



Holy Cross News

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The Official Newsletter of Holy Cross Academy

Fall 2011

Culture of Faith Top Priority at HCA

*F*irst and foremost," Pope Benedict stressed in 2008 to Catholic educators working in the United States, "every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth."

Holy Cross Academy has worked consistently to shape and strengthen the school's Catholic culture. Whether it's starting a soccer game with a brief prayer, remembering the deceased on All Souls' Day, or assisting the needy or impoverished, there is always something present to remind students what truly matters in life.

Now in its 15th Academic Year, HCA is building further upon the foundation of its Catholic identity. Teachers Matthew Schultz and Elizabeth Miller, in their first years at HCA, have been entrusted with reviving the Academy's "youth group," and presenting students with more opportunities to grow stronger in their Faith. The group's informal name is *Tippi Losci*, an Italian term meaning "Shady Characters."

"Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati named his group and followers *Tippi Losci*. As to why, I'm not quite sure yet," said Mr. Schultz. "I imagine it had to do with how the Italian state viewed Catholics in the early 20th century. I like it because it suggests that we are conspirators, which indeed we are: conspiring to get these kids to meet Christ in a new and innovative way."

According to Miss Miller, the mission of *Tippi Losci* is "to be fully Catholic: to seek Christ, love Christ and be Christ to others. The students should grow closer to Him. Even if it's an inch, it's something."

"The Holy Father has emphasized the joy that should belong to the Christian," added Mr. Schultz. "We hope, in our small way, to show these students the joy that comes with being Catholic. There is no such thing as a sad saint."



Fr. James Schultz, former teacher at HCA, offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on September 14, Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross & the Academy's Namesake Day.



Students proceed on their walking pilgrimage toward Auriesville (above), arriving at the Shrine of North America Martyrs (below).



Faith on the Field: The boys' soccer team receives a blessing from Fr. Edmund Castronovo (center) prior to a match this season.

Tippi Losci kicked-off its inaugural year by spending an evening Holy Hour in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, then gathering outside for a bonfire, s'mores and singing.

"The students found Adoration a 'harder' activity to 'get into,'" commented Mr. Schultz. "We have become a society which is uncomfortable with silence, but we need to give our students opportunities for silence since it is only in the silence of our hearts that we can truly commune with the Lord Jesus."



...Continued on Page 4

Message from the Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

Welcome to HCA's fifteenth academic year! Those of you who have been with us from the early days will share in our amazement that so much time has passed. But many will be just as surprised to learn that HCA is so young! I would like to share with you the key to our success:

Daniel J. Miller, President
Board of Trustees

"A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

These words of Pope Benedict XVI embody the mission of Holy Cross Academy. From the day of our founding, we have understood that the finest education is one that is enlightened by the faith, because it is through the faith that we find the truth. Truth flows from and leads us to the source of all truth: God. If the goal of education is to lead others to the truth, then watering down the fullness of truth found in our Catholic faith would be contradictory and misleading. HCA does not shy away from its Catholic identity. Rather, we are proud of our heritage and blessed to have the gift of Faith.

We believe that the formative years of secondary school are critical and should set students on a course for eternity. We understand that embracing the truth is union with Christ and is the key to our happiness. This is the source of the warm family atmosphere and the genuine love and concern for our students.

We should ask ourselves: What are we doing to promote a culture of virtue and life? Are we helping others on the path to holiness? What will our legacy be? Bishop James Moynihan said it best to our most recent graduates last June:

"Whatever your future accomplishments in life may be, your task will not be to glory in those accomplishments, but rather to hold up the accomplishments of Jesus Christ and of the wonderful things God has accomplished through Him and through His followers."

Our enrollment continues to increase because families realize that HCA provides what is most important. Ask yourself, "When was the last time I heard a high school's publicly stated mission was to help all its students become saints?" "What am I doing to help promote a culture of virtue and life?" We live in times that demand action, and we know that faith without works is dead. (James 2:14-26)

As we approach the holy feast of Christmas, we remember that the Incarnation was the most important event in history, the most generous gift to mankind, and the perfect example of humility and love. We pray that God will graciously bless you and your family with peace and joy!



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

Jr./Sr. High School - Est. 1997
Joyfully Dedicated to the Catholic Faith

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.

Prayer Intentions

Please join our HCA family in prayer:

- For the Eternal Repose of the souls of Henry Bednarski, Dr. Warren Carroll, Paul Gamache, Michael Haley, and Virginia McDonald.
- For the health of Judy Becker, Stephen Curley and Helen Helt, Connie Kirk, June Kapps, Thomas Kosten, Catherine O'Brien and David Rose.
- For all our friends and supporters who have passed away or are ill.
- General Prayer Intention of Pope Benedict XVI for December, 2011
Peace among All Peoples: That all peoples may grow in harmony and peace through mutual understanding and respect.

