



Holy Cross News

Vol. 25 No. 2 The Official Newsletter of Holy Cross Academy • Joyful • Dedicated • Catholic Summer/Fall 2020

Perseverance in a Pandemic



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Jr./Sr. High School - Est. 1997

Joyfully Dedicated to the Catholic Faith

OUR MISSION

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY exists to provide a rounded education for the whole person, to help students seek the truth, love God and neighbor, and to become saints.

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4020 Barrington Rd. Oneida, NY 13421



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Message from the Board of Trustees

THE LAST OUTPOST



The clash between good and evil is surging. The battle for the minds and souls of our children has been raging for decades. It seems that the lines are becoming more distinct, and our society, our culture, is rushing to the point of no return. How is it that so many hate Christianity, Truth, and America?

What we see taking place all around us today is a sign that many schools have failed us. People don't just wake up one day hating our nation's founding principles, glorifying tyrannical ideas, and repudiating freedom, Christianity, tradition, and western civilization. This is the result of a long process of indoctrination in evil; or at a minimum, the inability or unwillingness to counter it.

"Educate men without religion and you make of them but clever devils."

- Duke of Wellington

The attack on morals, objective truth, and the nature of man is an attack on the One who created the universe. Each instance can be traced back to the battle between Good and Evil, God and Satan. It really is that simple. Every attack on the Good, the True and the Beautiful is an attack on Christ Himself. An attack on western civilization is an attack on the Church which built it. The university system, hospitals, modern jurisprudence and the quest for justice, great advances in science, and the defense of freedom and the dignity of man – all are the result of the work and teachings of the Catholic Church.

The battle always begins in our own hearts, and the transformation of society always begins in the home. But it is in the public arena that the larger war of culture is won. It is imperative that the current societal trend in education be challenged, and that a Catholic option be available in the community.

Schools like Holy Cross Academy are the last outpost of authentic education.

The Church strongly and consistently stresses the importance of Catholic schools and their critical role in the future life of our Church and society. Pope St. John Paul II said that Catholic schools play a vital role in the evangelizing mission of the Church. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, one of HCA's patrons, started the first Catholic school in our country. Holy Cross carries on this vital and noble tradition of Catholic education.

"The greatest contribution that authentically Catholic education can make to American culture, is to restore to that culture the conviction that human beings can grasp the truth of things, and in grasping that truth can know their duties to God, to themselves, and their neighbors." - Pope St. John Paul II, May, 1998

Yes, pray quietly in your room. Yes, teach your children the Faith at home. But then **go out** into the battlefield and counter evil with good, **evangelize** your neighbor in the spirit of true charity, **transform** the world as a leaven and help restore all things in Christ. This is the mission of Holy Cross Academy. This is not the time to retreat. And this is why we need your support now more than ever.

In Christ,

Daniel J. Miller
President, Board of Trustees

Prayer Intentions



- For the eternal repose of the souls of:
Geraldine Brown, Dorothy Stone, Kevin Netzband, Madeline Mollenhaur, Wayne Stoker, Stephanie Rydelek, Mary Ellen Shaver, Jeremiah Williams, Maureen McCouloff, Joann Collins, Marie Doak, Yvonne Chandler-Colby, Doug Kreager, Judy Becker, Fr. Richard Dellos
- For Pope Francis and the intentions of the Church.
- For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- For the protection of life at every stage.
- For all of our friends and benefactors who have passed away or are ill.

Commencement 2020

Holy Cross faced many changes and trials due to the COVID-19 situation. Teachers and students had to quickly adjust to remote learning, parents and families took on additional stress. Seniors were especially affected during their final semester, missing many milestone experiences and enduring heartrending separation from friends.

But despite the difficulties, Holy Cross wanted to celebrate the perseverance, accomplishments and graduation of the class of 2020. Holy Cross Academy was able to come together to celebrate the class of 2020 with a ceremony adapted to the protocols from the state, but special nonetheless with a drive-in Mass and its 19th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, June 20. Beeping horns, cheers from family members, and the traditional confetti canon made the beautiful occasion even more unique.

The Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Peter van Lieshout - cousin to two of the seniors. In his homily he talked about how all over the world the Class of 2020 has heard so many voices giving advice: "Everybody is thinking of you in a special way. Obviously there is this sense of sorrow, that your senior year was nothing like what you thought your senior year would be." He continued, "It is typical of a graduation speech, [that] they will say they want you to go and change the world. I think my message is the opposite, I want to say to you that the Christian message is that Christ has already done that. Christ has already fundamentally changed the world and I want you to live in the glory of that and the reality of that, the truth of that."

