

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CrossRoad Institute Celebrates 20 Years in Ministry and Education of Our Youth

Cambridge, Massachusetts—*Who am I? Who is God? Who is my neighbor?* These are the same three questions that have been asked of over 1,200 high school juniors and seniors who have attended the CrossRoad Summer Institute over the past twenty years. Starting in 2004 as a one-session offering at Hellenic College Holy Cross in Boston, CrossRoad now offers four summer sessions held in multiple locations: Boston, Northern California/San Francisco, and Chicago.

The CrossRoad Summer Institute is a ten-day academic summer program that prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way. CrossRoad offers a space for young people to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore their calling as an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

Dr. Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides has been overseeing CrossRoad since it began. “In 2004, Fr Nicholas C. Triantafilou, as president of Hellenic College Holy Cross, trusted me and a small group of young adult graduate students to design the program we would have loved to have been a part of in high school. Without question, his leadership, trust, and love gave the program its wings.”

Today, the CrossRoad Summer Institute continues as it began, focusing on the Orthodox understanding of vocation and purpose. Students completing high school are at a pivotal moment, beginning to make many major life decisions, and the complexities of teenage life have only increased over the last 20 years. For many participants, the program is a pivotal time when they ask themselves: is the faith of my family going to be my faith as well? From the 10 days, these students gain a whole new perspective on an incredible heritage. An increasing number of

participants have discovered the Orthodox Church on their own and represent an important new influx in many parishes.

Over the last several years, CrossRoad Institute has been expanding its offerings to better steward the religious and spiritual lives of its alumni and many others. One such effort, the Telos Project, helps parishes effectively engage young adults. Its Director, Anna Kallis, is a CrossRoad alumna and reflects for the 20th anniversary on how there is plenty to be thankful for: "I attended CrossRoad in 2005 as a strong-willed teenager who cried all the way to the airport. Little did I expect to then be crying ten days later not wanting to leave! It's been incredible to be involved in the growth and expansion of CrossRoad and Telos and now to be able to help young adults and parishes engage one another deeply."

You are invited to be a part of the CrossRoad story for all that is ahead! Learn more today about the growing summer program and other resources available to individuals and parishes at www.crossroadinstitute.org.