTA, GA 30306
Vaccinated Patrons Only

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE!

More info/Tickets: www.freshtix.com
or Call 678.701.6144

atlanta greek
FILM
EXPO

The Greek Orthodox Chapel of St. Barbara at Greenwood Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia



The Icon of St. Barbara in the Chapel



Dedicatory Plaque on the Front of the Chapel

"The Church of Saint Barbara, Erected with Funds from the Association of the Same Name of Greek Ladies of Atlanta and Dedicated to the Greek Community of Atlanta in the Year 1928."



Image of the Cross on the Interior of the Royal Gate in the Altar

Apolytikion of St. Barbara

"Let us honor the all-virtuous Saint Barbara: for she broke the snares of the enemy, and she escaped from them like a bird, with the Cross as her help and shield."

On December 4th, 1929, led by the ladies of the St. Barbara Society, the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated in our Chapel of St. Barbara at Greenwood Cemetery. With that first Liturgy on her Feast Day, and those that have followed till the present day, the chapel remains the oldest, continuously used Orthodox house of worship in the State of Georgia.

The construction of a chapel at the cemetery had been part of the community's plans since 1911, when it first purchased sections at Greenwood for burial plots. Greenwood transferred to the Church at that time, at no additional cost, an adjacent parcel of land specifically for the construction of a chapel.

The community purchased its second section of burial plots at Greenwood in 1915, and made the final payment for this section in 1923. With the completion of this purchase in that year, the community dedicated the "Greek Cemetery" to Saint Barbara.



1923 Dedicatory Plaque on the Stone Pillar at Bottom of Hill

Despite the community's early plans for a chapel at the cemetery, over the next decade and a half, financial pressures and the ongoing needs of the old Garnett Street location of the Church pushed the construction of a chapel to the side.

The women of the community had organized the Saint Barbara Society at least by April, 1924 when they sponsored a special benefit for the destitute war orphans of Greece. Then in November, 1926, the women formally incorporated "*The Greek Ladies Auxiliary*" and officially

dedicated their new charitable Society to St. Barbara, a Great Martyr of the Orthodox Church. The founding members of the Society were Mrs. Ellie Psaroudakis, Mrs. Mary Macris, Mrs. Anna Kayopoulos and Mrs. Dionisia Galiatsou.

Almost immediately, the women of the Society made construction of the chapel its top priority, and opened a bank savings account exclusively for the purpose of collecting monies for the chapel.

By 1928, the Society had raised sufficient funds for the chapel's construction. They had been able to reach this goal by keeping their focus only on the chapel. When they were asked by the Church Council in 1928 to contribute to the building of a school next to the Church, they responded that they *"would not be able to contribute at all to the school because all of their savings are in an account for the purpose of building a chapel in the cemetery in the name of St. Barbara."*

In addition to plans for the school, the community at that time was in the process of purchasing the Jewish Temple on Pryor Street for its new Church building and was unable to commit any time or resources to the chapel at the cemetery.

So the ladies of the Society decided to assume complete responsibility for the chapel's construction. In June, 1928, the Church Council authorized the Society *"to have said building erected on said cemetery lot."* This authorization was granted only after the building contractor agreed to hold the Church itself harmless for any non-payment of fees owed under the contract. Under this agreement, the Church was putting all of the financial risk on the Society. The contractor was specifically restricted to *"look solely to said Society"* for payment.

With this agreement in place, construction began under the Society's supervision, and the chapel was completed in 1929. In recognition of the Society's unconditional commitment to the project, the chapel had been formally dedicated to St. Barbara before construction was completed with a marble plaque installed at the entrance.

The Society then secured the support of the Council on November 27, 1929 to celebrate the first Divine Liturgy on the saint's Feast Day, December 4th. As reflected in the minutes of the Council, *"The Association of the Greek ladies requested from the Council to have a Divine Liturgy at the Chapel of St. Barbara, and it was decided to issue bulletins for this announcement."*

So it is on that date every year that we continue to memorialize the dedication of the early women in our community to this Great Martyr Saint.

