



# Holy Cross News

Vol. 16 No. 1

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

Spring 2010

## *"Say Yes to His Call"*

Holy Cross Academy welcomed the Director of Vocations for the Syracuse Diocese, Fr. Joseph O'Connor, for two days, March 11 and 12, to discuss vocations to priesthood, religious life and the married life.

A graduate of Franciscan University in Steubenville, "Fr. Joe" brought his usual dynamic personality and his joyful witness to serving God in the priesthood. He took time to speak with each class individually about God's call in their lives.

"How do we hear God's call?" Fr. Joe asked the tenth grade class. He answered by quoting from Pope Benedict XVI in a talk to young people in New York: "Nourished by personal prayer, prompted in silence, shaped by the Church's liturgy you will discover the particular vocation God has for you. Embrace it with joy.' So God doesn't shout out from the rooftops. He whispers in the silence."

Speaking to the ninth graders, Fr. Joe emphasized the joy that comes from following God's plan. "What the saints lived for means as much today as it did two thousand years ago. That's why you see joy in the faces of young people who are following God's call. And he will be right there for you throughout your life."

Fr. Joe came prepared with stories from Sacred Scripture and his own experience, fun group activities, and videos to engage the students. He reminded every class to stay close to God by praying daily and receiving the Sacraments.

"When you're at Mass," he told the seniors, "when you're praying, lay it on the line and ask God to show you what he wants. Then follow it passionately."

"God can do so much with our lives if we let him," he continued. "We need to have that humble surrender and trust."

On Friday, March 12, Fr. Joe returned to HCA to continue his class-by-class vocational talks. He heard confessions and then offered Mass for the students and faculty in the school chapel.

Fr. Joe was ordained in 2005 and was appointed Director of the Office of Vocation Promotion in 2008. In addition to presentations at schools, vocation promotion efforts include the Bishop's Vocations Picnic, discernment retreats, the "Men in Black" basketball games, and multimedia materials promoting vocation discernment.

Another excellent resource for information about the Office of Vocation Promotion is their website: [www.vocations-syracuse.org](http://www.vocations-syracuse.org).



*"Friends, again I ask you, what about today? What are you seeking? What is God whispering to you?"*

*~Pope Benedict XVI  
to the youth of New York  
April 19, 2008*

## 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

*Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!*

This is the heart of our Faith. At the Incarnation, God became Man, but through the events of Holy Week and Easter, Man is given a share in the very life of the Trinity. His resurrection conquers death and opens the way to Glory.

*"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4*

The Redemption has given us new life. But sometimes we look around us and we don't always see a redeemed world. It is much like early spring, when all around us appears gloomy and lifeless. Looking more closely, we begin to see small buds starting to emerge — signs of hope. Pope John Paul II often spoke of a new "springtime of the Church" and this is what he may have had in mind. If you look closely, you will see signs of new life in the Church and in the world.

We see new, vibrant religious orders sprouting up. We see young, faithful priests on fire for Christ and His people. We see solid Catholic colleges and universities being established. And we see the Holy Spirit at work right here in our backyard, planting new schools like Holy Cross Academy and dozens like it across the country.

These are the blossoms that need to be nurtured and encouraged to flourish. Many of us spend hours in our yard and gardens in the spring, trying to make our part of the world beautiful. Let us also do what we can to cultivate those small buds of beauty and hope that mean so much more for our world and for our future.

Holy Cross is in turn providing rich soil for students to develop and grow. In this issue, you will get a closer look at HCA. You will see that students are active in the world, marching for life in Washington DC, attending Public Policy Day in Albany, learning about Haiti and raising funds for victims. They are active in the community, singing at local parishes, performing at Jazz Fest and at the Carrier Dome, attending the IGNITE Catholic men's conference. You will see that we are blessed to have so many area priests assisting us and enriching our work. Most of all, we hope that you see that HCA is a place where the mission of cultivating our students academically, physically and spiritually is being carried out in a joyful setting rooted in love.

Thank you for the part that you play through your prayers and gifts. We pray that you have a blessed and joyful Easter season!

-Dan Miller  
President, Board of Trustees

## Prayer Intentions

Please pray:

- For the eternal repose of the souls of Frank Conley, James Hennessy, Lewis James, Anne Hanlein, Jane Hesler, Lucy Romagnoli, George Teepell and John Young.
- For the health and well-being of Anne Glidden and Marge Teepell.
- For all our friends and supporters who have passed away or are ill.

# Featured Alumnus: Cadet Andrew Vanderhoof, '08

Andrew Vanderhoof was the Salutatorian of the Class of 2008 and is now in his second year at the United States Military Academy at West Point. His two younger brothers are ninth grade students at HCA. During his Christmas break, Andrew stopped by the school and sat down with Director of Advancement Scott Nelson.

