



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX SEMINARY

PO Box 36, JORDANVILLE, NEW YORK 13361

Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary Annual Report 2024

Your Support Strengthens Our Mission

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As the Academic Dean and CEO, I am deeply grateful for your truly transformative support of the Seminary—particularly over the past two years. During 2024, your generosity has done so much to enable us with so many things! We have strengthened our student body, celebrated thirteen (13) ordinations, attractively modernized/refurnished our teaching and auditorium facilities, significantly expanded our scholarship program, which has now come to include eleven (11) separate funds. Our Seminary Patrons program has tripled, and the Annual Fund now reaches nearly \$500K.

But we still have so much more to do together! Over the years, HTOS has received worldwide recognition as a foremost institution for the education of Orthodox clergy, and as we continue, our ambitious goals include further expanding our curriculum and facilities including the construction of a new dormitory. I am confident that with your continued partnership, we will be able to further ensure the highest quality theological education and spiritual training for our current clergy and for generations to come. Thank you for joining us and investing in the future of the Church.

With sincere gratitude,
Nicolas Schidlovsky, Ph.D.

Dean, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I share with you, for the first time in this format, the **2024 Annual Report** on the progress and growth of **Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary**. Your generosity—both in prayers and financial support—has been instrumental in strengthening our mission and ensuring the seminary continues to serve the Holy Orthodox Church with excellence.

This report is more than a summary of accomplishments; it is a testament to the impact of your support. Through your generosity, we continue to train future clergy, expand theological education, and provide a firm foundation for those who will serve the Holy Orthodox Church for generations to come.

Our Mission: A Foundation for the Future

Our recently revised **mission statement** affirms our commitment to Pastoral Formation and Orthodox Christian education:

"Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary prepares its students for service to the Church, emphasizing spiritual formation and the pursuit of intellectual and cultural knowledge in accordance with the standards and traditional teachings of Orthodox Christianity."

This mission is made possible through the generosity of those who believe in the importance of theological education. Your support allows us to provide students with the formation they need to serve the Church faithfully and effectively.

Enrollment and Ordinations: Strengthening the Clergy of Tomorrow

Over the past two academic years, **Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary has experienced significant growth**, welcoming new students and celebrating the ordinations of seminarians and alumni.

- **In 2023-24**, the seminary had 78 students enrolled between all our programs. There were **28 students** studying on campus, which included **19 undergraduate (18 B.Th. and 1 C.P.S.) and 9 graduate (M.Div.) students**. In addition, there were 50 students studying remotely. Eleven of the on-campus students and 1 CTS student graduated on June 9, 2024, having completed their studies and preparing for service in the Church.
- **In 2024-25**, enrollment increased to 88 total students. There are presently **29 students on campus**, including **16 B.Th. students and 13 M.Div. students**, and 59 students studying remotely in the CTS program. This is a sign of the seminary's continued growth and outreach.

During this time, **13 seminarians and/or alumni were ordained:**

- **Six were ordained to the Holy Priesthood.**
- **Seven were ordained to the Diaconate.**

Three of these young men are still studying here, whereas the others are already serving parishes across the country and beyond, assisting the faithful and preparing to succeed senior clergy, many of whom are also alumni of this fine institution.

Your generosity ensures that these students receive the theological education, pastoral training, and spiritual guidance necessary to serve the Church with wisdom and humility.

A Year of Milestones and Outreach

Thanks to the support of our benefactors, the seminary was able to host and participate in important events that strengthened its mission and outreach.

75th Anniversary Celebration

In September 2023, the seminary marked **75 years of service** with a three-day celebration in Jordanville and Cooperstown. The events included:

- A **Gala Dinner and Anniversary Concert**
- A **Public Program** exploring the seminary's history and mission
- A **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Benefit Banquet**

The anniversary was a time of gratitude, reflection, and renewed commitment to the seminary's mission.

Seminary Choir Tours

The seminary choir continued its mission of sharing Orthodox liturgical music with the faithful. Over the past 15 months, the choir has traveled to:

- Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA
- St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Lakewood, NJ (twice)
- The Synodal Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sign, New York, NY
- St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Washington, DC
- Holy Virgin Cathedral – Joy of All Who Sorrow, San Francisco, CA

A wonderful highlight of these travels was the choir's participation in the **30th anniversary celebration of the Glorification of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco on June 29-30, 2024**. These trips allow seminarians to bring the beauty of Orthodox sacred music to those who are unable to visit the seminary and monastery in person.

