

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SPECIAL CONVOCATION WILL CONFER HONORARY DEGREE
UPON HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS**

BROOKLINE, MA—The Board of Trustees, President, and Faculties of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology are pleased to announce an academic convocation honoring Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, on Friday, November 16, 2007, at 3 pm. The event celebrates forty years since His Eminence was elevated to the episcopacy and the seventieth anniversary of Holy Cross School of Theology.

A full procession with academic regalia will begin at Dowd Hall. The student bodies of both Hellenic College and Holy Cross will lead the staff, faculties, special guests, trustees, and dignitaries to the Pappas Auditorium. Music by the Hellenic College and Holy Cross Chorale and the Greater Boston String and Brass Ensemble will lead off the program, which includes remarks by Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou, President, and Dr. Thomas C. Lelon, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the conferral of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity upon His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. A reception open to all will follow.

His Eminence was elected titular Bishop of Vresthena in 1967, as an auxiliary bishop to the Archbishop of Athens with the primary responsibility for the theological education of the clergy. He earned his PhD with distinction from Harvard University in 1972. He later taught at Harvard Divinity School from 1984–1985 and again from 1988–1989 as Visiting Professor of New Testament. As the Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies and Christian Origins at Holy Cross from 1983–1993, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios taught many of America's Greek Orthodox clergy. In 1993, he returned to Greece to pursue full-time scholarly writing and research. His Eminence was enthroned as Archbishop of America on September 18, 1999, and leads a church of more than one and a half million Greek Orthodox Christians in the United States.

Holy Cross began in Pomfret, CT, in 1937 as a two-year preparatory school for seminarians, who would then complete another two years of training in Greece. Unable to send seminarians to Greece because of World War II, Holy Cross augmented its priestly education program from two years to five years. In 1946, Holy Cross moved to its present location in Brookline, MA, where in 1968 expanded to offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Hellenic College offers degrees in elementary education, human development, management and leadership, classics, and religious studies. As an accredited graduate school of theology, Holy Cross offers programs for both men and women leading to the degrees of Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Theology.

This event, open to the public, is part of a year-long celebration of the school's seventieth anniversary. Greeters will be stationed throughout campus to direct visitors to parking and to the Pappas Auditorium for the program.

Members of the Press should RSVP to (617) 850-1580 to ensure appropriate access.

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