



# Holy Cross News

Vol. 19 No. 1

The Official Newsletter of Holy Cross Academy

Summer/Fall 2013



Valedictorian  
Alanna Glidden

Thanking God, her family, her teachers and her classmates, valedictorian Alanna Glidden addressed this year's Commencement attendees with special gratitude for the HCA community's support at the time of her mother's death during her sophomore year. Alanna is now studying for a career in medicine at LeMoyne College in Syracuse.

*"Some of the important lessons I think we must always remember is to keep God at the center of our lives and always have an eternal perspective, that way we focus on the important things. We must be true to who we are and keep our Christian identities, especially today when the world does not always share our values. And one important lesson you, my class, has taught me is not to take myself and life so seriously, and to remember to have fun."*

*~Alanna Glidden*



## Commencement 2013



Co-salutatorian  
Kaylee DeZalia



Co-salutatorian  
Margaret Vanderhoof

With optimism, aspirations, and a touch of nostalgia, 19 Holy Cross Academy seniors said farewell to their high school days and set out to seek their places in the world at the 2013 Commencement ceremony on June 21. Fr. Edmund Castronovo celebrated Holy Mass with HCA choir and band members providing the music at Holy Family parish in Vernon, NY.

Most plan to attend college. Among the schools chosen by the students are LeMoyne College, SUNY IT, Regent University, Christendom College, Carroll University, The College at Brockport, and Daemon College, as well as Mohawk Valley Community College and Dutchess County Community College. Two plan to take jobs with an eye toward trade school in the future.

# Joy and Tears



Daniel J. Miller  
President, Board of Trustees

*"First of all the mystery of the cross can only be understood, a little bit, by kneeling, in prayer, but also through tears. They are the tears that bring us close to this mystery." - Pope Francis Sept. 14, 2013 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

Welcome to Holy Cross Academy's seventeenth academic year! The past year has had its moments of joy as well as times of sorrow. We lost some dear friends recently including Msgr. Matthew Luczycki (Fr. Matt) and Mr. Everett Vanderhoof. They were not only friends of HCA and generous partners in our mission, they were personal friends of many of us and we miss them.

Everett was truly part of the HCA family, his grandchildren making up so much of the student body over the years. His children have been coaches, teachers, board members and volunteers. He was always willing to help out around campus – doing repairs, plowing – and he was a generous supporter and participant in HCA events and fundraisers and a man whose personal example and beautiful family continues to inspire many.

Fr. Matt was so excited by the thought of having a new, Catholic school in the area and he encouraged us from the very beginning, when HCA was just an idea. He prayed with us and for us. He celebrated Mass, heard confessions, held classes on the scriptures, urged others to support the school and made generous donations. He was faithful to his calling and loved the priesthood, he loved Holy Cross, and he loved each of us like one of the family.

We have also experienced times of joy: the graduation of nineteen seniors, the winning of trophies in sports and music, the blessing of our new Art and Music room, and the everyday joy of seeing HCA students thrive in a truly Christian environment.

It seems that joy and sorrow are always present, conjoined for life in this world. It is with joy that we march together in Washington to protest the horrors of abortion that cause so much sorrow. We celebrate with the graduating class, and then sadly wish them well as life carries them away. It is with joy that we gather together and greet one another as we remember and pray for our departed loved ones, and we cry together in our grief.

This is part of the mystery of the cross, "that bitter sweetness of the sacrifice of Jesus," as Pope Francis put it. The symbol of ultimate suffering has become a sign of victory, because Christ has overcome sin and death, and He promises to wipe away every tear. The cross is where heaven and earth meet, where God and man are united and reconciled, where sorrow and joy embrace. In this world, we can expect to shed more tears, but always with the hope of what is to come, revealed in the moments of true joy experienced in the companionship of loved ones and in the pursuit of noble causes.

Holy Cross Academy honors the Cross of Christ, sharing with others the hope gained through it, uniting our cross with His, and bringing the world closer to Christ, step by step, soul by soul.

## Prayer Intentions

*Please join our HCA family in prayer:*

- For the Eternal Repose of the souls of Rev. Msgr. Matthew Luczycki, Don Behr, Pat Bloom, Everett Vanderhoof, Dr. Asa Smith
- For the health of Stephen Curley, Jack Milne
- For success in our mission
- Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis for October 2013

General Intention: People in Despair. That those feeling so crushed by life that they wish to end it may sense the nearness of God's love.

Missionary Intention: World Mission Day. That the celebration of World Mission Day may help all Christians realize that we are not only receivers but proclaimers of God's word.



**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.

4020 Barrington Road  
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[www.holycrossacademy.com](http://www.holycrossacademy.com)

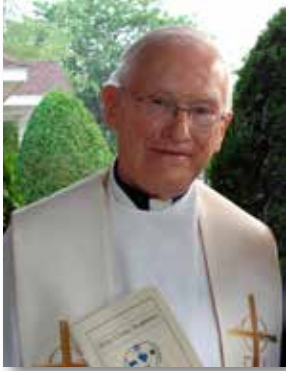
**Holy Cross News** is the official newsletter of Holy Cross Academy  
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Edited by Sue Romero and Daniel Miller

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# Annual Fund: "In Joyful Confidence"

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the HCA Annual Fund last fiscal year, concluding on June 30, 2013. The total unrestricted funds raised was approximately \$81,000. In addition, we were blessed with restricted funds donated to complete our Art and Music rooms, but it was certainly a challenge to meet our regular operational obligations. This year, we have set a goal of \$120,000 in unrestricted gifts and we ask that you consider partnering with HCA to offer an excellent, faith-based educational opportunity for the next generation. The theme is "In Joyful Confidence" and is inspired by Msgr. Matthew Luczycki's hope filled outlook.



Rev. Msgr. Matthew Luczycki

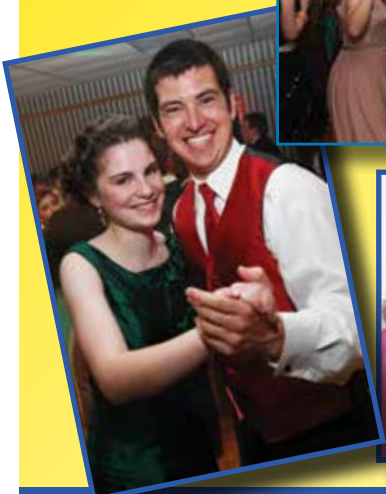
Let me tell you something you may not have known about Fr. Matt. He understood the importance of HCA's mission and always provided encouragement. He saw the declining number of youth in the pews and the closing of so many Catholic schools and he knew that young Catholics and their families needed to have their faith supported and reinforced in the classroom. He established the Kolbe fund to provide tuition assistance for the needy and to encourage graduating seniors to attend Catholic colleges. In the very lean years, he was so generous.

Fr. Matt wanted to remain an anonymous donor while he was still living, but he was hopeful that after he passed, his example of generosity would inspire others to be generous. I can share with you now that Fr. Matt's contributions have totaled close to \$100,000. He always said he wouldn't need the money where he was going, but he did ask for prayers. In our final conversation two days before he died, his last words to me were, "Pray for me." I promised that I would. I encourage all of you to do the same for Fr. Matt, for Everett Vanderhoof and all of our deceased benefactors. Also pray for the students, families, faculty, staff, and donors that belong to this large family we call HCA.

NOTE: One thoughtful option is to make a bequest to Holy Cross and remember the Academy in your will. As an independent school, we do not rely on federal, state, or diocesan support. Very plainly, *without you, there is no HCA!*

## Dinner Dance 2013!

*Each spring HCA students eagerly await the Spring Formal Dinner Dance. Girls carefully choose their dresses for elegance and modesty, and almost all students in grades 9-12 attend. Everyone goes as friends with no pressure to have a date. After a splendid buffet dinner, students danced to tunes provided by DJ and HCA alumnus Jon Noble.*



# On a Mission for Life

It was snowing. It was exhausting. It was cold. But we were all so glad to be there in Washington, DC, on January 24, 2013. Our 80 voices joined over 500,000 others to speak up for America's most defenseless citizens at the 40th annual March for Life. Every day throughout the year the teachers, staff and parents of Holy Cross Academy build a reverence for life in the students, but it was an encouraging and uplifting experience for all of us to see we are certainly not alone.



Walking along in the largest crowd of people most of us had ever seen, we knew we were all part of a huge and growing movement toward the improvement of our country, despite the opposing attitudes of the NY senators' staff we had encountered earlier in the day. At least 90 percent of the marchers hailed from high schools and colleges, and hearing snippets of their conversation as we marched inspired hope for the future.

The day after the march, we had the valuable educational opportunity to explore the museums and other sites in our nation's

capitol. Students saw artifacts from America's aviation history, admired some of the world's greatest works of art, and marveled at the immensity of dinosaur skeletons. HCA seniors demonstrated their responsibility and maturity by guiding their own tours in small groups and meeting at the rendezvous point right on time.

On Sunday we were welcomed warmly by the parish of St. Mary's in Fairfield, PA. The HCA choir sang a touching pro-life song called "Before You Were Born" during Mass. The obviously pro-

life parish and priest gave us their heartfelt thanks, plus coffee and donuts, and we returned the gratitude as well. An all too short stop at the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton capped off the trip before we headed back north to Oneida.

Overall the three-day excursion further cemented the bonds of camaraderie and friendship in the HCA community through our shared mission participating in the March for Life. We are grateful to the Good News Foundation for the grant that made this treasured trip possible.

## Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

In the first semester of our first year at LeMoyne College in 1953, Fr. Cox, SJ, taught us Theology and gave us an assignment to outline the four gospels. This was an excellent introduction for all of us to love and understand our Catholic faith as we began our four years there.

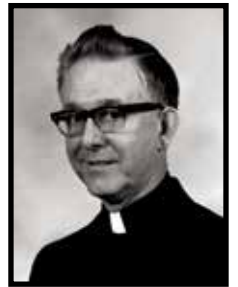
On Dec. 8, 1975, the apostolic exhortation "On Evangelization in the Modern World" by Pope Paul VI was given in Rome. For a few moments let us look at this document. In Section II the question is asked, "What is evangelization?" Pope Paul VI in #17 states: "...Thus it has been possible to define evangelization in terms of proclaiming Christ to those who do not know him, of preaching, of catechesis, of conferring baptism and the other sacraments.

Any partial and fragmentary definition which attempts to render the reality of evangelization in all its richness, complexity and dynamism does so only at the risk of impoverishing it and even of distorting it. It is impossible to grasp the concept of evangelization unless one tries to keep in view all its essential elements."

In #22 of this great document, this same pope said, "...There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, are not proclaimed."

In my adult religious education classes this year I plan to use the following:

- *The Jerusalem Bible, Reader's Edition*
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church, second edition*
- *Outlines of the Catholic Faith, Leaflet Missal Company*
- *Handbook of Prayers, Rev. James Socias*
- *Saint Joseph Confirmation Book, Fr. L.G. Lovasik, SVP*



In addition to these books, I find the *Navarre Scripture Commentary* very helpful and very spiritual.

Our Catholic faith is our most precious treasure. Our goal is to attain eternal happiness with God in Heaven in the next life. This life here on earth is very short compared to eternity. Read, study, meditate, pray and act. We must use the gifts of time, talent and treasure to the best of our ability while we are still alive.

Let us all be inspired by our new Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Stay close to the Holy Family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph will help us achieve our final goal.

*May God bless you,  
Father Kehoe, Spiritual Advisor  
Sept. 14, 2013*

# Making Room for Art and Music



*Students enjoy creative projects in the new art room.*

Going from a cramped space at one end of the cafeteria to a generously sized dedicated art room has been a godsend to HCA art teacher Lory van Lieshout and her students. “It has allowed me to have a room solely devoted to allowing the students to fully experience and experiment with art,” Mrs. van Lieshout said. “Now with the art room, students are no longer distracted with the activity in the cafeteria.” She also said the new room features plenty of shelves to keep art supplies close at hand and easy to find.

“I am very thankful to the donor that helped pay for the addition as well as to all the people who volunteered countless hours of their time to make it become a reality,” said Mrs. van Lieshout.

The new space also provided a room for instrumental music lessons. Before the new room, lessons were held in the chapel, but this was not ideal. “Our chapel needs to be open for prayer whenever possible,” said HCA music director Scott Rutledge. “Now that we have the music room, there is so much more room to store instruments and music, and I often find students practicing here after school.”

He also said the windows in the new room make it a bright positive place. “These things may be taken for granted in almost every other school in the country, but not here. We know it is a blessing and not a day goes by where the room isn’t witness to a lot of laughter, learning and growth.”

Dreaming even bigger, Mr. Rutledge added, “I can’t help but think how incredible it would be to have a performance hall here at Holy Cross Academy. It would be invaluable to be able to host our concerts and drama and theater productions in our own performance facility. There is no way to exaggerate the positive impact it would have on our students, staff and the surrounding community.”

On behalf of HCA’s music students, Mr. Rutledge expressed heartfelt gratitude for the monumental effort the new rooms required. “It proves there are generous people who believe in what we are doing and the work God has placed before us. To all

who made it possible, I say many thanks and please, keep us in your prayers.”

The new rooms were finished and ready for use in October of 2012 after three months of intense work. The project began by removing the old foundation and excavating what was once a crawl space and pouring new concrete floors. Then HCA parent and student volunteers put their talents to use, from framing and plumbing, to communication lines and painting. Materials and heavy equipment were donated by the van Lieshout family and their business Brabant Farms. Jacking and excavation was done by Scott Moyer. A special “thanks” goes out to Steve Anderson.



*Site work and backfilling around the new addition.*



*Mr. Rutledge has much more room for lessons and storage.*

## Celebrating the New CNY Saints

The Catholic community in Central New York was all abuzz last fall with the canonization of two local saints, St. Marianne Cope and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and Holy Cross students did not hesitate to join in the celebration.

Several students from all grades journeyed to Auriesville and Fonda, NY, to the Shrine of the North American Martyrs and St. Kateri's shrine in October. To walk on the very ground where the new saint spent her childhood and to see the natural spring



*At the spring where St. Kateri was baptized*

Syracuse to visit the museum dedicated to St. Marianne at the motherhouse where she served as superior before she left for Hawaii to care for the exiled lepers of Molokai. Later in the year one of the members of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities came to speak to HCA's student body. She presented a video and many fascinating facts about Mother Marianne.

where she was baptized brought us close to her in a very tangible way.

The ninth grade students took a pilgrimage in the opposite direction to



*Celebrating the 2012 Championship*

## Crusader Teams Add More Trophies

Both the boys and girls Crusader soccer teams won their league championships this year garnering two more trophies for our wall of fame. The final game for the girls' team went into double overtime with the winning score made in the final exciting seconds as the last rays of sunlight waned.

The Crusader basketball teams did just about as well with the girls coming in second and the boys winning their championship game.



*As part of the international 40 Days for Life Campaign, HCA Lifesavers gather to pray in front of Planned Parenthood in Syracuse.*

## Students Take On the World

HCA students do more than absorb learning at school. They put what they learn into action. They are more than future leaders. They're leaders right now!

Last February Rose Judge and Jilianne Cady together with English teacher Mary Peterson held the first meeting of [Holy Cross Academy Lifesavers](#). More than 20 students dedicated part of their lunchtime to attend the first meeting. The group began just in time to participate in 40 Days for Life, a national campaign that combines fasting, community outreach and peaceful prayer vigils on the sidewalk in front of abortion centers. Each week during Lent, groups of 8-10 students, parents and teachers stood in front of the Planned Parenthood center on Genesee Street in Syracuse in frigid temperatures and prayed for the souls involved in the abortions taking place there. Leaders of 40 Days for Life in Syracuse were delighted to see the students' involvement and invited them to march in the Syracuse St. Patrick's Day parade with their group.

Jilianne even started a Facebook page to post about the Lifesavers' activities and other pro-life updates. It's called Holy Cross Academy Life Savers.

Facebook is a new tool of communication and is being put to good use by the innovative students of HCA. After an appalling anti-Catholic page appeared on Facebook in July, Aaron Dostie, Isabel Romero and Rose Judge started a page to combat evil with good. It's called Heroic Catholicism. They plan to post inspiring quotes and stories and ask for suggestions and input from all the friends of Holy Cross Academy. Aaron recently posted a comment about the students' reasons for founding the page. "This page is primarily meant to help us know, support, and defend our Faith, hopefully through posts providing thoughtful discussion. Discussion is good."

These students would be thrilled to have you visit their pages, "like" them, and offer your comments.

*While you're on Facebook, you may want to "like" the Holy Cross Academy page. We often post pictures and news about the many exciting happenings at our school!*

# Summer Singing

Even as the school year wound down in June and then throughout the summer, the musicians of Holy Cross Academy blessed others with song.

Singers from HCA's acclaimed choirs won several awards at the Darien Lake Music Festival in June. The Select Choir won first place in the Gospel Choir category and took Grand Champion overall. The Senior Choir came in second in Class A Jazz Ensemble, first in Chamber Choir, and third in High School Mixed Choir. This was a tremendous accomplishment considering HCA competed against schools many times its size.

"I thought the Senior Choir and Select Choirs were poised, and nearly at their peak. They handled the heat and various other distractions like pros. Their focus was pinpoint, and their performances were inspired," said Music Director Scott Rutledge. "To have Select Choir win a grand championship was unexpected, and the highest achievement so far for our music department."

The lovely sound of their voices continued at the wedding of HCA gym/Latin/religion teacher Megan Anderson to her new husband Alfonso Sandoval.

Next, on the 4th of July several choir members joined Mr. Rutledge and his parish choir from St. Joseph's in Lee Center singing a composition called The Pledge of Allegiance by Alfred Reed. Together with the Rome Community Band the choir performed the piece in commemoration of Francis Bellamy, the Rome native who wrote the pledge.

Finally, in July HCA musicians and the St. Joseph's choir provided the music for the Great American Irish Festival Mass at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort, NY. Many of the 2000 or so attendees of the Mass expressed their delight at the lilting Irish hymns and the stunning solo performed by HCA student Anna Judge.



*Scott Rutledge conducts the band at Darien Lake*



*Select Choir preparing for their winning performance*



## After the Flood

Before dawn on June 28, 2013, many residents of Central New York woke to find murky water rapidly rising in their homes. In just a few minutes, houses and cars suffered flash flood damage that would take all summer and more to clean and repair. Volunteers from all over the region responded generously to help flood victims rebuild their lives. Many HCA students, parents and staff worked at the Karing Kitchen in Oneida to supply relief workers with bag lunches and spent days tearing out drywall and hauling out water-logged items from some of the flood victims' homes. Several displaced families are still unable to return to their homes, please keep them in your prayers.



- ...and much more!
- A Musical Summer
- Student Initiatives
- March for Life
- Commencement 2013
- New Music and Art Rooms

Inside:

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