

THE COLLEGE OF
SAINT ATHANASIUS

A College For the Great Vocations

FOREWORD ON ORTHODOXY

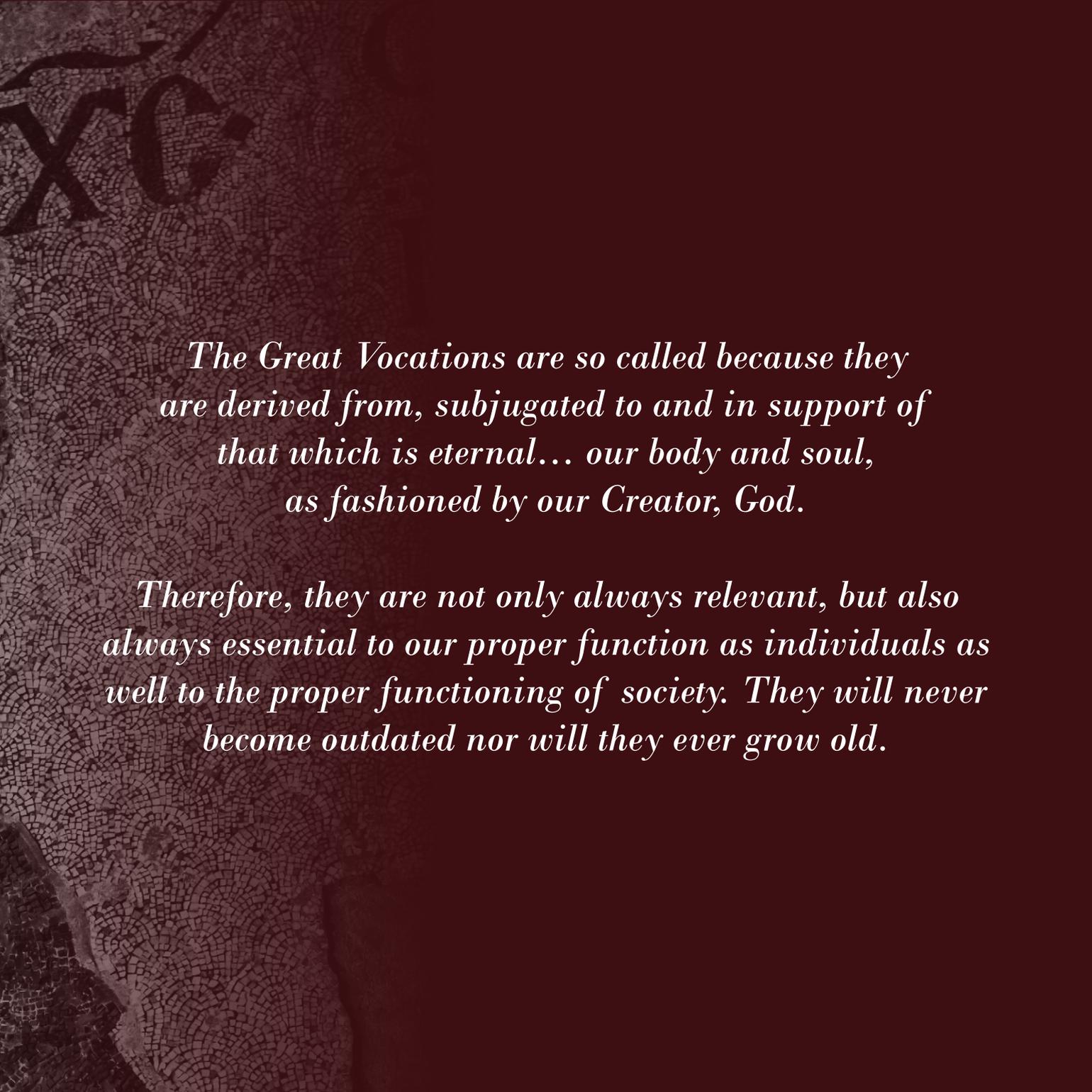
Orthodoxy is a word derived from the Greek “orthodóxos”, literally meaning “correct” (orthós) “opinion” (dóxa). As such, it connotes a standard, and a standard is the measure by which things are compared and tested against over time.

St. Athanasius, himself the Champion of Orthodoxy, personifies that very word, which challenges us to intently examine its reach and influence. In fact, under such an examination, a broadened definition emerges that further connotes orthodoxy as the occupation of a position, taken by the intellect, that enables us to exercise the virtue of prudence in all thought, word and deed. It therefore eschews rash and hasty decisions and resists the temptation to irrationally embrace novelty and innovation. Relying on the application of orthodoxy in finding the means to an end, rather than rejecting out of hand the customary, the tried and true, or the study of the whole, is essential when weighing those choices in life that will either sever or keep us tied to that which attaches us to our Creator. Subsequently, it becomes essential that what we labor at in life be borne out of an orthodox examination of our nature and purpose for being here. Once that has been discovered, we may proceed in our earthly labor, knowing that it is pleasing to God!

St. Athanasius, pray for us!