ANNUNCIATION DAY SCHOOL'S



5K 2022 SPARTAN RUN

MARCH 26th 8:30am race start (7:45am check-in)

Register Today at www.ADSatlanta.org

Adults: \$25 • Children (10 and under): \$15 • Strollers FREE!

Each registered runner/walker will receive a FREE Chick-fil-A chicken biscuit and themed T-shirt.

Registration must be complete by: March 14th. Spread the word to family & friends as the run is open to the entire Atlanta community!

LOCATION: Annunciation Day School, 2500 Clairmont Road, Atlanta 30329 (Starting line: In front of Gymnasium)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY & SUPPORT:

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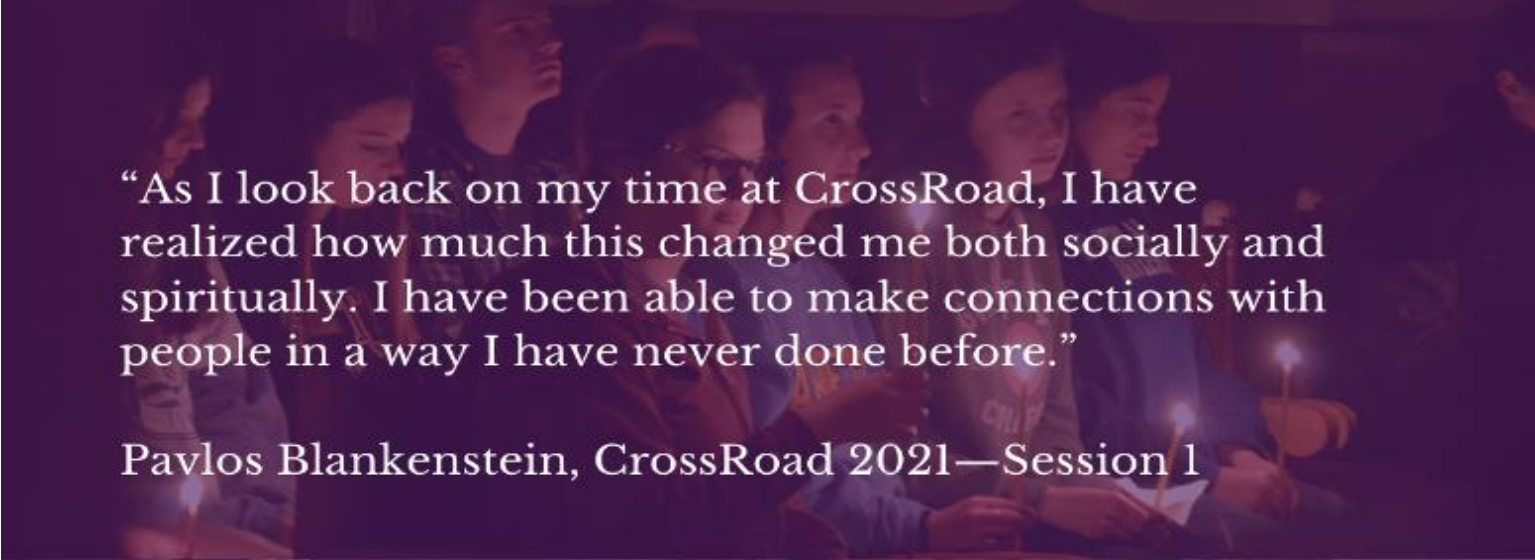


