



Holy Cross News

Vol. 14 No. 1

Holy Cross Academy: A private school loyal to the Magisterium.

Fall 2008

Academy Begins 12th Academic Year

Happy Advent and Christmas greetings to all of our friends! So much has transpired since the last issue of Holy Cross News:

- ◆ In June we celebrated the graduation of our largest class to date at nearby Holy Family Church due to the large number of attendees.
- ◆ In May, the Drama Club presented Seussical the musical, which was a huge success and offered excellent life and moral lessons as well as wildly fun entertainment. It just gets better every year, thanks to the direction of Vicki Buda and a wealth of talented students.
- ◆ The much anticipated Dinner Dance was a great opportunity for students to attend a formal gathering with dancing and socializing.

This year we welcomed an incoming seventh grade class of twelve along with four transfer students. We also have some new faculty members: Andrea Slaven - Religion, Scott Rutledge - Choir and Instrumental, Dan King - Phys. Ed, Lona Dahlem - Natural Science, and Mary Pettis - Study Hall monitor and more.

It sure is exciting to see progress and new things happening. But the most important thing about Holy Cross Academy is what is NOT changing. The Academy's mission is built around truth - truth that doesn't change:

- ◆ To fulfill the rightful purpose of education: to learn the truth, how to seek and find the truth and to shape one's purpose and action in life to conform to the truth.
- ◆ To teach and remain faithful to that truth which illumines all other truth and unifies every area of thought and life: the truth revealed by Jesus Christ, preserved in the deposit of faith and authentically interpreted in the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church, founded by Christ with the Pope as its visible head.

- ◆ To facilitate the development of the mental faculties, the formation of moral character and the fostering of the spiritual life in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Benedict XVI has warned that the most dangerous evil in the world today is relativism, the idea that truth is not universal, objective or discernible, that all opinions and beliefs are equal and that all must be tolerated. But a tolerance that essentially silences the truth and places the good on par with evil is not tolerant but oppressive.

The German philosopher Immanuel Kant, among others, charted this course by claiming that we cannot know a thing in itself (noumena) but only our perception of it (phe-noumena). Nonsense. This can be used as an excuse for holding to our false ideas and not having any responsibility for our erroneous beliefs and ultimately our actions. In fact, this way of thinking leads to the elimination of words like erroneous, evil, good and truth. When truth is done away with, God, the source and object of all truth, is destroyed. "What is true for you is not necessarily true for me." Our response to this common refrain should be "Is that true?"

But truth is not some pious mallet to be wielded in triumph over others. Yes, we boast in Christ, but not of ourselves as if we have achieved something on our own (1 Cor 1:31, 4). It is a precious gift, to be preserved with humble gratitude and explained in Charity in order to win others for Christ. We should carry this gift in our hearts, taking it to others as Mary carried it within her womb to visit her cousin Elizabeth and ultimately the world (Luke 1:40). Mary received this gift in simple obedience, "Be it done to me according to your word," (Luke 1:38) and it caused her to rejoice in God her Savior (Luke 1:47).

Let us follow this example and be thankful for what we have received, carry it to our neighbor and experience true Joy. Let us hold on to the truth and defend it, following Mary's directive: "Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5) Let us continue our search for truth and pray that we will recognize it and believe, even if it requires us to change radically, even if it is not what we expected - even if it is a small child in a manger.



Valedictorian Joy Droz and Salutatorian Andrew Vanderhoof. Joy is attending Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio and Andrew is at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.



Students light the first Advent candle marking the beginning of the Holy Christmas season

- Dan Miller, Board of Trustees President

Congratulations Class of 2008!



The Commencement Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at Holy Family Church in Vernon by Fr. Richard Kapral, concelebrated by Msgr. Matthew Luczycki of St. Joseph's in Oneida, Fr. Dick Dellos of St. Joseph/St. Patrick in Utica and Fr. Todd Arsenault, L.C.

The graduates are attending schools including: St. Boneventure, Clarkson University, Franciscan University, Christendom College, USMA West Point, State University of New York and St. Elizabeth College of Nursing.

Left: Rachel Rodriguez, Tammy Moyer, Calie Smith, Cody Watson, Melissa McAnn, Martin Koechst, Brianna Miller, Alex Albeck, Christina Laucello, Andrew Lazarek, Joy Droz, Andrew Vanderhoof, Joe Keifer, Tim Maciag, Collette Johnson and Mike Periard. Not shown: Jared Anderson.



Above: Matt Collins, Mary-Kate Kraeger, John Young.

Lona and Joe Dahlem and Joe Young accepted the Holy Cross diploma for John Young who passed away during the school year.

