



# Holy Cross News

Vol. 17 No. 1

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

Fall 2010

## *HCA Receives National Recognition for Excellence in Civic Education*——



For the sixth consecutive year, Holy Cross Academy has gained national recognition from the National Catholic High School Honor Roll. At a time when young people are more involved than ever in civic and political matters, Holy Cross received an Honorable Mention Award as one of the top performing Catholic schools in Civic Education.

The Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. It is produced in consultation with an advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and scholars. The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education.

The Honor Roll schools display sound academic, moral, catechetical and civic formation that prepares students for vocations in the world as political, religious, scientific, and business leaders.

“We spend a considerable amount of time talking about the foundations of our nation under God, with the assertion that every person has inalienable rights to life and liberty,” said history teacher Barbara Rudd.

*Holy Cross Academy has earned honors from the National Catholic High School Honor Roll for six consecutive years.*

“Responsible stewardship, responsibility for the poor, personal and business ethics, and just economic and labor policies are all interwoven into our discussion of a wide array of political and economic issues,” said economics and government teacher James Chappell.

Trustee member and academic advisor Margaret Miller credited the Academy’s faculty for the award.

“The personal commitment of our teachers to bringing Catholic Christianity to the public forum gives life to the day-to-day citizenship education provided in the classroom,” Miller said.



Beyond the academic curriculum, responsible citizenship is addressed by strongly encouraging students, upon reaching eighteen years of age, to register to vote. Students also attend the NY State Catholic Conference’s Public Policy Day in Albany and the March for Life in Washington D.C. on an annual basis.

Since 2004, HCA has been named a Top 50 Catholic High School four times and has gained Honorable Mention for Civic Education twice. For more information, visit [www.chshonor.org](http://www.chshonor.org).

## OUR MISSION

HOLY CROSS ACADEMY exists to support and assist parents — the primary educators of their children — in the education and formation of the students, and to help students on the journey to their proper end: Heaven.

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## Message from the Board of Trustees

### “Moving Forward With Faith”

Another Advent and Christmas season has passed. We celebrated the beginning of a New Year, Ordinary time is upon us and before you know it, Lent will be here! Time rushes on, there is no standing still. And so we must move forward. It is good to examine our lives and actions on a regular basis, re-focus on what is most important, and move forward in faith. Call it a Resolution or an on-going Conversion, all that we do should direct us to our proper end: Heaven, union with Christ, happiness. It is also good for Holy Cross Academy to renew its efforts and step boldly into a new year, casting out “into the deep.”

We do this because we have confidence in the Lord, that when we approach Him in humility, recognizing our weakness, open to His Will, He will accomplish great things through us.

*The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, ‘Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.” Luke 17:5-6.*



We have faith that the Lord will continue to do His Will through this little Apostolate called Holy Cross Academy. We see it unfold on a daily basis. Who could have foreseen the national recognition, championship teams, and award-winning programs? Who would have imagined hundreds of supporters from all over the country, students from twelve districts, families who commute from distant cities or who have moved in order to attend? It may have been a dream for some of us, but it was a plan for Him who is Lord of time and history, King of hearts and ages.

As long as we remain focused on our mission of offering a solid education illumined by the truths of the Faith in an ideal environment, where students are friends, teachers are mentors, and Jesus is at the center, we have faith that there is so much more in store for HCA.

I encourage those who have been praying for their children, seeking the right place for them, will consider visiting the school at an upcoming Open House or anytime that is convenient. I pray that you all have a blessed and fruitful new year, and ask for your continued prayers and support of Holy Cross as we Move Forward with Faith!

In Christ,

*Dan Miller*  
President, Board of Trustees

## Prayer Intentions

Please pray:

- For the eternal repose of the souls of John Albeck, John Arena, James Hennessey, Fr. Casimir Krysiak, Paul Schultz and Helen Tambs.
- For the health of Ray Carnevale, Stephen Curley, Peter Juravich, June Kapps, Frances Kirwin, Tom Kosten and Ted Pelicano.
- For all our friends and supporters who have passed away or are ill.

