



Holy Cross News

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The Official Newsletter of Holy Cross Academy

Winter 2015

Holy Cross Academy Welcomes 26 New Students



Returning students heartily welcomed many newcomers on the first day of school, September 4.

Interest in HCA continues to grow due to its focus on educating the whole person, using a sound curriculum in the pursuit of Truth, in a truly Catholic environment.



Holy Cross Academy began its eighteenth school year on September 4, 2014 with 26 new students, a sizeable increase over last year. Fifteen students are entering 7th grade, the first grade offered at the school, while all grades through 12th also added new students.

Anne Kryszczuk, joined the senior class at HCA this year, coming from Whitesboro High School. She had attended Catholic schools throughout her elementary years, but went into the Whitesboro public school system in 7th grade. "I wish I had switched sooner," she said. "I was surprised to see how differently teenagers can act in different schools. When I came here (HCA), I saw such great faith."

Gregory van Lieshout entered the junior class this year from Rome Free Academy. "At HCA I don't have to hide my faith," he said. "And the people are friendly and easy to get along with."

Kacie Hyle a new 7th grader said she first became interested in HCA after performing in a piano recital in the building. As a 6th grader at McAllister Elementary School in Sherrill last year, she and her family were looking at junior high options and attended the open house and visitation days at HCA. "Everybody was really nice," she said. "The teachers and all the kids are really nice, and I like how small it is here."

Interest in Holy Cross continues to increase, and while class sizes remain small to ensure individualized attention, total enrollment brings the school to near maximum capacity.





Faith Working Through Charity

Why is there so much joy at Holy Cross Academy? Whether students are marching for life, scoring goals for persecuted Christians, or on pilgrimage at the Divine Mercy shrine, they put their faith into action, sacrifice for the good of others and for the Glory of God. The same is true of the faculty, staff, administrators, and parents. Countless hours are spent, and much is sacrificed to carry out the mission of helping students become educated, holy and virtuous. But there is much satisfaction in accomplishing difficult undertakings, and when done out of love for others, there is great joy.

Daniel J. Miller
President, Board of Trustees

The path to holiness is found in the practice of virtue or good habits. Habits are formed by action, and this is why faith without action is empty (*Jas 2:26*). The righteous live by faith, and faith that is alive works through Charity (*Rom 1:17; Gal 5:6*). "Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation." (*CCC 1816, Mt 10:32-33*)

That is why at Holy Cross, students engage in many faith-filled and charitable works, taking what is learned in the classroom and putting into action. Pope Francis said that Faith must lead to Charity and sacrificing for others. (*Homily in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, 10/14/14*) He also said:

"The secret to a good life is found in loving and giving oneself for love's sake. From here comes the strength to 'sacrifice oneself joyfully', and thus the most demanding work is transformed into a source of a greater joy."
- Pope Francis, Address at Chapel of Bethany in Albania, 2014

Recently, the Holy Cross Family lost some dear friends who were great examples of this. Henry vanLieshout was a man of joy, and a model of self-sacrifice. He was one who knew the value of hard work and true charity, persevering in the daily duties of life, caring for his family and being generous to his neighbor. His wife Johanna was a woman of strong faith, and raised her children and grandchildren to keep faith a priority in their lives. Robert McDermott was a man of the law, but lived his life knowing that justification does not come through the law, but by faith working through love (*Gal 5:1-6*). He was a generous man, serving his country, his Church, his family, and his community. In their charity, Robert and his wife Lorraine established a memorial fund which has been a blessing to many HCA students over the years. Please keep them and all of our deceased friends in your prayers.

Today, many pursue their own interests in a culture that is focused on self. They miss out on the true joy that ultimately comes from working through difficult times and from doing good things for others. It is rare to find men and women who do not place themselves first, but empty themselves for their neighbor. The world is in need of virtuous men and women, and our mission at Holy Cross is to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and to help form a new generation of leaders in the faith.