Holy Cross News is the official newsletter of Holy Cross Academy.
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HCA Welcomes Four New Faculty Members



NORIE BELANGER teaches Math 8, Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus. Born and raised in Connecticut, she graduated from Western Connecticut University with a B.S. in Education. Mrs. Belanger also is a graduate of St. Nicholas College for Montessori Education with an M.S. in Montessori Education

She began her teaching career at public school in New Milford, CT, and went on to own and operate a Montessori School in Canastota, NY, for 20 years. Mrs. Belanger homeschooled two of her own children, along with other children from many families, for the past 9 years. She has privately tutored many children as well.

Married almost 35 years to her husband John, they have six children and two grandchildren (both age two), and two additional grandchildren are expected this coming year. Beyond the HCA classroom, Mrs. Belanger enjoys sewing, knitting and quilting.

VALERIE LACROIX is now teaching English at HCA after recently teaching in enrichment programs and performing some substitute teaching. She graduated from Nazareth College, then went on for her teaching certification at LeMoyne College. She graduated with an MA in Reading Education from SUNY Cortland, and also has a CAS in public school administration from SUNY Cortland.

Mrs. LaCroix brings 11 years of experience in public school teaching, ranging from the inner city to rural districts. She recently taught in a summer enrichment program, and taught both business courses at Bryant & Stratton College and modeling and etiquette courses at The Barbizon School of Modeling.

Outside of HCA, she is still employed in her family business, Graziano's Restaurant and Inn. She also enjoys working out to keep fit, as well as biking, ballroom dancing, and skiing. Traveling with her family is a big passion. Spending time with her daughter is her joy.



ELIZABETH MILLER teaches Religion, Physical Education and Video classes, while also co-directing the HCA youth group. She double-majored in Philosophy and Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, graduating *cum laude* in 2010. There she cofounded the student organization "Lay Apostles for Christ," a ministry and evangelization group. Miss Miller continued her studies at the University of St. Mary, focusing on the New Evangelization of Pope John Paul II.

Elizabeth volunteered in 2009 with "Totus Tuus of Cheyenne," a summer catechetical program in Wyoming, where she catechized 1-12 grade students at seven parishes throughout the state. In 2008 and 2010, she interned and lobbied at the United Nations on the "Commission for the Status of Women," meeting with delegations and representatives from nations in Africa, Asia and North America. In 2011, she worked as a substitute teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School in Woodbridge, VA.

When away from the Academy, Miss Miller enjoys running, (she is currently training for her first marathon), playing guitar, painting religious art, and spending time with her family.

MATT SCHULTZ joins HCA this year as a full-time faculty member, teaching Religion, English, Music and Latin. At the University of Dallas, he majored in Political Philosophy, receiving his B.A. in 2000. He returned to UD for graduate studies for his Masters in Humanities. He is in the process of finishing his Master's thesis on the twelfth century French poet Chretien de Troyes and his poem *Perceval, ou Le Conte du Graal*.

From 2006-2009, Mr. Schultz served as Dean of Students at Saint Gregory's Academy in Moscow, PA, where he also taught Classical Rhetoric. He left Saint Gregory's to discern a vocation to the priesthood and studied philosophy at the Catholic University of America for three semesters.

He co-directs the HCA youth group, oversees the youth group at his home parish Saint Malachy's in Sherburne, NY, and teaches confirmation classes for Saint Paul's/Saint Bartholomew's in Norwich, NY.



Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

Life is often described as a journey. For some, life on this earth does not have much meaning. For others, life here is like a pilgrimage and they have a definite goal in mind. They strive to live in grace and die in grace, and be in Heaven for all eternity in the next life. Happy the person who knows the purpose of life and is able to find true answers to the fundamental questions of his existence: Why am I here? Where am I going? How can I fully arrive at my destination?

As the Second Vatican Council reminded us, "parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of Faith." I will always be thankful to God for attending St. Joseph's Grammar School in Waltham, MA, in the early 1940's. There the sisters taught us from the Baltimore Catechism and from the Bible.

