



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

September 9, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,

Over the course of the last several months, numerous ministries of the Church on the local, regional, and national levels have suffered from the devastating effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic. This has, unfortunately, limited the outreach of many of these ministries as they have been deprived of the time, talents, and treasures which have so generously been offered by the devout faithful in the past. One of the most essential ministries which has been severely affected and suffers from financial hardships is Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

Hellenic College Holy Cross prepares and educates the future generations of the Clergy and Lay leaders who devote their lives to the Church while providing all students with an Orthodox-centered learning environment in which to study theology, classics and Greek studies, history and literature, management and leadership, elementary education, and psychology. Furthermore, the strength of this institution of higher learning is of the utmost importance since it is the lifeblood of our Archdiocese, our Metropolis, and every Parish Community. This is this institution where the members of our Clergy are formed and its success is paramount to ensuring that future generations of Clergy are well-educated and grow spiritually with an Orthodox Christian ethos so that they may serve the Church.

Therefore, in an effort to support our beloved Theological School and to show our support for the vital ministry of educating and training our future Clergy and Lay leaders, I encourage each and every one of you to offer as generously as you can to

Hellenic College Holy Cross's "Light a Candle" initiative which allows you to light a virtual candle, reflect in prayer, and make a contribution to our beloved Theological School. The link for the "Light a Candle" initiative is as follows: <http://www.hchc.edu/give/light-a-candle/>

My beloved in the Lord, it is my sincerest prayer that as we approach the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the feast day of our Theological School, you keep our beloved School in your prayers and make every effort to support this crucial ministry. May we always remember the words of the Apostle Paul when he tells us, "*He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Cor. 9:6-7). Praying that our loving and merciful Lord guards and guides you and our beloved Theological School through these challenging times, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M'.

† E V A N G E L O S  
Metropolitan of New Jersey