## Mrs. Terilyn Esparza Joins HCA Faculty



Mrs. Terilyn Esparza joined Holy Cross Academy this year after a several year hiatus to be a stay at home Mom. She currently teaches 7th and 8th grade religion.

She graduated from Southwest Texas State University with a B.S. in Home Economics Education. She later completed a Graduate Certificate in Adult Education, and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio, TX. She has also pursued post-graduate studies in Developmental Education from Southwest Texas State University.

Her experience includes sixth grade teacher at St. Thomas More School in San Antonio. She also held the dual role of Level II Catechist Formation Instructor for the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, and Adjunct Faculty Member of Incarnate Word College.

She has many years' experience in parish ministry, both in the United States and Germany. Her duties spanned from youth ministry to adult education. She was also the Learning Resource Center Operator for the Department of the Army Education Center in Ilesheim Germany, where she assisted U.S. Army Commanders in developing troop training programs, and assisted soldiers with individual training and professional development. Terilyn also spent three years on active duty in the United States Army, and twelve years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Her favorite things outside of Holy Cross are her husband and three children, Perpetual Adoration, reading, cooking, and flower gardening.

"I truly enjoy teaching at Holy Cross," Mrs. Esparza says, "as the students here are welcoming, friendly, and highly motivated. I am inspired by their faith maturity and their sincere striving to live the Christian life."

*"Students here are welcoming, friendly, and highly motivated."*

## Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

The Advent Season and the Christmas Season are two special times when we can meditate upon all the gifts we have received from God.

Today I would like to share with you a book which I purchased in September of this year and plan to use in my Religion classes. Handbook of Prayers, edited by Rev. James Socias, is published in the USA by the Midwest Theological Forum, 1420 Davey Road, Woodridge, IL, 60517. It is available from the Leaflet Missal Company.

The table of contents begins with the statement, "Lord, teach us to pray." On page one of this most helpful book, we read this quote from Crossing the Threshold of Hope, by Pope John Paul II:

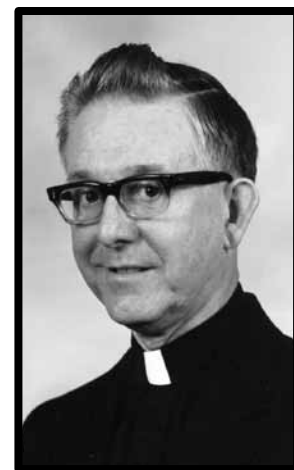
*"This profound truth presents a perennial challenge for prayer. It shows how necessary prayer is for the world and for the Church, because in the end it constitutes the easiest way of making God and his redeeming love present in the world. God entrusted to men their own salvation; He entrusted to them the Church, and, in the Church, the redeeming work of Christ. God entrusted this to all, both to individuals and to humanity as a whole. He entrusted all to one and one to all. The prayer of the Church, and especially the prayer of the pope, must constantly reflect this awareness."*

Next in the table of contents in this Handbook of Prayer is a section entitled, "How to Be a Better Catholic." On page three, we see the "Universal Call to Holiness," followed by "Summary of Christian Beliefs" and "A Spiritual Plan for Life." In this section, we are reminded to offer up our day to God through the inter-

cession of our Blessed Mother Mary. We are reminded to work with order and intensity during the day as a way of serving God. We are encouraged to set goals and establish priorities in order to develop a practical schedule. Next we are given a thought to sanctify ordinary work in the statement "sanctifying ordinary work is the goal of our life." We are reminded to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion as often as possible besides our attendance on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In this spiritual plan we are given the idea to spend some time in mental prayer. It speaks about the Angelus, the Rosary, spiritual reading, examination of conscience, and the importance of going to confession. We are reminded to spend time in silence and always stay in the presence of God, and to live as we would like to die.

I would like to leave you today with this thought. Many years ago, the sisters in St. Joseph's Grammar School in Waltham, MA, taught us to "do everything for the greater honor and glory of God and the salvation of souls."

Let us stay close to the Holy Family. I wish you all a happy and a Holy New Year.



