CrossRoad Key Talking Points - Brief Version

1. Your Story!
   • Tell your CrossRoad story - why you went, what impacted you about it, CR highlights, how it changed you, what you want to do/who you want to be now...etc.

2. CrossRoad Basics
   • CrossRoad a ten-day vocational exploration program in Boston for Orthodox Christian high schoolers (rising juniors and seniors)
   • Each session can take a maximum of 30 participants
   • In 2008, the program expanded to two sessions of ten days each.
   • Participants come from all over North America and from all Orthodox traditions (Greek, Antiochian, OCA, Bulgarian, etc)
   • CR is staffed by trained seminary students
   • Currently, the OVM is able to provide scholarships for each student to attend CrossRoad
   • CrossRoad is one of the programs of the OVM (Office of Vocation & Ministry) at Hellenic College - see below

3. What is the OVM?
   • The OVM (Office of Vocation & Ministry) was started in 2003 as a response to a grant Hellenic College received for "the theological exploration of vocation" (see below for more info)
   • Vocation is a unifying term for all that the OVM does.
   • OVM definition of vocation- one's unique and ongoing response to Christ's call to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and the neighbor as oneself.

4. If People Want to Know More…
   • Hand out any material you have on CrossRoad or the OVM (pamphlets, DVDs, etc)
   • CrossRoad website: www.crossroad.hchc.edu , phone 617-850-1310
     o CrossRoad Director: Mary Long
     o CrossRoad Assistant Director: Paul Lundberg
   • OVM website: http://vocations.hchc.edu , phone 617-850-1309
     o OVM Director: Dr. Ann Bezzerides
Background Info (when people ask about the OVM, or how CrossRoad is funded)

- Crisis of vocation: Today’s society is in a state of transition and ferment, and as a result (one scholar argues) our youth in America have no clear definition of what it means to be a “good man” or “good woman.” As a result, young people have little guidance in their colleges and universities about what to do with their lives.
- The Office of Vocation and Ministry (OVM) was established in 2003 when Hellenic College became one of 88 accredited colleges and universities in the US to receive a five-year grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for "the theological exploration of vocation." The Lilly Endowment, one of the largest philanthropic foundations in America and Europe, believes that vital religious communities are essential for a flourishing and humane society, and targeted a key need in this regard: To keep these communities strong and vibrant a new generation of talented leadership, both ordained and lay, is essential.
- The OVM has a three-tiered approach to its mission as it theologically explores vocation:
  a. Programs for Hellenic College students (including retreats, career services, symposiums, bible studies, etc.)
  b. Program for rising high school students – CrossRoad
  c. Programs for Hellenic College faculty, as well as resources and networking for Orthodox faculty nationwide
- Goals of Lilly Endowment grants: 1) to help college students make connections between faith and their vocational choices, 2) to increase the number of candidates for full-time Christian ministry, 3) to enhance the capacity of a college's faculty to teach and mentor students in these arenas
- The Lilly Endowment hopes that their grant-funded programs become a permanent part of their host institutions. To help with this transition phase, Lilly invited Hellenic College to apply for a sustainability matching grant to continue its initiatives for an additional three years, through June 2011. Hellenic College applied for the funding, and received word in May of 2006 that the Lilly Endowment would award Hellenic College the sustainability matching grant. The College is currently on its way to securing the matching funds.