The Great Vocations are so called because they are derived from, subjugated to and in support of that which is eternal... our body and soul, as fashioned by our Creator, God.

Therefore, they are not only always relevant, but also always essential to our proper function as individuals as well to the proper functioning of society. They will never become outdated nor will they ever grow old.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF INSPIRATION

Over twenty years ago, in the living room of the Bratt household, discussions concerning institutions of higher learning were sometimes entertained. This was a natural outcome of the fact that older members of the twelve Bratt children were either enrolled in or preparing to matriculate to a post-secondary educational experience of some repute. Of course, the guiding principles of Catholicism in general, and the Catholic Church in particular, held sway over the direction and content of the discussions and eventually a concept began to emerge of a college that might prove to be of some merit for the propagation of Catholic Culture in our society. A resurgence of traditional Catholic thinking in the post-Vatican II Council era has given way to the establishment of a small number of influential Catholic liberal arts colleges over the past 50 years, which has, by the accounts of many educators, allowed a foot-hold to be regained in the academic arena that was once the domain of Catholic secondary education in the “days of yore”. This observation has given direction to the model of post-secondary education that has been formulated for the Great Vocations College of St. Athanasius, which identifies a need to apply the principles of sound Catholic Orthodox thought to a livelihood born out of that same Orthodoxy, rather than merely acquiring knowledge of the liberal arts, per se. Over the ensuing years, authors were recommended, books were read, contacts made, insights supplied, opinions discussed and curriculums formulated. The results of that labor have been made manifest in our Academics and Informational Bulletin, which can be accessed on the Academics page of the St. Athanasius Educational Foundation’s Website’s link, which can be found at:

stathanasius.wixsite.com/co-athanasius

A CONCEPT FOR EDUCATION

The Great Vocations College of St. Athanasius is proposed as a private, independent college of applied letters, arts and science, studied through the lens of Traditional, Orthodox Catholic thought. Ultimately expected to offer nine 5-year Bachelor Degrees in Letters, Arts or Science, the college will initially offer three degrees, one in each of the three disciplines of higher education. Prudence demands that such a course of action be adhered to where the successful management of such an endeavor be considered. It is always wise to begin small and become proficient rather than starting big and finding things unmanageable.

Accordingly, the inaugural degrees offered are anticipated to be as follows: a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture**, a **Bachelor of Arts Degree in Culinary Arts & Horticultural Studies** and a **Bachelor of Letters Degree in Philosophy of Education**. An Architecture degree allows the college to both offer an esteemed course of studies for students while initially operating at a comparatively lower material cost. A Culinary Arts & Horticultural Studies degree allows the college to immediately focus on functioning in a sustainable manner by teaching students to grow and prepare their own food, thus holding food costs down while at the same time bringing the community together on Catholic festive, culinary occasions throughout the academic year. A Philosophy of Education degree holds the critical distinction of promoting the influence of Catholic thought by promptly sending graduates into the proverbial vineyard to begin the process of teaching in the many spheres of academia, beginning at the primary level of education.



*Therefore, know thyself, know thy God, choose thy path!
A college's path for its graduates should provide for them
a marker to begin a journey, the intended destination of
which will be Heaven and eternal happiness with our God
and His Heavenly Host. Such a path must impart to its
students a knowledge of those things that are timeless in
nature while at the same time essential for the journey;
those things that are both useful as a livelihood and
pleasing to God, Almighty!*



OUR FUTURE CAMPUS

A property is available that is well suited for both academic and recreational college use. Consisting of Four floors of 21,240 square feet each, the fourth floor can house the library and faculty offices while offering panoramic views, and a quiet academic environment. The Third floor offers an optimal space for a dormitory, able to accommodate approximately 60–70 rooms averaging 225 square feet, as well as common showers. A soundproof north–south divider ensures privacy, with three to four occupants per room. The second floor space allows for 40–50 classrooms averaging 400 square feet, while the first floor can encompass administrative offices and an all-purpose recreational area including fitness space, gymnasium, possible indoor track, and a campus gift shop/bookstore. Finally, the first floor offers 14,000 square feet of multipurpose space for a commercial kitchen and dining area, theater, chapel, social gatherings, and limited visitor apartments.

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$10,000,000

Purchase Cost: \$3,000,000 (negotiable)

Mechanical/Structural Inspection: \$5,600

Repurposing/Rehabilitation: \$3,000,000–\$5,000,000

Architectural, Engineering, and Legal Fees: \$300,000–\$500,000

Contingency Costs: \$500,000 (10% allowance)

Preliminary negotiations with the owner make timely funding essential, as the property is listed and the owner is motivated to sell. We respectfully request your prompt consideration regarding support and potential funding levels. Our first priority is securing funds for the mechanical/structural inspection, as it will identify any significant hidden issues. Next are architectural, engineering, and legal fees, which will enable a comprehensive rehabilitation plan and cost analysis. Contingency funds will address unforeseen expenses. Once these items are secured, the purchase of the property will proceed, with the final price subject to inspection findings. Given these considerations, we again ask for your timely judgment and hope this proposal merits your support as a valued partner in this meaningful endeavor.

ST. ATHANASIUS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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