



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ Γ.Ο.Χ. ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
HELLENIC ORTHODOX TRADITIONALIST CHURCH OF AMERICA
HOLY METROPOLIS G.O.C. OF AMERICA

September 14/27, 2021

✠ Universal Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross

Beloved Orthodox Christians,

May God bless you and your families.

I am coming to you on behalf of the Saint John of Damascus Orthodox Educational Initiative.

If we look to the saints, we will see a great emphasis on educating our youth. I would like to call to mind one quote in particular from St. Kosmas on the importance of educating children. When the saint arrives at a certain village, he asks:

“Do you have a school here, here in your village to teach your children?”

“We don’t, O saint of God.”

“You must all get together and establish a good school. Appoint a committee to govern it, to appoint a teacher to teach all the children, rich and poor. Because it is in school that we learn who God is; who is the Holy Trinity; who are the angels, demons; and what is paradise, hell, virtue, evil; what is the soul, body, etc. Without a school we walk in darkness. The school leads to the monastery. If there were no school, how would I have learned to teach you?”

I studied about priests and about unbelievers, heretics, and atheists. I searched the depths of wisdom, but all the faiths are false. I learned this to be true, that only the faith of the Orthodox Christians is sacred: to believe and be baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. In conclusion, I tell you this. Rejoice that you are Orthodox Christians and weep for the impious and heretics who walk in darkness.”

So, I come to you on behalf of our diocesan effort to educate our young people by starting a school through the St. John of Damascus Orthodox Educational Initiative.

G.O.C. Metropolis Headquarters
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Some of you may have heard that the Initiative's student body is growing, and you may have even encountered some of our students in your local parish. We have a growing number of students from pious families, including several clergy families, throughout the US and Canada, who are in need of scholarships.

We need your help to be able to educate children from pious families in a God-pleasing way, so that the next generation in turn will also love and serve the Orthodox Church. We are planting the seeds of the future of our Church: pious and Orthodox-educated young people who will grow up to be our children's and grandchildren's priests and presbyteras!

As we mentioned before, in order to take care of all these students, we estimate a need for \$12,000 for the year. Through the generosity of a variety of donors large and small, we have received just over \$8,700, but we still need to raise \$3,300 to pay our teachers and other expenses, in order to take care of these young people. Again, it is our hope and prayer that from among our students will come some of the leadership of the next generation of our local Church.

Any amount helps. If you are moved to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please visit our website, orthodoxlearninggoc.com to either make a donation by check or via Paypal. If you'd like to use a check, please make it out to "St John of Damascus" and send it to: St John of Damascus, 100 Hillsdale Street, Hillsdale, MI 49242

Another to help is to join our newest discussion group on the Psalms; all proceeds from that group go to the scholarship fund as well.

The link for donations is: <https://orthodoxlearninggoc.com/donate/>

May the All-Merciful Lord, Who bade the little children come unto Him, reward all those who heed His call and care for their souls!

Your intercessor before the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Demetrius of America". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

✠ Metropolitan Demetrius of America

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