Below: Joy Droz delivers the Valedictory as Fr.s Dellos, Kapral and Msgr. Luczycki and principal Teri Maciag look on.

2008 Valedictory

Excerpts from Joy Droz's Valedictory speech

I know I've been blessed to attend a school like Holy Cross. It is truly a special place. Here, we've grown not only academically, but spiritually as well. We've been afforded opportunities we could never have received at a public school. I know things weren't always exactly how we would have liked them; I know sometimes we griped and complained. But in the end – now that we have reached that end – I think we all realize how blessed we've really been all along.

I have to say that the greatest thing about this school is the people. I've certainly met some outstanding individuals during my six years here. I've been a part of an amazing class – and what a class we were! When we first came together in seventh grade, we were the largest class in the history of the school. And, right from the beginning, we were causing trouble. Some of us have been together for six long years: Alex, Matt, Tim, Brianna, Mike, Rachel, Cody, Andrew Vanderhoof, and myself. We've never lost our love of causing problems and getting in trouble. And yet, when I look at the faces before me tonight, I see not insecure, trouble-making children, but young men and women ready to go out and take on the world. We have all grown so much – and we have grown together.

I have so many memories here. I'll never forget my first day of seventh grade, when our Spanish teacher made us run laps around the school in high heels and tights. I'll never forget waiting in the closet before our first drama production, Juliet and Her Romeo, surrounded by twenty of my terrified friends. I'll never forget winning the soccer championship for the first time this fall. But most of all, I'll never forget the little things – the everyday occurrences that made school so special. I'll never forget any of my classmates.

Despite all our good times, this year has been a hard one in many ways. This year, we lost our friend and classmate, John Young. It was a difficult time for everyone, and a difficult thing to accept. Yet even in the midst of tragedy, we leaned on one another, and drew from one another's strengths. The family of Holy Cross banded together in a new way – and together, we found the strength to carry on. We'll never forget John – he is here today, in our prayers and in our hearts.

Whatever happens, remember the lessons you've learned here at Holy Cross, and let them become a part of who you are. Most of all, never forgot your Lord. In the darkest night, He'll carry you. When you rejoice, He will rejoice with you. Let Him be a part of your future; if you do that, I can promise it will be a glorious one.



Annual Fund Update

Founder's Circle

Over \$5,000

Anonymous
Veronica Charities
Lorraine McDermot Memorial Fund
Mary Ellen Shaver
Henry & Johanna van Lieshout

Cyrenian Society

\$2,500 - \$5,000

Anonymous
Anonymous
Shaun & Julie LaVancher
Joanne O'Brien
Dr.s James and Irene Vanderhoof

Cornerstone Club

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Affordable Storage
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Anonymous
Anonymous
Patricia Caron
Good News Foundation
Lewis James
Fr. Joseph Kehoe
Daniel and Deborah Miller
Clark Mollenhauer
Elizabeth Moses
Tom and Suzanne Stone

Crusaders

\$500 - \$999

Henry Bednarski
Robert and Theresa Hollis
Doug & Kathleen Holzhauser
Joseph and Joan Renaldo
Lucy Romagnoli

Colleagues

\$250 - \$499

Paul & Norma Balke
Dorothy Conroy
Doris Ezrow
Martinez & Odom Guarnieri
Richard Hanna
Rodney & Kathy Kent
Michael and Victoria Laucello
Oneida Dental Group
Michael & Lonnie Seagriff
John Wichmann

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Ken & Elizabeth Allen
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Brabant Farm
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Mary Bush
James Caldwell

This past March, we announced the establishment of the **Holy Cross Academy Annual Fund**. The Annual Fund will provide a more structured approach to the way gifts are received, allowing the school and our supporters to budget properly and plan accordingly. To date, we have surpassed the 76% mark or just over \$76,000 and we remain confident in your generosity that we will achieve our goal of \$100,000. If only 14 more individuals or families donated \$2,000, we would reach our goal, but a gift of any amount is appreciated and has a significant impact.

Many have responded generously because they understand that:

- Holy Cross Academy is an excellent investment in our community, our families and in the souls of our youth
- The school's needs are pressing during this time of expansion and increased operating costs
- HCA relies almost exclusively on the generosity of others in order to survive.

Your gift will help HCA to continue to provide an excellent yet affordable education, help with the purchase of student desks, computer equipment, the installation of improved lighting and exterior doors, and the ongoing expenses of salaries, educational materials and facility maintenance.