Please pray that Holy Cross Academy continues to instill knowledge and virtue into the hearts of our students.

In Christ,



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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Prayer Intentions

Please join our HCA family in prayer.

For the Eternal Repose of the souls of Henry and Johanna vanLieshout, Robert McDermott, Jeff Abbe, and Joann Lovell, Lorraine Armitage

For the health of Stephen Curley, Heidi Acosta, Ian Domes, John Potter, Michael Gans, Ada Arnold, Tina O'Brien, Karen Miller, and Robert Tummons

- For success in our mission
- Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis for April 2015

Universal: Creation, that people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

Evangelization: Persecuted Christians, that persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

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Crusaders Score Goals for Christian Refugees



When reports of the violent persecution of Christians and other minority groups in Iraq began to circulate last summer, some students at Holy Cross Academy decided to do more than talk about it on Facebook. They wanted to take action to help the refugees in a tangible way by raising money needed to help thousands of people forced from their homes by Moslem terrorists. The Crusaders, as the Holy Cross soccer team is known, decided to ask for sponsors for each goal they would score this season.

"I felt horrible about what ISIS was doing to Christians in Iraq and Syria, and I wanted to help," said Rose Judge, a junior at HCA and member of the soccer team.

Knowing that the national Knights of Columbus had just set up a \$500,000 fund to aid the refugees and pledged another \$500,000 in matching funds, the students decided to ask the local Knights of Columbus to be their first sponsor. HCA teacher (and member of the Knights of Columbus) Deacon James Chappell presented the idea at the council's next meeting, and they gladly and generously agreed to contribute \$25 per HCA soccer goal.

Norm Denny, Grand Knight of Council 473 in Oneida, said "When we heard of the Crusaders' plan to aid the Christian refugees we saw their goals coincided with our goals. We (members of the Oneida council) are very committed to helping Holy Cross Academy succeed in all their projects."

Other donors later joined in. By the end of the season, the Crusaders had scored 58 goals and raised \$3,325. These donations will go into a special fund set up by the Knights' Supreme Council for the purpose of supplying the needs of refugees displaced by the terrorists. More about the fund can be found at www.kofc.org.

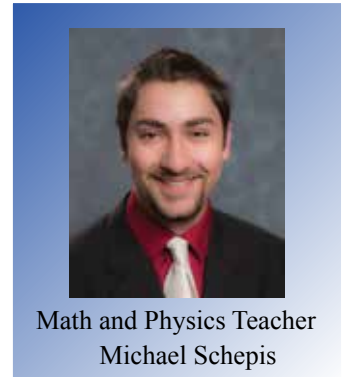
HCA soccer coach and Athletic Director Justin Warren said, "Raising funds for Christian refugees by scoring goals really motivated our players. There was more than soccer involved. It encouraged the players to come together as a team, because we were playing for more than one mission."



New Teachers Offer Talents to HCA

Three new teachers joined the HCA faculty this year contributing their time and talents toward the education of the students.

Justin Warren, a graduate of MVCC and SUNYIT, took the triple post of Athletic Director, physical education teacher and soccer coach. He juggles all this part time while working for Oneida County as a community health nurse. He said he enjoys getting to know the kids and appreciates the positive environment at HCA for his daughter, who is a freshman at HCA this year.



Holly McCoy, a graduate of Nazareth College, is the new Band Director and instrumental music teacher. She also adds her HCA work to an already full schedule, teaching band at Rome Catholic Elementary School and marching and pep band at Canastota High School. She said she enjoys working with HCA Music Director Scott Rutledge and

looks forward to performing with her new students. "The kids have been fantastic," she said.

Michael Schepis, a 2014 graduate of SUNY Geneseo, is now teaching geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and physics, and is helping with the youth group. "I like how we integrate subjects together at HCA. It allows students to use all their skills," he said.

Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

During this Lenten and Easter season, we can study the life of Christ, his passion, death, and resurrection. The *Jerusalem Bible Reader's Edition* and the *Navarre Scripture Commentary* will help us.