During the graduation ceremony after Mass, Teri Maciag, principal, addressed the class of 2020: "Your class is known for doing good works, collecting for the poor, defending the unborn, volunteering in the community, and opening your hearts to anyone in need. Your goodness resonates." After addressing each senior personally, sharing the different ways they spread goodness and affect the community, she went on to say, "Parents, you have my deepest gratitude for instilling this goodness in your children and for choosing to share it with the Holy Cross community. Class of 2020, it is now time to share your goodness far and wide."

Holy Cross Academy is proud of the class of 2020 and excited to see what they accomplish in the future.



"Christ has already fundamentally changed the world and I want you to live in the glory of that and the reality of that, the truth of that."

Congratulations to "the Quarantine" Class of 2020!

Abraham Barahmeh

Grace Collins

Natalie DelPino

Noelle DiRuzzo

-Salutatorian-

Lily Domes

Carlota Hernandez-Botejara Vicente

Marie Judge

Matthew Maciag

Nancy Mazor

-Valedictorian-

Kaykhe Mikhail

Tatiana Nowakowski

Gloria Twal

Christopher van Lieshout

Jacinta van Lieshout

David Vanderhoof

Madeline Vanderhoof

Kathryn Wojsiat

Start of the New Academic Year!



Fr. Donald Karlan teaching about the Holy Cross on opening day, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Holy Cross Academy began the fall semester on September 14 which by happy coincidence was also the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. While the first day of classes and the celebration of HCA's feast day looked different than in years past, students were able to have a great first day of classes - with some treats to start the day off, and a talk by Father Donald Karlan on the Holy Cross to conclude the day.

The challenges of a new semester is also accompanied by blessings. Classes have been reduced to four days a week, with various protocols and precautions in place in accordance with the state and the CDC, but everyone at Holy Cross is thankful that classes can be in-person.

The Academy is excited and proud to welcome a new teacher this year, HCA alumna Rose Judge '16, who is teaching English.

Teri Maciag, principal, said, "We are excited for the school year to begin and see the students after such a long time. We are very blessed to be able to start in-person classes again and we're praying that the semester goes well and everyone stays healthy."



Alumni Spotlight

Maria Abbe ~ Class of 2009

If you could give your high school self one piece of advice, what would you say? Maria Abbe, a graduate of the Holy Cross Academy Class of 2009 reflected upon this question. “Life goes beyond high school. It feels like all that matters is what your peers think of you or what grades you get (yes, your grades do matter), but there is a much bigger world out there. So, when it feels difficult to get out of bed on a frigid cold morning or when you just have no desire to do the work, do it. It will be over before you know it, and while you’re doing the work, find the joy in each moment.”

Everyone has an idea of their dream job growing up, who they aspire to be, or something they want to do. In this regard, Maria Abbe was no different. She had big dreams growing up - she wanted to pursue a career in performing arts. But this is a far cry from the career path upon which Maria has since found herself.

After graduation from Holy Cross Academy, Maria moved to North Carolina where she studied English Lit and Theatre Performance. “I so badly wanted to be an actress on Broadway. Then, I graduated with a bunch of student debt and understood how much it cost to live in NYC... and humbly put that dream aside.” While not The Big Apple, Maria enjoys living in Charlotte, NC. And even though she misses her family a lot (and the NY style pizza!), Maria says moving to North Carolina was one of the best decisions in her life.

Maria works as a Senior Communications Manager for tech company PrecisionLender, something she never expected to be doing. “It’s been a beautiful journey full of ups and downs,” she said. “I’ve learned so much, and really enjoy setting career goals and going after them.” In addition to her full time career, Maria is a RRCA certified run coach and a NASM certified personal trainer and directs RunningMyselfTogether, a ministry she says she started to help women renew their minds, bodies, and souls through running. This is something she never thought she would be doing, but a path she is passionate about.

Maria knows well that God brings blessings out of hard times. As a teenager and young adult Maria had issues with both her physical and mental health. “For years, I struggled with an eating disorder. It plagued me all throughout high school and college. But with intense therapy, my family, running, and my faith, I was able to overcome that major struggle.” And now Maria has been able to take all of those challenges and lessons and put it toward something good, helping others through her ministry.

Through many difficulties, Maria has held on to her Faith and is thankful for the formation she received at Holy Cross Academy. “It wasn’t until after I graduated that I truly understood how unique my high school experience was. ... Learning about and living the Catholic faith in high school helped shape my college decision and my years post-high school,” Maria said.

“Learning about and living the Catholic faith in high school helped shape my college decision and my years post-high school.”