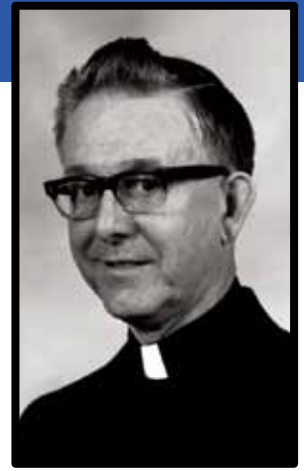
In the seminary, we learned in the early 1960's that the Public Worship of the Church consists in the Mass, the Sacraments and the Divine Office. On the First Sunday of Advent, the Church began using the new Roman Missal, Third Edition. I would encourage everyone to obtain a hand missal. As an ad in the Our Sunday Visitor catalogue states:

This single volume is the complete source of the Bible passages and prayers that form the rich tapestry of the Mass. The Daily Roman Missal, Third Edition, presents the liturgical year's worth of Sacred Scripture, allowing the faithful to follow and delve further into the Church's holy celebration.

I wish you all a fruitful and a happy Advent and Christmas Season.

May God bless you.

(Editor's Note: You can learn more about the revised translation of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: www.usccb.org.)



Fr. Joseph Kehoe
Spiritual Advisor

Catholic Culture...

Another highlight of the year was a seven-mile walking pilgrimage to the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville.

"Our Lady kept off the rain the entire walk, only allowing it to fall the moment we arrived at the shrine," recalled Miss Miller. "Matthew Schultz asked a couple priests to hear the kids' confessions, and while we were waiting a group of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal came in and offered to hear confessions as well. The students were amazing. Most of them went to confession and had a great experience with the priests. You could truly feel the grace flowing on us, especially when we were down in the grotto where one of the martyrs was slain."

There have also been activities for guys and girls to enjoy separately. Miss Miller organized for the girls an overnight "lock-in" at the Academy, while the guys took to the athletic field for a football game, followed by a pizza dinner and the classic film *The Scarlet & The Black*.

"The feedback has been very positive," said Mr. Shultz. "The students find the activities fun, plus it's an informal chance to get to know their classmates better. It's always nicer when you go to school with people you know by name."

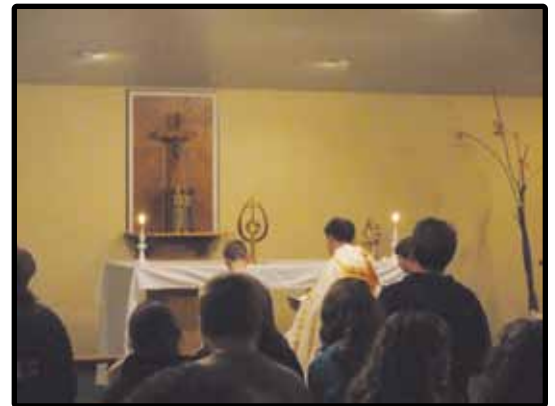
Added Miss Miller, "They're excited and they all seem to love it."



10th graders pause to pray before a gravestone in observance of All Souls' Day on November 2.



Strong friendships among our students is a primary reason for HCA's vibrant culture.



The HCA youth group - Tippi Losci - began its inaugural year by spending an evening Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, followed by an outdoor bonfire, singing, and s'mores!



Seniors regularly volunteer to serve meals at the Karing Kitchen food shelter in Oneida.

News Briefs

LADY CRUSADERS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP & COMPLETE UNDEFEATED SEASON!



On October 27, the Lady Crusaders soccer team ran the table in the North Country Athletic Conference (NCAC), capping their season with a final victory in the league championship game. They defeated rival New Life Christian School 2-0, on an afternoon marked by unseasonably cold weather and constant rain.

The boys' team finished their season in sole possession of first place and earned an automatic berth in the league championship game. Messiah Academy faced off against the Crusaders (*right*), and after over seventy minutes of intensely played soccer, Messiah Academy scored the match's only goal. Despite a flurry of chances in the final ten minutes, HCA could not equalize before the final whistle. The 1-0 loss prevented the Crusaders from winning a remarkable seventh consecutive NCAC championship.



SENIOR'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BENEFITS STUDENTS AT HCA

Senior John Beach (*right*) spent the first months of the fall semester focused on planning, funding and building his Eagle Scout project. His goal: build six solid and durable picnic tables that the student body could use for lunch and also for outdoor events and even classes. He had to construct them from the ground-up, purchasing all the necessary lumber, nuts, bolts, screws, nails, and wood stain. John also organized volunteers of fellow Scouts to assist him in the building process.



With each table costing about \$135 to build, John first held several fundraisers to cover the price of materials. The Scouts sold glow necklaces at the Labor Day fireworks display at Old Forge and conducted bottle drives. Donations solicited from HCA families and students, and also local businesses, helped him meet his funding goals.