A few days ago I received a card in the mail from Catholic Answers. The more I read it the more I began to realize this is a powerful tool which can help us to share the precious gift of our Catholic faith. I called the number on the card and asked the person who answered to have them send me a sample of the booklet which was being advertised. The name of it is *Pillar of Fire, Pillar of Truth, The Catholic Church and God's Plan for You*. It has helped many people to know the truth of the Catholic faith. It was revised in 1997. This is an apologetics booklet, and it is excellent.

I remember years ago studying apologetics in our senior year in high school (1951-52) at St. John's Catholic Academy in Syracuse, NY. I have turned to these teachings often in my life.

Now would be a good time for all of us to review our books and booklets on apologetics.

In this study we will find the following literature very helpful:

- *On the Relationship Between Faith and Reason*, encyclical letter by St. John Paul II, Sept. 14, 1998
- *Pillar of Fire Pillar of Truth*, available from Catholic Answers (888) 291-8000

In *Faith and Reason*, Pope St. John Paul II said:

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know himself – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women

may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves (cf. Ex. 33:18, Ps. 27:8-9; 63:2-3; Jn. 14:8; 1Jn.3:2)."

In his introduction to this encyclical this pope also stated:

"Moreover ... in different parts of the world with their different cultures, there arise at the same time the fundamental questions which pervade human life: "Who am I? Where have I come from and where am I going? Why is there evil? What is there after this life?"

In number 2 of this encyclical, the pope states:

"The Church is no stranger to this journey of discovery nor could she ever be ... the Church has made her pilgrim way along the paths of the world to proclaim that Jesus Christ is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6).

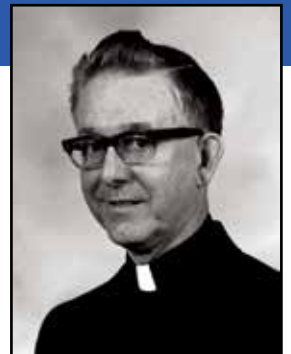
Let us read, think, pray, act and stay close to God, and someday He will reward us with eternal life with Him in Heaven for all eternity. All the angels and saints will help us.

Wishing everyone peace and joy,

I remain sincerely,

Father Joseph F. Kehoe

Spiritual Advisor



First Annual 5K Run/Walk Strides to Success



September 13 dawned with gray skies and drizzling rain, but the weather could not dampen the Crusaders' spirits. It was the day of our very first 5K Run/Walk! After the national anthem was sung by the HCA Select Choir, a crowd of about 50 people took off to the tune of "Rocky" played by music director Scott Rutledge on the trumpet.

Elizabeth Lucason crossed the finish line first and won the \$100 prize for the female runners with a time of 18.12 minutes. Eric Kasper arrived next at 19.26, winning the men's prize.

Gathering in the school lobby sheltered from the rain, everyone enjoyed chicken wraps prepared by Bailey's Jamaican Cuisine. Several prizes donated by The Market at Oneida Commons and 31 Express (all small locally-owned businesses) were awarded to the runners and walkers.

HCA is also very grateful to Nice n Easy convenience stores and Price Chopper grocery store for their generous donations.

Get your shoes ready and watch for an even bigger event next year!



Race winners: Elizabeth and Eric



Marching for Life in Washington

by Jilianne Cady, HCA junior



In 1973 on January 22nd, the Supreme Court ruled that women have a legal right to abortion. On the Anniversary of this decision, known as Roe v. Wade, which took place 42 years ago, hundreds of thousands of men and women from all walks of life gathered in Washington, DC, to protest this ruling and to demonstrate their support for life.

With baby blue skies above and the comfort of mild weather conditions, 200,000 empowered students, advocates for life and those strongly affected by abortion marched in a peaceful protest against this controversial decision. The excitement, passion and determination that hung vividly in the air was unmistakable.