**Scott Nelson:** So what made you want to enter the Military Academy?

**Cadet Andrew Vanderhoof:** As I got closer to graduation, I decided I really wanted to challenge myself and make something worthwhile of my life. To me, college is that four-year foundation you lay for the rest of your life. I've always been interested in the military, so I applied to West Point. The Military Academy accepted me, and after one year I haven't regretted a single moment.



**SN:** What have you taken away from your education at Holy Cross Academy?

**AV:** It prepares you very well for college life, especially the life I've chosen. The teachers know you and can work one-on-one with you and really push you to do better. They care about you, what you do with your life, what you make of the talents you have. Also, as I moved up to the higher grades, more was expected of me because the younger students looked up to the juniors and seniors. So I'm grateful for my teachers and for seeing that leadership isn't just about having a title. It's about being responsible and giving good example whether it's popular or not.

**SN:** Was going from HCA to West Point a tough transition?

**AV:** For me, it wasn't too big a transition to the Military Academy because the values of hard work, commitment, and trust all came from my family and HCA. It was a great preparation. Both schools offer small classrooms with individual attention and both demand excellence in academics. With Holy Cross, it isn't just about academics. They want you to grow personally into a mature adult who would be confident in any situation.

**SN:** How about any favorite memories of your time here?

**AV:** Some of the best memories of my whole life have happened at Holy Cross. My friends here, the teachers, playing sports and working in the drama club - it's tough to come up with one instance that really sticks out. I mean, when we get together, the alumni are just telling story after story.

**SN:** Are you keeping up with your classmates?

**AV:** I still have friends from HCA, I know I always will. It's tough for me to keep in touch often given the my college life, so

when I come home for a break, we're always planning meetups. When we're talking about Holy Cross, we always say it was the best time in our lives, certainly the best friendships in our lives.

**SN:** What would you say to parents who are looking into HCA?

**AV:** My own parents wanted to send me to a high school where I could grow spiritually and also get a great education. So I would strongly encourage parents to send their kids here. They're going to get a top-notch education, great friendships, they're going to grow spiritually. Give them a trial of one year and I can pretty much guarantee their children won't want to leave. They'll want to stay at Holy Cross with their friends.

**SN:** What are your plans after you graduate from West Point?

**AV:** When I graduate from West Point, I will be a commissioned officer in the United States Army. I will serve 5 years active duty and then 3 years reserve. I would like to branch into Field Artillery and get stationed somewhere close to home. As far as my personal life, I hope to be married to my high school sweetheart.

## Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

I wish to everyone a happy and a holy Easter. We are truly blessed to be Catholic, to have the fullness of the Faith and to be able to share this gift with others. Today I would like to share with you some of the books that I have found helpful in my spiritual life and which I use in teaching children, teenagers, and adults.

These are basic books approved by the official teaching authority of the Catholic Church:

- The Jerusalem Bible (Reader's Edition)
- The Navarre Bible, (New Testament)
- The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas a Kempis
- Daily Roman Missal, (World Library Publications)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church (Second Edition)
- Outlines of the Catholic Faith, (Leaflet Missal Co.)
- Vatican Council II Documents (Edited by Austin Flannery, O.P.)
- Catechesi Tradendae, by Pope John Paul II
- Saint Joseph Confirmation Book, by Father Lawrence Lovasik

Father Thomas M. Riley was an excellent Catechetical teacher. As many of you know, he founded Holy Cross Catechetical Center in New London, NY. This was a parish center for Adult Religious Education and it had its origin in September, 1973. The enrollment during the Fall Semester 1980 reached 200 adults who studied the Documents of the Vatican Council II, the Encyclicals, and the Pronouncements from the Holy See in Rome. Father Riley was 100% loyal to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Some of the courses taught at the Catechetical Center when Father Riley was there were as follows: Basic Theology; Vocation of the Apostolate of the Laity; Introduction to Sacred Scripture; Christology; Catechetics; Educational Psychology; Constitution on the Church; Sacramental Life of the Church; Christ in the Epistles of St. Paul; Mariology; Methods of Teaching; and Church Music.

Holy Cross Academy is definitely carrying on in the spirit of this wonderful and spiritual priest.

May God bless you.

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2010

Catholic Schools Week 2010 was one big celebration of faith, fun, and friendship at Holy Cross Academy.

The week kicked off with the HCA choirs sharing their gift of music with the greater community – students from grades 7-12 provided music for two weekend Masses at St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Parishes in Oneida.

