

Haigazian University
President's Address
Founders' Day Virtual Address
October 14, 2024

Seventy years ago, Haigazian was founded with a noble purpose: training leaders.

As we inaugurate our seventieth anniversary, which we hope will be commemorated globally throughout 2025, we are reminded that countries, societies, and institutions today lament the lack of not only competent leaders but also the lack of those who are dedicated to causes greater than themselves.

“Inspiring visionary leadership” is our motto for the year. Yes, inspiration is craved in a world full of disappointment and ruthlessness. Vision is needed where ignorance and arrogance block the path. And leadership is sought more than ever, in a time marked by various modes of indifference and anxious confusion.

This year's Founders' Day is only a virtual event, a reflection of the debilitating conditions we face in Lebanon. There are many reasons for discouragement and mourning.

But an anniversary is not just about today. It is about remembering the goodness of our founders, recognizing the resilient journey of those who came before us through many challenging years, and celebrating the successes, advancements, and empowerment of generations who have been shaped at Haigazian.

Founders' Day is also about tomorrow. The depth of tomorrow will be shaped by the spirit of empathy and gentleness in which we live, speak, listen, repent, serve, receive, learn, and teach.

Haigazian University is called a home by many. It is a unique and peaceful academic space, a starting point for countless lives, and an empowering subculture where character overrides status.

We thank God for this treasured home at a time when not only families but hearts are homeless, minds are restless, and ideas are pointless. Yet, with hope and faith, we plan for a tomorrow that is based on our ideals and mission, not on the wounds imposed on us.

Dear Haigazian University family, let us celebrate confidently, while remembering the weak, let us remember our birth in 1955 while laboring to allow those who are born to have dignity and sacred space in their lives.

May Haigazian University continue to fulfill its mission for many decades to come, and may peace and justice prevail in our land and beyond.

Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D.
President