*Fr. Joseph Kehoe  
Spiritual Advisor*



# HCA Joins Oneida Chorale for Christmas Concert



*Students perform the piece "Mary Sat A-Rockin'" during the concert.*

On December 5, the HCA Senior and Junior Choirs were special guests at the annual Oneida Area Civic Chorale Christmas Concert - "Joy to the World." Before a nearly sold-out audience at the Oneida High School auditorium, HCA impressed all with their performances of "Star-Child," "Mary Sat A-Rockin'," and "O Holy Night." The concert concluded with the students joining the Chorale to sing two pieces: "What a Wonderful Child," and "A Christmas Festival."



*Anna Judge (9th Grade) & Ben Vanderhoof (10th Grade) perform solos from "O Holy Night."*



*The two choirs combined for the concert's finale.*



*Holy Cross Music Director Scott Rutledge addresses the audience.*



*Scott Rutledge performs with the six-piece brass ensemble that accompanied the Chorale.*

# NCAC SOCCER CHAMPIONS!

Entering the season as defending champions in the North Country Athletic Conference, the HCA boys and girls soccer teams rose to the challenge. Both squads featured new players and also much-needed new uniforms, courtesy of several very generous donations!

After posting a league-best record, the girls team played rival New Life Christian School in the final for the second consecutive year. The tightly contested match broke open in the 29th minute, when tenth grader Theresa Lohr scored on a long shot from the right side. Midway through the second half, Theresa picked up an assist when her corner pick sailed to senior Kayla Johnson, who headed it in the back of the net. HCA's defense held strong, with goalie Marie Maciag making key saves throughout the match. At the final whistle, HCA had prevailed 2-0.

Two days later, the boys team also took the field against New Life Christian School. Cold and rain did not dampen either team's desire to win. After a scoreless thirty-four minutes, tenth grader Ben Vanderhoof launched a shot from twenty-five yards that barely cleared the goalie's outstretched arms. Two insurance scores followed in the second half from senior Steve Seelman and tenth grader Tim Vanderhoof.

HCA goalie Jon Noble, a junior in his first year with the team, kept New Life scoreless for the remainder of the half. The 3-0 victory earned the HCA boys their sixth consecutive NCAC title.





# News Briefs

## STUDENTS EXPLORE AMAZING CAVES & ENCOUNTER AMAZING LIVES



In September, the 9-12 grades embarked on an exciting field trip to Howe Caverns, located near Albany, NY. The journey included a 156 feet descent below the Earth's surface to explore the enormous main cavern, immense galleries and the huge boulders hanging overhead.

The 7-8 grade classes spent the day at the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, NY. The shrine is built on the 17th century Mohawk village called Ossernenon where three Jesuit missionaries were martyred during the 1640's. Father Isaac Jogues, Jesuit brother René Goupil, and lay missionary John Lalande are the only canonized American martyrs. The beatified "Lily of the Mohawks," Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, was also born there in 1656.

## FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS MADE SPECIAL WITH TRUE RELIC

On September 14, the Academy celebrated its namesake - the Holy Cross. The day commemorates the discovery of the cross by St. Helena in the fourth century.

Fr. Edmund Castronovo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Verona, brought a relic of the True Cross to the Academy and led the students in venerating the relic.



## HCA HOSTS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

On October 28, Holy Cross Academy welcomed the local Knights of Columbus E. Bart Hanifin Council 473 to the school for their monthly dinner meeting. Students greeted the Knights and served the dinner.

Grand Knight Michael Dwyer thanked them for their work and spoke of how impressed he was with the maturity level of the students. "I tell about every person I interact with when talking about HCA," he said, "that it's the jewel of secondary education in our area."



The Knights of Columbus enjoy dinner at Holy Cross Academy.

## ALL SOULS DAY OBSERVED AT HCA



During the first week of November, all classes made trips to local cemeteries to pray for the repose of all departed souls. This was in observance of All Souls Day, which took place on November 2.

November is a month traditionally dedicated to praying for the souls in Purgatory.

## ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION BRINGS BACK FRIENDS, RENEWS TRADITIONS

Alumni returned to their alma mater for the annual reunion on January 4. English teacher Jerry Williams and the senior class prepared the traditional brunch. The first-ever Alumni Forum with the junior and senior classes gave graduates the opportunity to reflect on their years at HCA and discuss the joys and challenges of college life.



Of course, the Alumni Reunion would not have been complete without the traditional Alumni vs. Students basketball game.

The students put up a fight through three quarters, but couldn't hold back a furious fourth quarter comeback from the alumni (helped by some great calls from the referee)! The game ended in a dramatic overtime win for the alumni.



## FIRST HOLY CROSS STUDENTS NAMED TO MADISON ALL-COUNTY BAND!



Front Row (l-r): Anna Judge (clarinet), Kaitlyn Callahan (clarinet); Back Row (l-r): Jon Noble (percussion), Gabriel Esparza (clarinet), Ethan Parlato (tuba).

# Annual Fund 2010

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to Holy Cross Academy. This list recognizes gifts made during the 2010 Annual Fund - from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010. Your continued support is vital to the mission of Catholic education!

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† - Please pray for donors who have passed away.

# "Moving Forward with Faith"

*-Annual Fund 2010-2011*



The theme for the 2011 Annual Fund drive, "*Moving Forward with Faith*," is actually very appropriate. When a group of Catholic parents envisioned in 1996 a junior/senior high school built upon the rich heritage of the Catholic Faith, they took a leap of faith to make that a reality. They believed that families should have another choice in education for their children, recognizing that home schooling may not be suitable for all, and that public schools may not be meeting families' needs as Catholics.

We have faith in the heartfelt generosity of our donors. We have faith in the many volunteers who offer their time, talent and treasure to attend to the basic needs of the Academy. And, most importantly, we have faith in God and trust His infinite goodness. Our history bears witness to the fact that, "unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Here are three simple ways you can help Holy Cross Academy move forward in the upcoming year:

- 1) Contribute a tax-deductible gift to our Annual Fund. The Annual Fund supports the overall mission of HCA by helping to fund the school's day to day operating costs. You can send your pledge by check or by visiting our website, [www.holycrossacademy.com](http://www.holycrossacademy.com), and making a secure online credit card donation.
- 2) Consider a planned giving option. For example, include Holy Cross Academy as a beneficiary in your will.
- 3) Did you know that individuals over 70 ½ may roll up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to Holy Cross Academy? Under current law, any distribution taken and subsequently donated may be rolled directly to the qualified charity and it is not recognized as income. The result is a sizeable tax benefit to the benefactor – a 100% write-off. Also, the amount may be treated as part of an IRA owner's minimum distribution, so taxes on the required distribution can be avoided. Only traditional and Roth IRAs qualify for the roll over. Taxpayers with other types of retirement plans may be able to roll those plans to an IRA and then use the IRA rollover to make charitable gifts. IRA owners are encouraged to contact their IRA custodian now to direct transfers to Holy Cross Academy.

Most importantly, we need your prayers for our Board of Trustees, faculty, students and families. There is so much good left to be done, and we are truly just getting started. Your gift will make a difference: believe it!

*- Scott Nelson  
Director of Advancement*

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$5,000?



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- One Ticket Qualifies for ALL Drawings!

◆ Only 300 tickets available

◆ Benefits HCA students ◆ Drawing: Spring 2011

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10	\$500
10	\$200

\*If all tickets are not sold, prizes will be adjusted proportionally. Complete rules available at [holycrossacademy.com](http://holycrossacademy.com)

\$100/ticket

Print out your entry form today at  
[holycrossacademy.com](http://holycrossacademy.com)



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- Soccer Teams Sweep Championships
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## HOLY CROSS ACADEMY



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Believe It.*

**OPEN HOUSE 2011  
SUNDAY, MARCH 6  
1:30PM - 3:00PM**



- Accepting applications for grades 7-12   - Tour the Academy   - Enjoy refreshments

*A great opportunity to introduce family and friends to HCA!*

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