She continued, “The Lord has worked in my life with all I’ve gone through with my mental health. I’m now able to share my story and help others who face similar trials. He sure did take my mess and make it new, and I feel so at peace knowing that what I’ve gone through is helping others.” In addition to Holy Cross helping Maria strengthen her faith, she said she is thankful for how HCA’s small, intimate classes also helped her to open up, feel confident about asking questions or seeking help, and prepared her for college and her career.

Looking back, Maria remarked how much life is different now than in high school. As a teenager she was often full of anxiety, and uncertainty, but is so grateful for how her life has turned out: “My life is so full – full of love, of joy, of purpose, of friends and family, of a great job – and most importantly, so full of Christ’s love for me. And I know that. I know that He loves me beyond measure and I can take confidence that no matter what life throws at me, He is bigger than it all and I am in the palm of His hand.”

Maria is thankful both her job and ministry have not been affected terribly by the COVID-19 pandemic as she is able to work from home. Everything going on in the world can be stressful, but life must go on. A piece of advice Maria said to give to others who may struggle with anxiety, especially during this pandemic, is to “Set a goal. It doesn’t have to be big or grandiose. Even working towards a small goal can go a long way. Then, build a routine that’ll help you get there.”

While having a full time career and running the ministry is demanding, Maria is living a full life. “When we aren’t in a pandemic, I love to train for and run races. I also enjoy traveling, and often travel for speaking engagements and work. But most days, I simply love spending time reading, praying, with my friends, and with my boyfriend and his sweet pup, Elijah.”

It may not be the dream she had growing up, but dreams often change or become more fruitful as one matures, and Maria is excited about where she ended up and looks forward to her future goals: “I’d like to continue to grow RunningMyselfTogether, to offer more online programs for women, and add more clients to my coaching list. In the next 5 years, God-willing, I’ll be married and will be running RunningMyselfTogether full time, with more speaking engagements and faith and fitness pilgrimages.”

Alumni Updates

2003

Andy Maciag '03 resides in Oneida with his wife Tressa and their five children, Benjamin (7), Lucy (5), Jack (3), Peter (2), and Helen (3 mo.). He is in his 11th year of running his business, Maciag Masonry Inc., and in his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, and gardening.

2004

Send us your updates!

2005

Mary (Droz '05) George and husband Ryan George reside in Maryland with their daughter Elizabeth Grace. Elizabeth was born on March 4, 2019 after a 81 hr. labor. Mary says, "She is our life's greatest blessing!" Mary teaches at a Catholic school in MD.

2006

Rebecca (Collins '06) Klievoneit is in the process of moving to Lee Center with her husband Matthew and son Jason (2). Becky stays at home helping Jason recover from a brain surgery he had a year ago, and he is doing incredibly well. In her spare time Becky enjoys theater and has directed a musical at HCA.

2007

Send us your updates!

2008

Send us your updates!

2009

Joshua Vanderhoof '09 and **Megan (van Lieshout '12) Vanderhoof** were married on June 28, 2019 and recently welcomed their daughter, Charlotte, into the world on September 12, 2020.

2010

Mark van Lieshout '10 and his wife Janelle were married on August 20, 2016 and are expecting their first child in December 2020.

2011

Send us your updates!

2012

Arne Schröer - exchange student '12 - is excited to be working toward his master degree in Auditing while working at Deloitte Deutschland. When he graduates he will be working as a CPA and Tax Advisor.

Amy Collins '12 lives in Rome. After graduating from Christendom College majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Theology, she now works as a teacher at Holy Cross Academy teaching several classes including English and Religion.

2013

Alanna Glidden '13 is currently in her 4th year of medical school at SUNY Upstate and will be applying for a residency program this year. She plans to pursue a career in Internal Medicine.

2014

Anna Judge '14 graduated with her M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2019. She resides in Steubenville where she works as a full-time therapist in addition to working at Franciscan as an adjunct professor of Psychology.

2015

Send us your updates!

2016

Rose Judge '16 graduated from Franciscan in 2020 with a degree in Humanities and Catholic Culture. During the summer she worked as a wrangler in Colorado. Rose recently moved back to the Oneida area and is now teaching at Holy Cross.

2017

Mariangela Twal '17 is in her senior year at SUNY Polytechnic Institute majoring in Psychology. After graduation she plans on attending graduate school at Stoney Brook University for either the Cognitive Psychology or Integrative Psychology programs.

2018

Nathan Miller '18 graduated from SUNY Morrisville with an A.S. in Landscape Design & Management in May 2020 and received his certifications in CNLP, NYS DEC Pesticide Applicator/ Technician License. Nathan recently became co-owner of Chittenango Landscape, an established business in CNY.