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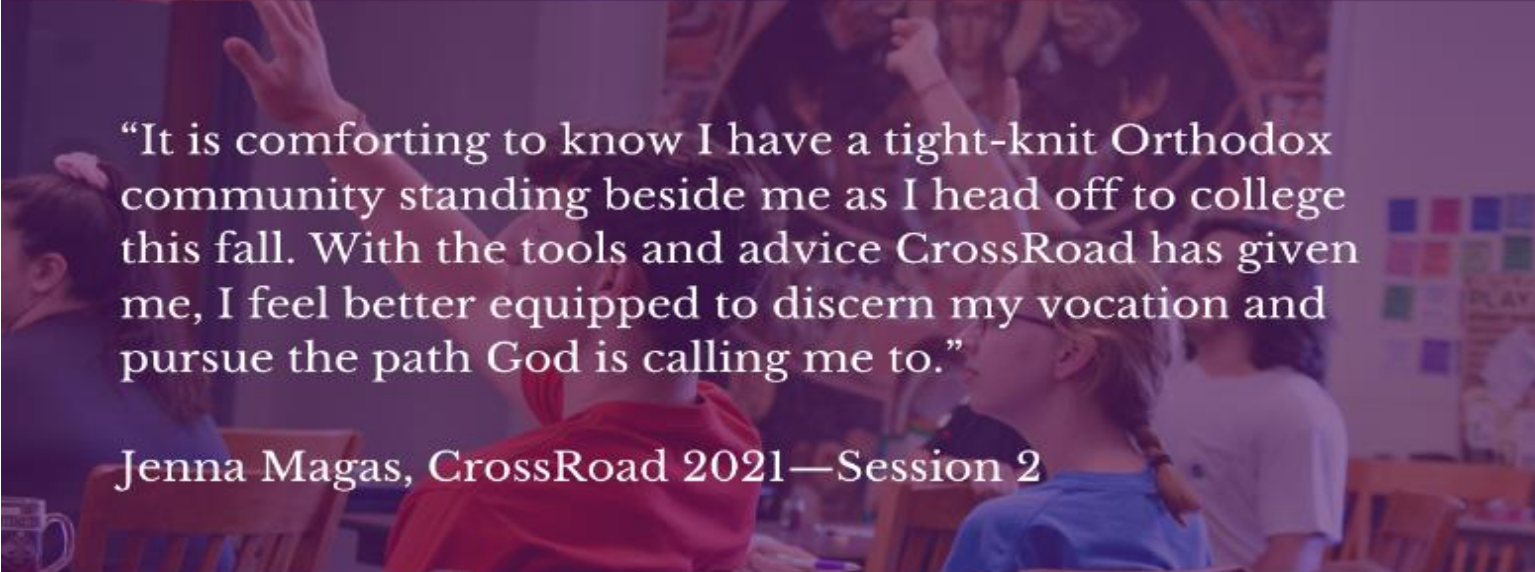
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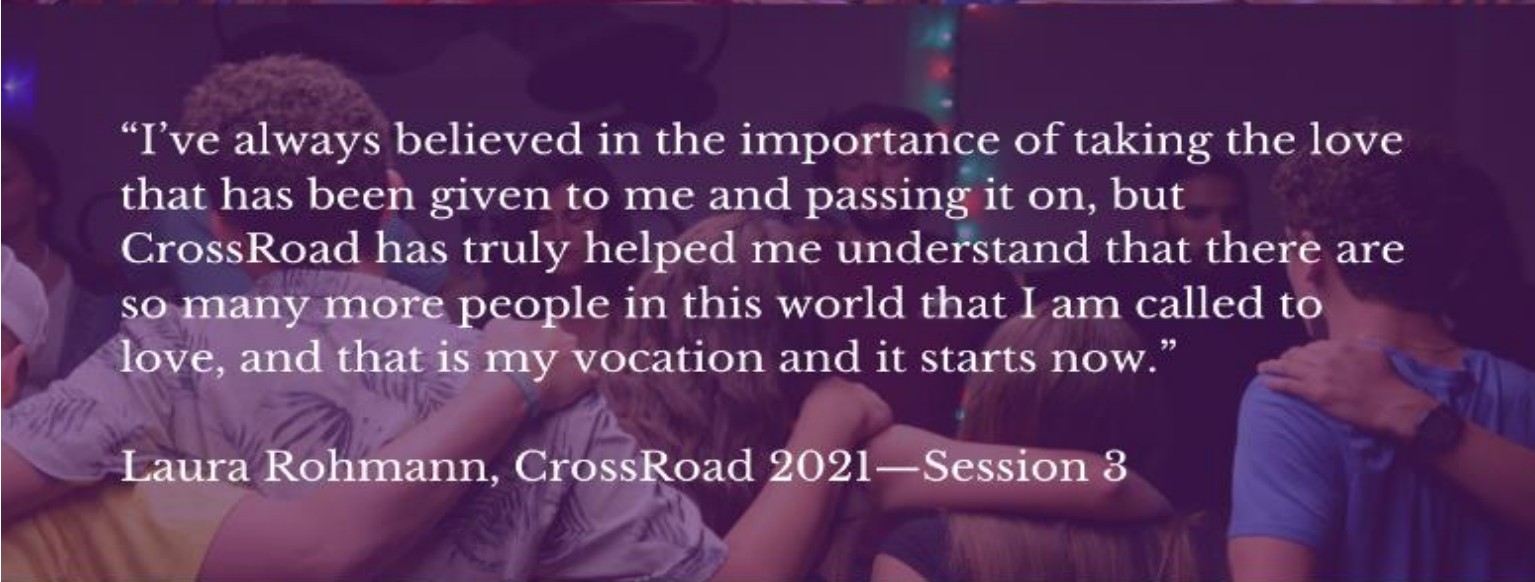
“As I look back on my time at CrossRoad, I have realized how much this changed me both socially and spiritually. I have been able to make connections with people in a way I have never done before.”