Academic Excellence and Theological Education

Your support ensures that students receive a **rigorous and spiritually enriching education** through our degree and certificate programs.

- **Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.)** – Our 4 year on-campus undergraduate program which prepares students for ordination, furthering of their academic pursuits, and lay leadership.
- **Master of Divinity (M.Div.)** – Our 3 year on-campus graduate program which offers advanced training for Orthodox clergy and Church leaders.
- **Certificate in Pastoral Studies** – Our 2 year on-campus program which provides essential theological and pastoral formation for those preparing for service in the Church.
- **Certificate in Theological Studies** – Our independent-study which is a flexible program for clergy and laity, and open to both men and women who are seeking deeper theological understanding.

- **New Online Education Program for Laity** – This is a recent initiative to provide theological education to Orthodox Christians, catechumens, and inquirers through self-paced online courses.

Through these programs, the Seminary continues to serve its mission of properly forming knowledgeable and faithful servants of the Church.

Accreditation and Institutional Development

HTOS was accredited by the New York State Board of Regents and the New York State Commissioner of Education, in good standing, until May 9, 2023, when NYS-BOR voluntarily allowed their status as a USDE-approved accreditor to expire. They facilitated their institutions to apply to other USDE-approved accreditors. HTOS chose to apply with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), a top-tier accrediting agency. This effort will **strengthen the seminary's academic standing** and ensure its long-term sustainability.

In addition, several generous donors have enabled the seminary to make significant improvements to its facilities, including:

- **Renovated classrooms and seminar rooms**
- **New furniture and technology upgrades**
- **Updated study areas and faculty lounge**

These enhancements create a **modern yet traditional learning environment**, ensuring that seminarians can focus on their studies in a well-equipped, pleasant, and dignified setting.

Seminary Life and Engagement

Beyond academics, life at the Seminary is shaped by prayer, attendance at and participation in the Divine Services, fellowship, and engagement with the broader Orthodox community.

- **Participation in Orthodox Conferences** – Seminarians regularly attend events such as the **St. Herman's Youth Conference**, where they connect with fellow Orthodox Christians and encourage others to consider a calling to seminary.
- **Monastic Life and Formation** – As part of their spiritual formation, students live alongside the monastic brotherhood at Holy Trinity Monastery, gaining insights into the ascetical and liturgical life of the Church.

Through these experiences, seminarians deepen their faith and prepare for a lifetime of service.

Financial Stewardship: Your Role in Sustaining and Growing the Seminary

The Growth of the Holy Trinity Seminary Patrons Program

In 2024, one of our primary development goals was to significantly increase the number of **monthly donors** whose ongoing support provides the Seminary with reliable and sustainable funding. To achieve this, we established the **Holy Trinity Seminary Patrons**, a dedicated group of benefactors who make a monthly financial commitment to the seminary's mission.

At the time of our **Spring Appeal in May 2024**, the seminary had **36 pre-existing monthly donors**. By the end of the **2024 Year-End Appeal**, this number had grown to **106 monthly donors**, a remarkable testament to the generosity and faithfulness of our supporters. These gifts range from **\$5 to \$250 per month**, and together, they provide a stable financial foundation for the seminary's ongoing needs.

Our goal for 2025 is to **continue this growth and reach 200 monthly benefactors**. Monthly giving is one of the most effective ways to support the seminary, ensuring that students receive the theological education and spiritual formation necessary to serve the Church. If you are not yet part of this initiative, we invite you to join us.

The Jordanville Seminary Annual Fund: A Growing Impact

The **Jordanville Seminary Annual Fund** remains the primary source of operational funding for the seminary. Through the generosity of our donors, we have seen **consistent growth** in annual giving over the past three years:

- **2022:** 1,077 gifts totaling **\$260,097.77**
- **2023:** 1,222 gifts totaling **\$414,149.92**
- **2024:** 1,577 gifts totaling **\$477,598.63**

This growth reflects an increasing awareness of the seminary's mission and the generosity of those who recognize its vital role in the life of the Church. However, to ensure long-term sustainability, **our goal is to grow the Annual Fund to consistently raise \$1,000,000 per calendar year** through the Annual Fund. This would provide the financial stability needed to support existing faculty, maintain facilities, and enhance student programs.