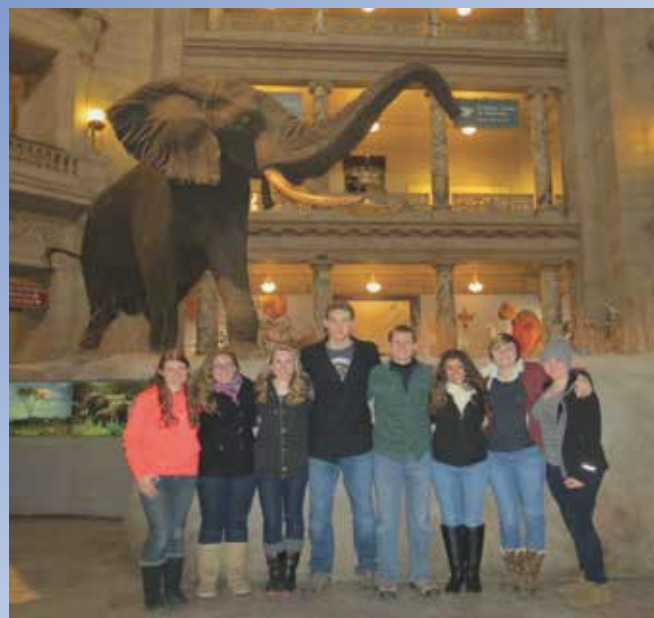
Joseph Breckenridge, a junior at Holy Cross Academy, personally gives his account of the event, explaining its impact on not only him, but everyone involved: "I recognize the March as a strong reminder in that it strengthens our core beliefs in what we are fighting for, and re-awakens in us the horror of abortion." He went on to describe the presence of various ethnicities and religions coming together in unity to support a weak and helpless child as "humbling and truly eye-opening".

Breckenridge was not the only one moved by this event. Maria vanLieshout, a respected senior at the school positively remarks, "It certainly made me aware of how much abortion affects everyone in the situation. It's absolutely incredible how much support the babies are getting from those who courageously stand up for their right to live."

In addition to vanLieshout and Breckenridge, many students expressed similar feelings towards this year's march, overall regarding the experience as a "positive and spiritually moving" one. The 2015 March for Life was a definite success in stirring pro-life feelings among all who participated or were informed of the event, and one can't wait to see what this upcoming year will bring in the fight for defending those who lack a voice.



HCA students made the most of their time in Washington DC, touring several Smithsonian museums.



Students Celebrate The Rosary and Divine Mercy in October

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

in Utica held its annual Rosary Crusade on Oct. 5, 2014, in commemoration of the October 7 feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Several members of HCA's senior choir and Music Director Scott Rutledge lent their voices to the beautiful music, making the service even more lovely.

Music is one of the highlights of Holy Cross Academy, and it is an honor to have so many opportunities to bring beauty to the community in this way. It uplifts the soul, enhances prayer, and provides much enjoyment for others.



In honor of St. Faustina's feast day

On October 5, HCA chartered two buses and traveled to Stockbridge, MA, to visit the National Shrine of Divine Mercy. Students attended Mass in the beautiful chapel and toured the grounds.

"The outdoor Stations of the Cross impressed me," said sophomore Maria Twal. "They're 3D and life-sized, so it really gave me the feeling of what happened."

Students also heard a talk by two religious brothers. "It was interesting to hear about their lives before they entered religious life and the difficulties they went through," said junior Veronica Boswell.

- New Teachers and Students
- Celebrating Feast Days
- March for Life and Washington, DC
- Our First 5K Run/Walk
- Scoring Goals for Refugees

Inside:

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Artistic Endeavors

Students in Mrs. vanLieshout's art classes have been creating charcoal drawings, masks, prehistoric cave paintings, and tape sculptures among many other projects this year.



"I enjoy painting. It makes me feel happy and relaxed"

Kaitlyn Dostie, HCA freshman