Donations in November and December have historically been higher than in other months, but there is some concern this year due to global economic strains. For us, faith in Our Lord and commitment to our mission is only strengthened through times of difficulty. When financial markets and corporations fail, when we lose faith in government, Christ never fails. These are times to examine our priorities and our investments. An investment in the work of the Church and in the education of our youth is an excellent investment regardless of the financial climate. We pray that your faith will not be shaken and that you will be as generous as you have been in the past. And we are confident that we will all enjoy the dividends - dividends that we CAN take with us!

Special appreciation goes to those who have donated items and equipment, our faculty and staff who volunteer much of their time, and those who keep HCA in their prayers. Thank you for your generosity. May the blessings of Our Lord be with you and your families!

Please note that this list is for the 2008 calendar year to date - many donors who contribute in the last months of the year will appear in the next update.

John Judge
Raymond Carnevale
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Raymond Yahnke
Barbara & William Young

Drama Club Presents: *Suessical!*



Bird Girls (Maria Abbe, Melissa McCann, Brianna Miller)



The Cat in the Hat (Adam Vanderhoof)



Horton the Elephant (Nick Williams)



Wickersham Brothers (Joe Keifer, Cody Watson, Josh Vanderhoof, Dan Collins)



Gertrude McFuzz (Joy Droz)



Mayor of Whoville and his wife (Steve Miller, Megan van Lieshout)

Mayzie LaBird (Siobhan Cavanaugh)



Jojo (Ben Vanderhoof)



Sour Kangaroo and Baby Kangaroo (James Cavanaugh and Josh Herter)



Some DVDs are still available for a suggested \$15 donation. (315) 363-1669

Dinner Dance 2008!



Soccer Champs!

The 2008 Boys team captured first place in the NCAC league with a 6-0 season record. They also won the tournament championship, defeating Faith Fellowship 5-0 with sophomore Steve Seelman scoring 4 points. The Girls team placed second for the season and second in the tournament, losing to New Life. HCA players named to the All-Star team were (left) Josh Vanderhoof, Andrew Street and Tyler Vanderhoof. Kathryn Herter, Amy Collins and Kayla Johnson represented HCA as All-Stars for the Girls. Honorable mentions were given to David King, Adam Vanderhoof and Hannah Sheuermann.



Featured Teacher: Barbara Rudd



Barbara Rudd has been with Holy Cross Academy since 1998, the school's second year. She teaches History to grades seven through eleven and has a unique way of integrating the Faith into her lessons. She attended Mater Dei College and received her BA in History from SUNY Potsdam, as well as earning graduate credits from SUNY Cortland in Education. She and her husband Larry have nine children: Larry, Melissa, Wendy, Nick, Lisa, Maryrose, Cathryn, Joseph and Kevin, along with one grandson: Logan.

What she most likes about Holy Cross is the way that the students interact with one another, the deep faith and dedication of its faculty and the cooperation of its families.

"I love the Christian atmosphere. I love teaching History and helping students learn to grow and think."

Mrs. Rudd is also the Director of Religious Education at St. Joseph's in Oneida. In her spare time, if you can believe she has any, she loves to quilt.

Fall Picnic

One tradition here at HCA is the annual fall bonfire and picnic - an opportunity to meet the new families, become re-acquainted with the "old" families and celebrate another soccer win. Once again, alumnus Andy Maciag ('03) provided the roaster and barbecued some great chicken and sweet corn.

HCA at Christendom

In November, a group of students traveled to Virginia to visit Christendom College. They were able to attend classes and experience student life at the school including watching a Christendom vs. Steubenville basketball game, seeing HCA alumna Brianna Miller in a musical (the Secret Garden), and of course, swing dancing. Christendom is like the big brother to HCA - similar in their mission and philosophy, faithful, family oriented. Here the group is seen meeting with Director of Admissions and Marketing Tom McFadden, a former Christendom College classmate of HCA's president Dan Miller.



(Photo courtesy of The Chronicler Online at www.christendom.edu)

Auriesville Trip

In October, Holy Cross students visited one of the holiest places in New York - the Martyrs shrine in Auriesville. Students walked along the martyrs trail in the ravine, reflecting on the sacrifices made by the Jesuit missionaries St. Isaac Jogues and companions to bring the Faith to the Native Americans. The trip was sponsored by the Lorraine McDermott Memorial Fund.

Cash Raffle



You didn't miss the raffle - it's just that we haven't sold all the tickets yet and we want to be sure the prizes are substantial. So we are looking at holding the drawing and party after the first of the year.