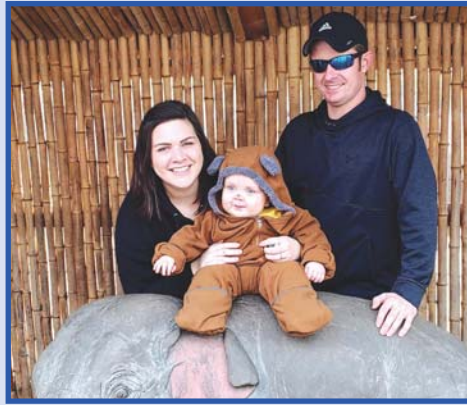
Attention Alumni:

To submit a life update, add or update contact information, or if you have any questions about alumni events or activities, contact Rachael Whitman at: whitman@holycrossacademy.com. If you are an alumnus or spouse of an alumnus you can join the facebook group at "Holy Cross Academy Alumni (Oneida, NY)"

Alumni Photo Gallery



Dan '03 and Tressa Maciag and their children.



Matt and Rebecca Klievoneit '06 and their son.



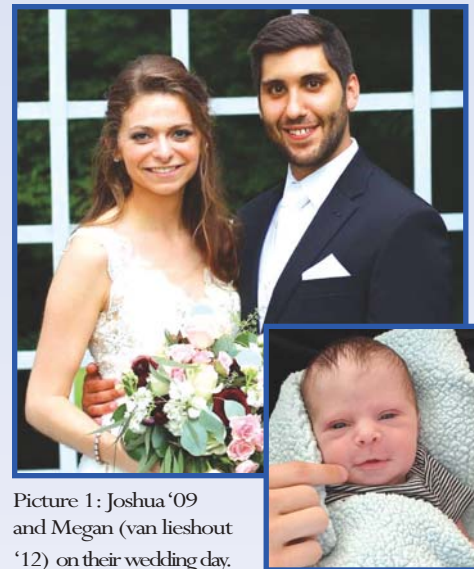
Ryan and Mary George '05 and their daughter.



Mark '10 and Janelle van Lieshout.

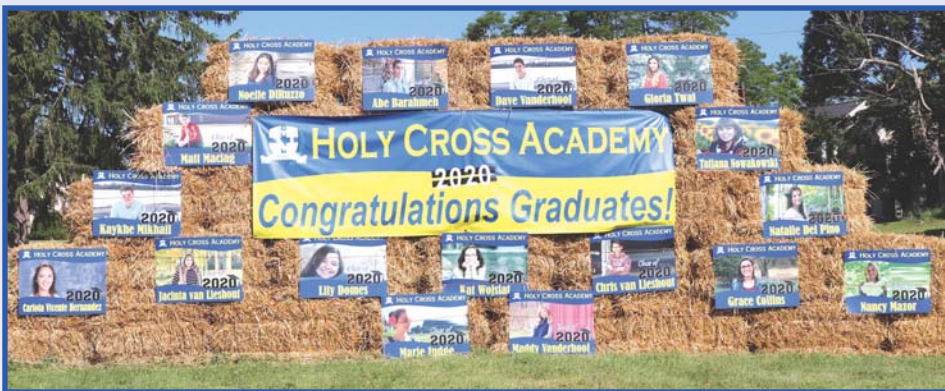


Co-owner Doug Beyel, John Stewart, and Nate Miller '18.



Picture 1: Joshua '09 and Megan (van lieshout '12) on their wedding day.

Picture 2: Baby Charlotte - a couple weeks old.



The Class of 2020 Senior Picture...Quarantine Edition; the newest alumni!

Remembering...

Joann Collins



Joann Collins was a beloved friend, mother, HCA parent, and long time supporter of Holy Cross Academy. Joann and husband Pat have been with Holy Cross Academy since almost the start. Pat and Joann sent all of their children to Holy Cross (8 alumni and 2 current students). Joann passed away on June 2, 2020. She will be deeply missed. Please join us in praying for the repose of her soul, and for her family and loved ones.

Marie Doak



Marie Doak was a beloved mother and HCA parent. She is survived by her husband, Jeffrey, and three children, including her daughter, Lauren, a current Holy Cross student. She was a parishioner at St. Paul's Church and participated in the local Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk every year with her family. Marie passed away on June 29, 2020. She will be deeply missed. Please join us in praying for the repose of her soul, and for her family and loved ones.

Annual Fund: *open doors, open hearts*

Friends, the virus is taking its toll. Fortunately, we are all healthy, thanks be to God. But financially, Holy Cross is in need of your help as we once again open our doors to a new academic year.