John's team worked one weekend to size, cut and stain the lumber, then transferred the material to HCA and assembled the picnic tables the following weekend. The entire project was successful from start to finish.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED



L-R: Britton Medley (11th rep.), Maggie Vanderhoof (Secretary), Jon Noble (Vice-President), Mariangela Twal (7th rep.), John Beach (President), Antonia Graziano (8th rep.), Aaron Dostie (9th rep.), Anna Judge (10th rep.), Michaela Dahlem (12th rep.), Megan van Lieshout (Treasurer).

Students have elected officers and class representatives to this year's Student Council.

HCA's Student Council plans and organizes social events, fundraisers, and school spirit activities. The Council also collaborates with the school Administration to improve various aspects of student life is a government body comprised of annually elected student officers and class representatives.

This leadership privilege requires members to exemplify proper student conduct, maintain high academic standards and readily serve others.

THE GOOD NEWS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$4,650 GRANT TO HOLY CROSS ACADEMY



The Utica-based Good News Foundation presented HCA with a \$4,650 grant to purchase student Bibles, the newly-released Youth Catechism (*YouCat*), and a Sacramentary of the new translation of the Holy Mass. A portion of the grant will also be used to rent buses for students to travel to the March for Life in January. Principal Teri Maciag and Administrative Advisor Margaret Miller accepted the grant during an award ceremony (*above*) at The Good News Center on November 7.

The Good News Foundation is dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ through hospitality, spiritual renewal and support of parish and family life. Programs offered at The Good News Center focus on strengthening God-centered marriages and families.

2010-2011 Annual Fund

"Reward with eternal life, O Lord, all those who for Your sake do good to us."

We offer our profound thanks to all who contributed to HCA! This list recognizes gifts made to the HCA Annual Fund from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011. Your generous support is vital to the mission of Catholic education.

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† - Please pray for our donors who have passed away.

From the Office of Advancement

I'm often amazed by how effective the most simple, effortless, and sincere "advertising campaign" in the world can be: *friends telling other friends*. Whether you buy a car at *that* dealership, eat dinner at *that* restaurant, or open an account at *that* bank, it often comes down to the positive comments you've heard from friends and family about those businesses.

HCA is no different. We rely greatly on those closest to our mission – our families, teachers, supporters and benefactors – to "spread the word" to their neighbors and relatives about the Academy. Too often, I meet people – even those living right here in Oneida – who have either never heard of us or know little about us. At the same time, new students almost always enroll because an HCA family mentioned the Academy to them. I believe that if more families in the area truly recognized what HCA offers, we would see a long line of parents forming outside our Main Office, all waiting to fill out applications for their sons or daughters!



Scott Nelson
Assoc. Dir. of Advancement

Thankfully, there are several excellent tools at your disposal to help "spread the word" about HCA:



- You can share our *newly revised website* (see below) with your friends online, which will give them a thorough perspective on our mission, Catholic identity, academics and campus culture.
- You can hand *this newsletter* to a friend at church, show it to relatives at a family gathering, or pass it along to parents who are searching for a better high school for their children. It's better than tossing it in the recycle bin!
- Finally, you are always welcome to *invite family or neighbors to come and see the Academy* for themselves. Just call or e-mail the Advancement Office and I will personally arrange a tour for you. Perhaps your visit could coincide with Holy Mass, generally scheduled for Friday afternoons at the Academy Chapel.

The opportunity is here for you *to make a decisive impact* on the future of Holy Cross Academy. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, an alumnus, a benefactor, a clergyman, or someone who simply believes vibrant Catholic schools enrich our communities, please take a moment to share the good you have witnessed in HCA with others.

As always, please remember us in your prayers, and I shall do the same for you and your loved ones.

-You can contact the Advancement Office by calling (315) 363-1669, x242, or e-mailing hca.advancement@gmail.com.

Visit the New
HCA Website!



www.holycrossacademy.com

Christmas Matching Challenge!

Two donors have come forward to offer a **Matching Challenge** for December.

They will match donations made through December 31 - up to \$5,500!

Please take a moment to send your tax-deductible gift, using the enclosed envelope.

You can also give securely online by visiting:
www.holycrossacademy.com/donation.

89 students today – and many more in the years to come – are counting on your partnership with Holy Cross Academy!



- Catholic Culture Thrives at HCA
- Girls' Soccer Team Defends Championship
- Annual Fund 2010-2011: Thank you, Donors!
- "Spread the Word" about HCA
- ...and much more!

Inside:

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HOLY CROSS ACADEMY



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