The prizes are: one \$5,000, one \$1,000, two \$750, ten \$500, ten \$200 (or in proportion to total sales). Tickets are \$100 and each ticket is good for each of the 24 drawings. Only 300 tickets to be sold. Probably a better place to put your money than the stock market these days. Call to get your tickets: 315-363-1669 or go to www.holycrossacademy.com

Matching Challenge

Just when we thought there would be no matching challenge this year, an anonymous friend of Holy Cross has come forward! Because of this benefactor's great generosity, \$10,000 in matching funds is now available for December. The challenge is on and time is running short. Please consider what you can do to help sustain our Holy Cross family - any amount is significant. We know that God will be even more generous to you in return. Thank you!

Next Expansion Phase

It is our hope that the next phase of our facility expansion can begin soon. Our plan is to construct a gymnasium along with additional classroom space including a drama and music area. One added benefit would be the ability to host larger events on our campus including tournaments, commencement, dances, fundraisers, drama productions and community events. The project will cost about \$1.5 million and will require many prayers. Please remember Holy Cross as you pray (and as you update your wills!)



Spiritual Message

Today let us continue a practice which Fr. Riley taught to his adult students at the Holy Cross Catechetical Center in New London, NY. This great teacher of the Catholic faith instilled into his group a love of the documents of the Church. Having first met Fr. Riley in the fall of 1976 and then later attending some of his classes, I was able to experience first hand the love he had for the Church. He often spoke of the Popes we have had down through the years and made reference to these Popes in his instructions.

On Sunday, October 26, 2008 our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI introduced the recitation of the Angelus with the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square. He did this at the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops – who had gathered for the General Ordinary of the Synod of Bishops on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." Our Holy Father said, "Every Synod Assembly is a powerful experience of ecclesial communion, but this one was even more so because it focused on what illumines and guides the Church: the Word of God: Christ in Person."

Pope Benedict XVI made reference to the Second Vatican Council and to one of the sixteen documents we received from that Council – namely the Constitution, Dei Verbum - The Constitution on Divine Revelation dated Nov. 18, 1965.

We might for a few moments take a closer look at this document on Sacred Scripture. In #10 of this document it states: "Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the Word of God, committed to the Church. Holding fast to this deposit, the entire holy people united with their shepherds remain always steadfast in the teaching of the Apostles, in the common life, in the breaking of the bread and in prayer. (See ACTS 8:42...)"

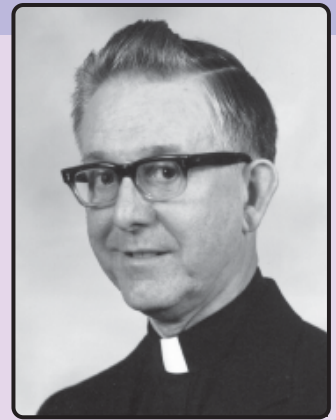
But the task of authentically interpreting the Word of God, whether written or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ.

It is clear, therefore, that Sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the teaching authority of the Church, in accord with God's most wise design, are so linked and joined together that one cannot stand without the others, and that all together and each in its own way under the action of the one Holy Spirit contribute effectively to the salvation of souls."

With these thoughts in mind, we now want to pray to God that we will have a fruitful Advent and Christmas season. Let us continue to stay close to the Holy Family.

May God Bless you.

Father Joseph F. Kehoe



Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe
Spiritual Advisor

Please Pray...

For all of our friends who have died, those who are ill and all of our benefactors. Please join us in praying for one of our students, Braden Morrissey who is battling cancer.



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Holy Cross News Editor: Daniel Miller
dmiller@holycrossacademy.com
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Faculty / Staff 2008-2009

Teri Maciag - Administrator/Principal
Margaret Miller - Religion, Latin, Advisor
Barbara Rudd - History
Bill Marchak - Math
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Robert Zeller- 7-8 Science, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics
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Dan King - Phys. Ed.
Elizabeth Moses - Religion
Andrea Slaven - Religion
Lona Dahlem - Natural Science
Scott Rutledge - Choir, Instrumental
Lori van Lieshout - Art
Monica Patterelli - General Music
Zoe Morrissey - Lunch Room
Mary Pettis - Study Halls
Pat Collins- Athletic Director, Coach
Coaches: David Watson, Kim Herter, John Vanderhoof, Diane Seelman

Keep the Faith!

*Please support Holy Cross and stand up for truth!
We depend on and appreciate your prayers and financial support.*

- I accept the Matching Challenge and offer this gift to Holy Cross Academy: \$ _____
- I will pray for Holy Cross Academy
- I would like to remain anonymous

Name _____
Address _____
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Detach and send to:
Holy Cross Academy
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- ◆ Commencement 2008
- ◆ Dinner Dance 2008
- ◆ Annual Fund Update
- ◆ Seussical the Musical
- ◆ Soccer Champions
- ◆ Matching Challenge

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