

Historic translation of the sacred relic of the Venerable Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos, at Hellenic College Holy Cross



BROOKLINE, MA — October 10, 2026 — In an extraordinary and historic moment in the life of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, hundreds of faithful, together with the entire student body of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, gathered in prayer and profound reverence for the solemn translation of the sacred relics of our Venerable Father Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos. More than three decades after his blessed repose on June 12, 1995, the Feast of the Holy Spirit, the beloved hierarch, teacher, and spiritual father was brought from his place of burial into Holy Cross Chapel, where his sacred relics were offered for public veneration for the first time. Presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, this momentous occasion marked a new chapter in the spiritual history of the School and a profound expression of the Church's recognition of the holiness and enduring spiritual legacy of a shepherd whose light continues to illuminate

generations of Orthodox Christians.

The historic observance represents a local recognition of the holiness and saintly character of the Venerable Bishop Gerasimos, whose life of prayer, humility, pastoral love, and dedication to theological education continues to inspire generations of clergy and faithful. This recognition does not constitute a formal canonization or universal proclamation of sainthood, which remains the sacred prerogative of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Mother Church of Constantinople.



Archbishop Elpidophoros stands over the relic of the Venerable Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos, beside a flower-adorned icon of the Elder, as clergy and seminarians gather for the Trisagion before the translation. Photo by Orthodox Observer.

The commemorative observances began on Friday evening with a special panel discussion dedicated to the life, ministry, and enduring spiritual legacy of Bishop Gerasimos.

The panel brought together clergy who had served as his teaching assistants, former students who had lived alongside him on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross, and members of a younger generation of seminarians who never knew him personally but whose priestly formation and theological education have nevertheless been profoundly shaped by his example.

Through personal recollections and moving testimonies, participants reflected upon a hierarch whose influence extended far beyond the classroom. For those who knew him, Bishop Gerasimos was not simply a professor of Holy Scripture, but a living example of the Gospel he taught, particularly the Gospel according to Saint John, which occupied a special place in his teaching and spiritual life.

The participation of students who never encountered him during his earthly life offered a particularly powerful testimony: more than three decades after his repose, his spiritual legacy remains a living presence within the School and continues to form those preparing to serve the Church.

Saturday morning's sacred observances began at the gravesite of Bishop Gerasimos, where Archbishop Elpidophoros and Metropolitan Savas and the entire community offered a Trisagion, the memorial prayers, or the repose of the venerable hierarch.

The presence of Metropolitan Savas carried particular personal and spiritual significance. His Eminence was the priest who administered Holy Communion to Bishop Gerasimos shortly before his blessed repose in 1995, and now, more than thirty years later, stood alongside the Archbishop to honor his memory and participate in the translation of his sacred relic.

Following the Trisagion, the incorrupt relic was reverently transferred into Holy Cross Chapel, the spiritual heart of the campus to which Bishop Gerasimos had devoted so much of his life and ministry. Adding to the profound significance of this historic occasion, the translation of the sacred relic took place on what would have been the 116th birthday of the venerable Elder, lending an especially poignant and providential dimension to a day.

In the Holy Cross Chapel, the intact sacred relic was cared for and vested in new hierarchical vestments by Archbishop Elpidophoros and Metropolitan Savas, assisted by clergy who had been Bishop Gerasimos' colleagues, spiritual children, and close acquaintances, including the Reverend Protopresbyters Nicholas Triantafilou, Alkiviadis Calivas, Theodore Stephanopoulos, and Peter Chamberas.

The vesting was an especially poignant expression of reverence and gratitude, as those who had known and loved the venerable hierarch personally were afforded the blessing of participating in this sacred moment.

The relic was then carried in solemn yet panegyric procession around Holy Cross Chapel, amid the prayers and hymns of the Church and in the presence of

hundreds of faithful and the entire student body.

At the conclusion of the procession, the sacred relic was presented for public veneration for the first time, allowing clergy, seminarians, and faithful to approach with reverence and prayer.



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh joined in the veneration of the relic of the Venerable Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos, at Holy Cross Chapel, where it was offered for public veneration for the first time following the translation. Photo by Orthodox Observer.

In his remarks reflecting upon the significance of the occasion, Archbishop Elpidophoros drew upon the words of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount:

“No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bushel; but on a lampstand, to shine its light on everyone in the house.”

His Eminence compared the translation of the relic to the unveiling of a light that had never ceased to shine, even while hidden beneath the earth.

“Today the lamp comes out from beneath the bushel – in this case, the very earth itself,” the Archbishop proclaimed. “For the light that shined in life as Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos, has never been extinguished, because it partakes of the light of Christ, Who is Himself the Light of the world.”

Reflecting upon the spiritual significance of the day, His Eminence continued:

“Today is surely the Day which the Lord has made, and the Visitation by our venerable father Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos, is a clear and clarion call for us to follow in his footsteps, for they followed Christ.”

The Archbishop recalled Bishop Gerasimos as a shepherd whose ministry was characterized by peace, patience, and pastoral tenderness, and whose love for Hellenic College Holy Cross was expressed not only through his teaching but through the daily witness of his life.

“Our saintly Bishop was not only a Shepherd of flocks within this Archdiocese, but he was a pastoral, peaceful, and patient presence on this Campus, which he loved with all his heart,” His Eminence observed.

The Archbishop also reflected upon the recognition of holiness within the life of the Church, emphasizing that such moments unfold according to God’s providence and in His appointed time.

Concluding his remarks, His Eminence declared:

“Therefore, beloved Brethren in the Lord, we have taken away the covering of the earthen bushel which housed and protected this Sacred Relic. It is time for it to shine.”

The Archbishop then invited the assembled faithful to chant, for the first time, the Apolytikion honoring the Venerable Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos.

The translation of the sacred relic marks a new chapter in the spiritual history of Hellenic College Holy Cross, where Bishop Gerasimos spent so many years teaching, mentoring, and guiding future priests and servants of the Church.

His presence within Holy Cross Chapel now offers a visible and enduring reminder that theological education is not merely the acquisition of knowledge, but the formation of lives dedicated to Christ, His Church, and the service of others.

For the generations who knew Bishop Gerasimos, the occasion was one of profound gratitude and remembrance. For the students who know him only through his legacy, it was an invitation to encounter the same spirit of humility, compassion, and holiness that distinguished his earthly ministry.

Above all, this historic day bore witness to the Church’s conviction that the lives of those who have faithfully followed Christ continue to illuminate and inspire the faithful long after their earthly repose.

As Archbishop Elpidophoros concluded in prayer: “Through his fervent intercessions, may we all attain to the perfections of love and compassion, and fulfill the purpose and meaning of our own lives.”

Through the prayers of our Venerable Father Gerasimos, Bishop of Abydos, may the Lord have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Apolytikion – Mode pl. 1

God-inspired professor and teacher of the Faith and the spiritual life to the Orthodox who live in America, O grace-filled Gerasimos, we salute you as a Christ-centered, humble hierarch who loved the all-holy Gospel. We pray, implore Christ our Savior to have mercy and to save us all.

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