Pavlos Blankenstein, CrossRoad 2021—Session 1



“It is comforting to know I have a tight-knit Orthodox community standing beside me as I head off to college this fall. With the tools and advice CrossRoad has given me, I feel better equipped to discern my vocation and pursue the path God is calling me to.”

Jenna Magas, CrossRoad 2021—Session 2



“I’ve always believed in the importance of taking the love that has been given to me and passing it on, but CrossRoad has truly helped me understand that there are so many more people in this world that I am called to love, and that is my vocation and it starts now.”

Laura Rohmann, CrossRoad 2021—Session 3

THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA
PRESENTS OUR INAUGURAL

Festival of Faith Retreat

ENGAGE THE MIND
RENEW THE HEART
UPLIFT THE SPIRIT



Keynote Speakers



"Raising Children in an Orthodox Environment"

**His Eminence Metropolitan
Gregory of Nyssa**

American Carpatho-Russian
Orthodox Diocese of the USA



"RENEWING YOU!"

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church
Jacksonville, FL



*"The Unexpected Beauty of
an Authentic Christian Life"*

Hank Hanegraaff

President of Christian Research Institute
Host of "The Bible Answer Man"

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)
FEB 25-26, 2022

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Metropolis of Atlanta
Diakonia Center, Salem SC



Featured Session Speakers



"Sacramental Living"

Fr. Andreas Houpos

St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
Charlotte, NC



"Prayer and Family Life"

Dr. Philip Mamalakis

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
Brookline, MA



*"Spiritual Growth:
Personal & Communal"*

Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou

Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
Marietta, GA



*"Building a Successful Adult
Religious Education Program"*

Gerry Clonaris

St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
Charlotte, NC

For more information, contact
Gerry Clonaris: 704-574-6179 or
gbcmktline@gmail.com



The Hellenic Women Association extends
a very Happy and Blessed New Year
to the community!

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*All news can be e-mailed to office@atlgoc.org or put on a disk
and brought to the Cathedral office during office hours
(Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)*

*All Cathedral mail goes to the post office on the same day.
If you do not receive your Annunciator in a timely manner,
please call your post office and notify them.*