



## 2014 College Student Sunday Encyclical October 19, 2014

*“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His own marvelous light.”*  
1 Peter 2:9

Beloved Clergy, Godly Monastics, and Blessed Faithful,

We greet you with joy as we announce a new date for **College Student Sunday**, benefiting **Orthodox Christian Fellowship**. Each October, college students at OCF chapters across the continent participate in Orthodox Awareness Month on their campuses. Through fellowship, education, worship, and service, our college students seek opportunities to deepen their own faith in Jesus Christ while sharing the Orthodox Tradition with love and humility to their peers on campus. To support the incredible efforts of our students, College Student Sunday will now be the third Sunday of October, running in conjunction with OCF’s Orthodox Awareness Month. This year, the date falls on **OCTOBER 19**.

Our OCF student leaders have chosen 1 Peter 2:9 as the theme for the 2014-2015 academic school year. How inspiring it is to see that our young people earnestly desire to live out our common vocation of Christ’s royal priesthood! But as we all know, they will face many challenges as they strive to do God’s will in an environment that all too often opposes Christ’s message of love, mercy, purity, and righteousness. Many of our students will be facing a challenging spiritual environment, and it is our responsibility as a Church to encourage and guide them where they are--on campus.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship continues to provide students with opportunities to encounter Christ and grow in their Orthodox faith through their growing network of on campus OCF chapters led by talented students, clergy, and lay advisors as well as through programs such as College Conference, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute. OCF continues to make every effort to connect new freshmen to campus chapters and local parishes through the **First Forty Days Initiative**, which involves extensive effort from our student leaders and spiritual advisors to contact every incoming freshman within their first forty days on campus. We wholeheartedly pray for and strongly encourage your support of these noble efforts by ensuring that the contact information for your parish’s graduating high school seniors be sent each and every year to the OCF National Office for dissemination to our dedicated local chapters!

Additionally, with the greatest sincerity and earnestness, we encourage your committed financial support of this fundamental ministry which functions **completely on the contributions of caring Orthodox faithful like yourselves**. We are asking that a special collection be taken on this day in support of the good work of OCF, and we encourage the entire faithful--clergy, parents, grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles, and friends of our treasured college students--to be generous in your offering of support to this ministry on their behalf. If for some reason October 19 is not a good date for your parish, please make the collection on the Sunday before or after. Donations may be sent to the OCF National Office via the enclosed envelope or online at [www.ocf.net/donate](http://www.ocf.net/donate).

May our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, who calls all of us to contribute to the ministry of His Church as part of His royal priesthood, guide and strengthen all of our cherished and blessed Orthodox college students.

+Bishop Gregory of Nyssa - [bishopgregoryofnyssa@gmail.com](mailto:bishopgregoryofnyssa@gmail.com)  
Liaison to OCF for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States