Due to the shutdown, we had to cancel several fundraising events, and this has resulted in a loss of about \$23,000. This past June, we graduated one of our largest classes. Because of the uncertainty, some previously enrolled have not yet committed to returning, and the incoming class is smaller. There are some families who have lost income, impacting their ability to pay tuition. This affects total tuition income by about \$75,000. Classroom modification, cleaning supplies, and air purifiers will add additional expenses.

A decline in working capital of over \$100,000 for the year is daunting. We were able to secure some loans, but our need is still great. In spite of this, we are ever optimistic and hopeful! Our Lord has been good to Holy Cross over the years, and we have confidence in Him and in you. As things open up more, we will be able to generate more income, and we are confident that new students will enroll. In the meantime, we come to you for help to get us through this lean period.

Can you help Holy Cross in any of the following ways?

Tuition Recovery: \$75,000

Fundraiser Loss: \$23,000

Classroom Technology and Modification: \$10,000

Several Air Purifiers: \$3,200 (large), \$1,000 (smaller)

*Thank
You!*

And as always, many prayers are needed. It is YOU who have sustained us through the years by your prayers and financial support. Please help HCA continue to be a beacon of light and hope in our community, and a bastion of truth and virtue for our young people. Thank you for always opening your hearts to the students of Holy Cross Academy!

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If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact HCA at: hca@holycrossacademy.com

Spiritual Message

Today I would like to concentrate on the virtue of patience and the grace of final perseverance. To do this, I have chosen two booklets: (A) Pray The Rosary - Expanded Edition with The Five Luminous Mysteries (no. 40-05) and the larger one, (B) Pray The Rosary - with Scripture Readings - A St. Joseph Edition (no. 52-05). Both from: Catholic Book Publishing Corp. - New Jersey.

The recent pandemic has made us think about our souls and especially about the purpose of our existence which we learned many years ago in our catechism, in preparation for our first confession and our first holy communion. Later on we [Fr. Kehoe] took a course in Apologetics in our Catholic high school and then a more advanced course in Theology in our Catholic college at LeMoyne College 1953-1957 and then later at Christ the King seminary at St. Bonaventure, N.Y.

Now I would like to concentrate on the two booklets mentioned above. I especially enjoy and pray from the New Extended Edition with the 112 pages.

We were very blessed to have had Pope John Paul II who was born May 18, 1920, died April 2, 2005, and was canonized a Saint on April 27, 2014. Saint John Paul II showed us how to live our Catholic Faith, by his good example, by what he said and did and the many solid spiritual writings he wrote. He persevered to the end. He saved his soul and now he is in Heaven. He achieved the purpose for which he was created - to know love and to serve God in this world and to be happy with God in heaven for all eternity. This is what we want, and if we follow his good example as well as the other Saints, we too will be happy forever in the next life.

No matter how difficult things may seem to be here on earth, God always gives us the grace to persevere and remain humble. Let us continue to cooperate with the Grace of God to the end.

As I look on page 13 of the booklet No. 52-05 I am strengthened when I pray the rosary and especially the Sorrowful Mysteries. If we stay close to our Blessed Mother Mary, she will always be by our side and will help us achieve our eternal destiny. Be happy now and try to make other people happy. Let us continue our love for the Mass and the Sacraments and the Divine Office.

Some of my favorite prayers are:

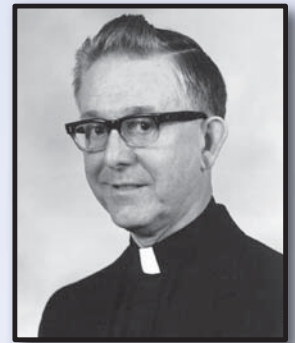
"Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I Place My Trust In thee."

"Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray For Us."

"St. Joseph, Pray For Us."

Let us always love God and be at peace with one another.

May God Bless you,
Father Joseph Kehoe



Father Joseph Kehoe
Spiritual Advisor

- Commencement 2020
- Alumni Spotlight
- Alumni Class Updates
- A New Year Begins
- ...and more!

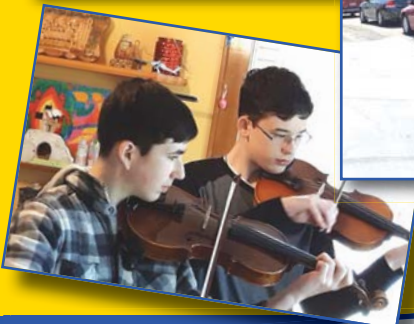
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HCA STRONG!