Scholarships and Student Financial Aid

The financial burden of theological education should never be a barrier to those called to serve the Holy Orthodox Church. Because of your support, the seminary has been able to expand its **scholarship and bursary programs**, ensuring that students can focus on their training without the overwhelming pressure of tuition and room and board costs.

In 2017, the Seminary received **three primary sources of scholarship funding**, totaling approximately **\$93,500 per year**. Over the past seven years, through the generosity of new and dedicated benefactors, this number has grown substantially. Today, the Seminary offers a range of scholarships, including:

- **The Protopresbyter Valery Lukianov Scholarship**
- **The Metropolitan Philaret Memorial Scholarship**
- **The FFA Prince Vladimir Galitzine Memorial Scholarship**
- **The Colonel George Codrea, USMC Memorial Scholarship**
- **The Tsar-Martyr Nicholas II Scholarship**
- **The Bishop Mitrophan Memorial Award**
- **The Holy Trinity Seminary Bursary Fund**
- **The St. Mardarije Scholarship**
- **The Archbishop Vitaly (Maximenko) Memorial Scholarship**
- **The Rev. Protodeacon Nicholas V. Lukianov Memorial CTS Scholarship**
- **The Metropolitan Hilarion Memorial Scholarship** (anticipated for Fall 2026)

Scholarship Growth and Financial Aid Distribution

Because of the generosity of our supporters, the seminary has been able to significantly expand financial aid for students:

- **2022-23: \$190,095 awarded** in scholarships and bursary funds.
- **2023-24: \$230,640 awarded** in scholarship and bursary funds.

With the **rising costs of tuition, room, and board**, the need for financial aid continues to grow. For the 2025-26 academic year, tuition and room and board rates will be increasing, and therefore, increased offerings from our scholarship and bursary funds will be critical in ensuring that all qualified students can attend the Seminary regardless of financial circumstances.

To maintain this level of support, our goal is to **raise \$500,000 per year in scholarships and bursary funding**. By growing these funds, we can continue to support seminarians who are preparing for service to the Holy Orthodox Church.

Future Vision: Preparing for the Next Phase of Growth

While the progress of recent years has been encouraging, **there is still much to be done** to ensure that our Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary remains a thriving institution for decades to come.

For 2025 and beyond, our key goals include:

- **Expanding the Holy Trinity Seminary Patrons program to reach 200 monthly benefactors by December 31, 2025.**

- **Growing the Jordanville Seminary Annual Fund** to consistently raise **\$1,000,000 per year** to support operations and growth.
- **Increasing scholarship and bursary support** to provide at least **\$500,000 in student aid per year**.
- **Producing a new recording of the Holy Trinity Seminary Choir** to share the beauty of Orthodox sacred music.
- **Expanding our facilities**, including additional space for:
 - **A musical manuscript archive and library**
 - **Rehearsal and classroom space**
 - **Faculty offices**
- **Launching a capital campaign** for the construction of a **new seminary dormitory**, a project which is now necessary to begin, and that would allow for far better undergraduate student accommodations, as well as prepare us for future growth.

These initiatives reflect the seminary's **commitment to academic excellence, spiritual formation, and service to the Holy Orthodox Church**. However, none of this can be accomplished without the continued support of our faithful benefactors.

With Gratitude for Your Support

As we reflect on the blessings of this past year, we recognize that **none of this would be possible without you**.

- **Your gifts will sustain our seminary.**
- **Your prayers uphold our students, faculty, administration, and clergy.**
- **Your faith ensures the future of Orthodox leadership.**

Thank you for your support; including past, present, and future, of our beloved seminary. With God's help, and with your ongoing prayerful and financial assistance, you are together working side by side with us as a co-laborer for the seminary. Together, we can continue to work to sustain and to grow the seminary to continue to intellectually and spiritually form the Orthodox Church's future clergy, scholars, and lay leaders.

In Christ,

Protodeacon Michael Pavuk
 Director of Development
 Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary