



Holy Cross News

Vol. 12 No. 2

Holy Cross Academy: A private school loyal to the Magisterium. Est. 1997

Nov. 2006

Tenth Year of Miracles Begins!

The 2006 - 2007 academic year marks the beginning of Holy Cross Academy's tenth year. When HCA opened back in 1997, ten years seemed so far in the future. We began in a small, two room school house, with just four students, but with a vision of transforming the whole world in Christ.

One of the first "miracles" was receiving notice that we were officially established as a new educational entity on the birthday of Fr. Thomas Riley, the founder of Holy Cross Catechetical Center who had died a few years earlier, but who was an inspiration to us and to whom some of us privately prayed for his intercession.

We debated whether or not to open that year since we had raised only a little over \$10,000 - enough for two loaves and five fish, but for a new school? After many novenas, the decision was to go forward. As we knelt before the Blessed Sacrament and consecrated HCA to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 80th anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima, we felt that we had begun a journey from which we would not turn back.

We have witnessed many miracles along the way - some may be considered small coincidences, but other naturally unexplainable occurrences have been essential to the survival of this apostolate. (Those who know the founders and their shortcomings will agree that the fact that we are still in business must be a miracle!). We can't count the number of times the exact amount needed for payroll arrived the day checks were to be mailed. Now we consider it our bimonthly miracle.

In a way, we have come to expect miracles. We believe that if it is God's will, it will be accomplished, as long as we are willing to do His work, uniting our will and mission to His. And what is His work? Bringing the Truth in Charity to His people, the Truth that has been faithfully transmitted from age to age through the Catholic Church, "the pillar and foundation of the truth." 1 Tim. 3:15

- Dan Miller, Board of Trustees President



Cody Watson, Tammy Moyer, Shibhon Cavanaugh, Maria Abbe, Adam Vanderhoof, Hannah Andrews, Calie Smith.

Largest Graduating Class Ventures Forward



Congratulations, Class of 2006!

One of the greatest rewards of this apostolate we call Holy Cross Academy is welcoming new students and helping them develop into wonderful young adults. It is our purpose to send them into the world with the hope that they will do their part in restoring all things in Christ, but it is bittersweet to see them depart.

The class of 2006 was made up of a closely knit group of eight students (from left):

Kathryn Ann Rose Vanderhoof
Abby Irene Cecilia Vanderhoof
Rebecca Anne Catherine Collins
Ida Mae Rose Duwel
Anne Marissa Albeck - *Salutatorian*
Megan Rose Mary Anderson
Andrew Isaac Herter - *Valedictorian*
Matthew Paul vanLieshout

They have been accepted at schools including Franciscan University of Steubenville, Christendom College, Geneseo, LeMoyné, and Mohawk Valley. Our prayers go with them!

Top 50 in America - Third Consecutive Year!



The Catholic High School Honor Roll recently announced its third annual selection of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in America. The Honor Roll provides a powerful resource to parents and educators by acknowledging those schools that best maintain high academic standards, uphold their Catholic identities, and prepare

students to actively engage the world. To see a list of the top 50 schools, along with lists of the top 25 schools in each category, please use the link at www.holycrossacademy.com.

Nearly 1300 Catholic high schools were invited to apply to the Honor Roll by completing surveys that measure academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education. Holy Cross Academy is among only 12 schools that have made the list for three consecutive years. With this high level of competition, inclusion on the Honor Roll indicates outstanding success in each of the disciplines examined.

Overall, 25 states are represented on the Honor Roll. Eleven different religious orders sponsor honorees, including the Dominicans, Legionaries of Christ, Jesuits, and Norbertines. Advisory board member Gerard Bradley, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School, said the Honor Roll serves an important purpose. "High schools that are fulfilling well their mission to form students morally and

intellectually deserve to be recognized," he said. "The Honor Roll brings recognition to these outstanding schools."

"The Honor Roll has certainly developed a greater awareness among Catholics that excellence in Catholic education means more than just excelling in academics," explained Honor Roll consultant Kevin Schmiesing. "The best schools also have a vibrant Catholic identity and prepare students for fruitful vocations in politics, business, and the Church."

Holy Cross Administrative Team members, Brian Prince, Teri Maciag, and Margaret Miller, praised teachers, students, and parents who have worked to preserve high standards and excellence in education. They particularly thanked teachers and staff who worked within the various disciplines during the past school year, and the Board of Trustees who set policy in conformity with the founding principles of the Academy. Teachers of core subjects were Eric Belusar, William Marchak, Bonnie Panara, Mike Romano, Barbara Rudd, Jeremiah Williams, John Wrafter, and Rob Zeller. Religion teachers, in addition to Prince and Miller, were Elizabeth Moses and Jolene Walker.

The Catholic High School Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. The Honor Roll was produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars. For more on Acton, please go to www.acton.org.



Clockwise: Alexis Pellerin, study hall, Tyler Vanderhoof, November visit to the cemetery.



Character Education

"What's your Unity Group doing?"
"Are you in *Apocalypse* or *Ten Commandments*?"
"Our Unity Group project is going to be awesome!"

You may hear questions or comments like these in the hallways of Holy Cross this school year as students embark on a campaign to grow in the virtues of respect and responsibility. The seed of this venture was planted last spring at a teacher workshop which featured Dr. Thomas Lickona, author, speaker and director of the Center for the 4th and 5th "R's" at SUNY Cortland. Dr. Lickona, whose field is character education, has made a study of high schools that place strong emphasis on building character in students. He and his colleague, Dr. Matthew Davidson, published a book, *Smart and Good High Schools*, which identifies eight strengths of character and ways to help youth lead productive, ethical, and fulfilling lives. The teacher workshop stressed particular methods applicable to Holy Cross Academy, taking into consideration the student population and its unique characteristics.

Even though Dr. Lickona's group works in both public and private high schools throughout the country and the world, his strong Catholic faith is a pillar of his ideas and methods. He sees two essential parts of character building: performance character and moral character. The outcomes he foresees in students as a result of stressing these two components are: lifelong learner and critical thinker, diligent and capable performer, socially and emotionally skilled person, ethical

thinker, respectful and responsible moral agent, self-disciplined person, democratic citizen, and spiritual person.

Teachers and students now are in the beginning process of implementing some basic ideas through which these outcomes will be achieved. Unity groups are configurations of students from various grades who come together to form friendly relationships and boost one another's school spirit. They devise ways to be of service to the school and to help one another do their best. Also in process is a method of enhancing the school culture by crafting a "Touchstone," a set of principles to guide daily reflection and behavior. Both teachers and students will be involved in identifying core values which inspire their attitudes and help them strive for excellence in school and in life.

Everyone involved in Holy Cross knows that we have always been a "smart and good" school. Through these efforts, and with God's help, we hope to become even smarter and ... gooder? Better!



Dr. Thomas Lickona
Center for the 4th and 5th "R's"

Double-Matching Challenge:

Triple Your Gift!

Here is a great opportunity for you to **triple** the effect of your donations: One of our most generous supporters has stepped up and challenged all of HCA's benefactors to give the largest gift possible. He will double-match donations made in December 2006. If you can donate \$100, he will match it with \$200. Give \$2,500, he will give \$5,000. We love this donor, but we want you to help us empty his pockets!

This is one of our most critical matching challenges ever. Because of our tremendous growth, our expenses seem to grow at a faster pace than our income. Holy Cross has recently experienced a slowing in donations, like many non-profits and charities. We are confident that end-of-the-year giving will bring our balance out of the red, but we are hopeful that we will see a surplus to help us meet our expenses for the remainder of the academic year.

As we plan to expand our facility, we must be sure that we can meet our daily obligations. We have been increasing tuition each year, but if tuition becomes too high, our enrollment may be affected. Maintaining the proper balance is difficult as we grow, and one day we will have a more stable income level from tuition. Fundraising event participation is variable year to year and some efforts are more productive than others. We try not to burden families and donors with endless fundraisers. The majority of our support comes from those who believe in Holy Cross Academy, those who are behind our mission of transmitting the truth in a loving, family-like setting.

This is truly a leap of faith - faith in Our Lord, faith in our mission, and faith in our generous, quiet supporters who sustain us through their prayers and donations.

THANK YOU!

HCA in Action!



Confirmation 2006 with Most Rev. James Moynihan,
Bishop of Syracuse



Students visited the Fatima shrine in Lewiston, NY
on route to Niagara Falls



Msgr. Mathew Luczycki and Fr. Edmund Morelle
celebrated the 2006 Commencement Mass



Cody Watson, Matt Collins and Matt vanLieshout
heading to the Dinner Dance



Miss Jolene Walker assisting art students Julie DeZalia
and Katie Lazarek
This would make a great monument



Soccer Champions!



Boys: 8-0
Girls: 5-1



Bursting at the Seams!

Building Expansion Necessary

Holy Cross Academy moved into the current facility just three years ago with 25 students. Today we have over 70 with projections for next year of at least 85 and possibly more than 90. While enrollment at many schools in the area continues to drop, we have the exact opposite "problem". This is great news! But great news often presents great challenges. Here is the situation: Our facility is bursting at the seams! There simply is no room to accommodate any more students.

Our options are to turn away new students or expand our facility. You know what the answer is. How can we say "No" to the very essence of our mission? Over the past year, we have been looking at several expansion ideas, prioritizing our needs, with an eye on the long-term vision of Holy Cross. We foresee a building that is truly a home for our students and faculty, with the space and equipment necessary to fulfil our mission and create an environment that complements that mission.

We are currently looking at several options that would allow a phased approach. Our immediate need is for additional classroom space to accommodate

next year's enrollment, but this will fit into a larger plan that will include a larger library, a science lab, a gymnasium and an expanded cafeteria. The cost could realistically be a few million, but the initial phase will probably be a few hundred thousand.

We are very fortunate

to have so many talented individuals willing to offer their expertise in all phases of construction, from concrete and carpentry to electrical and finish work. We believe that Our Lord has placed together all the pieces necessary for this project for His purpose. We are confident that once our plans are presented to our loyal and generous supporters, the final element (funding, of course) will fall into place and we will be able to launch HCA into the next decade of miracles. It almost sounds like a new set of mysteries of the rosary - the Miraculous Mysteries!



Our building runneth over!



This is an inexpensive way to add classroom space, but it's difficult to see the blackboard

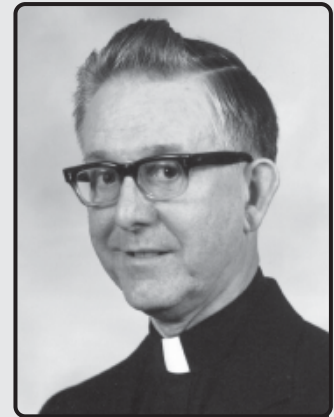


It's a good thing our students get along in such cramped quarters

Spiritual Message

From Fr. Joseph Kehoe - Spiritual Advisor

When I think of Holy Cross Academy, I usually think of Fr. Thomas M. Riley. Back in the spring of 1980 a folder from Holy Cross Catechetical Center, New London, NY was sent to a number of priests in the diocese. Having first met Fr. Riley in the fall of 1976, I became very interested in the structure of his program. This priest followed the official teaching authority of the Catholic Church and he always referred to the documents which came out of Rome. He had a number of courses in his program which included: Basic Catechetics, The Church, The Bible, Mariology, and Christology. In the course on Catechetics, he referred to Pope John Paul II and his document entitled "Catechesis In Our Time". He also quoted from the General Catechetical Directory by Pope Paul VI. In a booklet he sent me in April 1981 he brought out the need for good Catholic Philosophy, Grace, Patrology, Apologetics, the Liturgy, Ascetical Theology, solid Church Music and the need for effective methods of teaching the Catholic Faith. Even though Fr. Riley died Feb. 3, 1993 at the age of 83, I believe that his goodness lives on today at Holy Cross Academy. The people involved in this Academy have a great love of God and the Catholic Church and I believe that when they pass from this life to the next they will have a great reward waiting for them in heaven.



Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, we read "Guarding the Deposit of Faith is the mission which the Lord entrusted to His Church". (Pope John Paul II, Oct. 11, 1992). This Pope also stated at that time, "The principle task entrusted to the Council by Pope John XXIII was to guard and present better the precious deposit of Christian doctrine..." I am truly blessed to be associated with all the people who love Holy Cross Academy and who continue to make sacrifices to see that this jewel remains in existence for a very long time.

May God bless you.

Father Joseph F. Kehoe

Board of Trustees:

Dan Miller: President
Dr. James Vanderhoof: Vice Pres.
Mary Ellen Shaver: Secretary
Paul vanLieshout: Treasurer
Teri Maciag: Administrator
Margaret Miller: Admin. Advisor
Rev. J. Kehoe: Spiritual Advisor

Holy Cross News Editor: Dan Miller
danmiller@holycrossacademy.com
www.holycrossacademy.com

Faculty/Staff 2006-2007

Brian Prince - Principal, Religion, Phys. Ed.
Teri Maciag - Administrator
Margaret Miller - Religion, Admin. Advisor
Barbara Rudd - Social Studies/History
Bill Marchak - Math
Mary Ellen Shaver - Library
Eric Beluser - Spanish
Jerry Williams - English, Health
Deb Miller - Secretary, Photography
Sandy Finley - Secretary
Jaimie Schultz - Economics, Religion 12

Wendy Abbe - Computer, Religion
Robert Zeller- 7-8 Science, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics
Stan Cehonski - Computer
Jolene Walker - Latin, Religion, Art, Choir
Elizabeth Moses - Religion
Bonnie Panara - English, Speech
Mike Romano - Math
Cathy Thielke - Music, Instrumental
David Watson - Athletic Director
Coaches: David Watson, Pat Collins, Kim Herter, Brian Prince, Dave Drake, John Vanderhoof

Please Pray...

For these and all of our friends who have died:

Tom Alibrandi, Christi Anne Carpenter, Gloria Cavanaugh, Lawrence Finley, James L. Ingold, Eleanor Mead, John Pugliano, Janet Rudolph, James Watson, Paul Zeller. Also, please keep those who are ill and all of our benefactors in your prayers.



"10th Year of Miracles" Offering

11/06

Please pray for Holy Cross Academy and give what you are able. Don't forget the double-matching challenge!
Your support means so much to us - we could not survive without you. Thank you!

- Please accept this gift to help sustain Holy Cross Academy: \$_____
- I may be interested in supporting the facility expansion.
- I will pray for Holy Cross Academy.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Detach and send to:

Holy Cross Academy
4020 Barrington Rd.
Oneida, NY 13421

- ◆ Building Expansion
- ◆ Top 50 in USA
- ◆ Soccer Champions
- ◆ Character Training
- ◆ Commencement 2006
- ◆ Matching Challenge - Triple Your Gift!

Inside:

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY
 4020 Barrington Road
 Oneida, New York 13421
 (315) 363-1669



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ONEIDA, NY 13421
 PERMIT NO. 303

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Holy Cross Academy is a private junior-senior high school teaching in the Catholic tradition and faithful to the Magisterium. For more information, please call (315) 363-1669 or write to Holy Cross Academy, 4020 Barrington Road, Oneida, NY 13421, or visit our website at www.holycrossacademy.com. Please call if you receive this Newsletter by error or if you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Cross News.
 HCA is just off Rt. 365 one block from 365A. Please come visit!