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Archbishop Serafim of Zimbabwe and Angola Visits Orthodox Christian Student Community at Harvard Divinity School

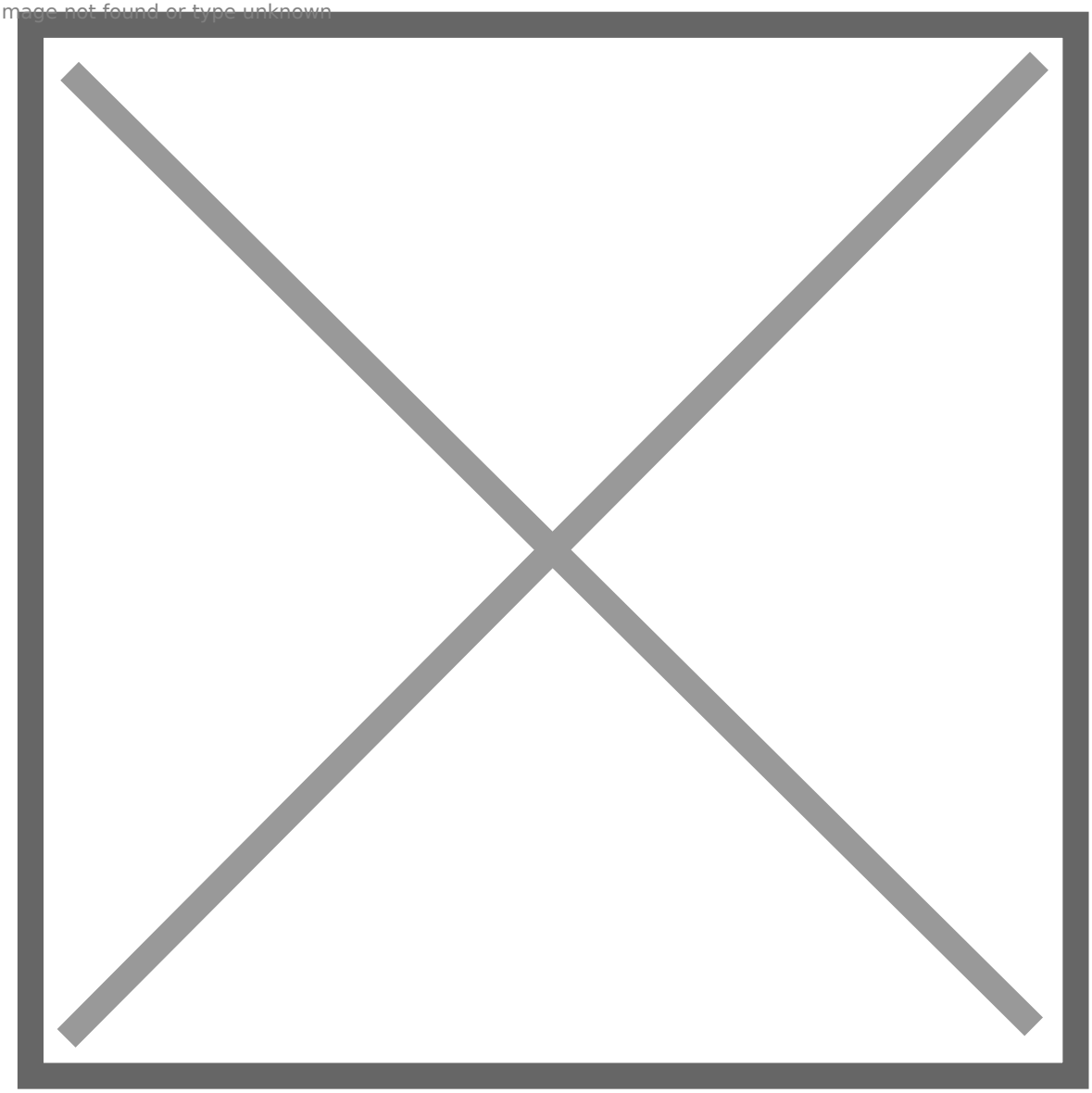


During his visit to Massachusetts for the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue, on Friday, October 11, 2024, His Eminence Archbishop Serafim (Kykotis) of Zimbabwe and Angola met with students belonging to Harvard Divinity School's Orthodox Christian Student Community, nicknamed "HDS Theosis." Accompanying His Eminence were Rev. Protopresbyter Giorgi Zviadadze, Rector of Tbilisi Theological Academy and Seminary, and Rev. Fr. Vassilios Bebis, Th.D., Orthodox Christian Chaplain for Harvard University.



His Eminence described how his journey from childhood to the episcopate shapes his understanding of Tradition as “dynamic,” and not “static.” The students were eager to learn about His Eminence’s recent ordination of Deaconess Angelic, whose steadfastness to her calling and Christ’s message of love inspires them as they discern their own ministries. HDS Theosis Co-President and dual Master of Divinity/Juris Doctor degree candidate Dina Zingaro likewise prays “that our Hierarchs are encouraged by Metropolitan Serafim and Deaconess Angelic,” expressing that His Eminence’s visit to what “has become a spiritual home for [her] and other Orthodox students” was a blessing.

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Speaking with the students, His Eminence also invited students to imagine humanity’s collective response to the ecological crisis as an ecological repentance (metanoia), recognizing that “all belongs to God.” Centering the unique challenges of his community, His Eminence emphasized that the poor and vulnerable in the world are most affected by the destruction of God’s creation. Courtney Haubert, HDS Theosis Co-President and Master of Theological Studies degree candidate, was impacted by His Eminence’s reminder that “the decisions and actions of those in power reverberate throughout the world,” emphasizing that “Our connection to people in Zimbabwe and across the globe is not only spiritual as fellow humans, but also material – no human being is truly detached from suffering and oppression, wherever it is found.”

Photos: HDS Theosis.

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