The spirit continued on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation, when Fr. Donald Karlen joined us to celebrate Mass, complete with the traditional blessing of candles and procession. Students also received the Blessing of Throats in honor of the Feast of St. Blaise the following day.

Other highlights of the week were the annual afternoon of bowling at the CAC in Sherrill, and Teacher Appreciation Day, where families provided a delicious homemade lunch for teachers and students alike.

Every day featured a special theme, as students participated in School Spirit Day, Twin Day, and Crazy Hats or Socks Day. The week culminated with a re-consecration of the school to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the awarding of Honor Roll certificates, and the display of students' poems and essays explaining what being a Holy Cross student means to them. All in all, it was a fun week of both sharing and enjoying the gift of education and friendship!



*Above: Group photo at St. Patrick's Parish*

*Below: Students sing at St. Patrick's Parish*



*Students await the judges' decision for best-dressed twin on "Twin Day"*



*Annual Bowling Outing at Sherrill Community Activity Center*



*Blessing of throats on the feast of St. Blaise*

I do not stand lifeless  
I'm not merely brick walls  
There is a spirit within me  
Joy flows through my halls.

I am a beacon of hope  
Shining brightly for all  
Offering safety and equality  
So that no one may fall.

The students are my body  
All working as one  
With freedom from judgment  
And discrimination against none.

With Christ as the center  
Of this united family  
His work is our passion  
I am Holy Cross Academy.

-Michelle Stadelmaier, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

# MARCH FOR LIFE 2010:

## *Witnesses to a Culture of Life*

Holy Cross Academy cancelled classes on Friday, January 22 as the majority of the student body travelled overnight to Washington D.C. to attend the 2010 March for Life. They joined an estimated 300,000 people from across the country at the National Mall at noon, then marched passed the Capitol to the Supreme Court building.

**“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”**

**-Hebrews 12:1**



“The students are eager to do this,” said Principal Teri Maciag. “It’s not just a field trip for them, but a day to witness with thousands of Americans that all human life is real and precious, and the laws of our nation must reflect that.”

Senior James Cobb attended his first march. “I want to stand against the killing of unborn innocent life,” he said. “They have no voice, they have no say, and it’s completely wrong.”

“My classmates are united for life,” said senior Nick van Lieshout. “We need to tell our elected officials not to support legislation that violates the rights of the unborn. That’s our message.”

Following the March, students took an extra day to explore the cultural and historical sites of the city, including the Smithsonian Museums, the Holocaust Museum, and the Lincoln Memorial. Before departing for the overnight return trip, the group stopped at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., just across from Catholic University of America. Dominican Fr. Jonah Pollock, a former HCA teacher, offered Mass and encouraged students to be daily witnesses to life.



*The Lincoln Memorial*



***Marching for Life!***



*May those who died protecting our country rest in peace*



# CNY SPORTSMAN SHOW

For the sixth year, Holy Cross Academy organized the Central New York Sportsman Show at the Kallet Civic Center in Oneida. The CNYSS once again brought in highly talented hunters and fishermen from around the state, including brook trout record-holder Tom Yacovella. Elite Adirondack mountain hunters Tony and Pat Salerno were the featured exhibitors, while outdoor experts offered free seminars on various topics throughout the day. Seminars ranged from duck hunting, spring turkey hunting and whitetail tracking, to brook trout and steelhead fishing tactics.



The family-centered show featured a large catch-and-release trout pond for kids, and the Utica Zoo showed up mid-morning with several native New York animals that captivated youngsters and adults alike.

Continuing with tradition, the annual Sportsman of the Year award was presented at the conclusion of the show to Emily Albright for her efforts to introduce more women across New York to outdoor activities.

A special thanks to CNYSS Chair Teri Maciag, Mary Ellen Shaver, Lory van Lieshout and the many volunteers who organized and executed another successful event!



*The Utica Zoo animals!*



*Student and parent volunteers helped make the show a great success!*



*The Salerno brothers - Pat Jr (center) and Tony (right), with their father Pat Sr.*



*Record-setting angler Tom Yacovella gives fishing tips during his seminar*



*Emily Albright receives the CNY Sportsman Award from presenter Brian Dam of the New York State Big Buck Club*



# News Briefs

## • GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM REACHES NCAC FINALS

After finishing the regular season with a record of 4-4, the HCA girls' basketball team headed to the North County Athletic Conference Tournament as the No. 2 seed. They won their first semi-final game ever in a nailbiting 45-43 win over New York State School for the Deaf.

Though they fought hard throughout the tournament, the team's run ended at the championship game in a loss to Mohawk Valley Christian Academy.



*Congratulations to the team and our coaches Beth Colvin and Craig Arnold for a great season!*

## • HAITI EXPERIENCES SHARED AT HCA



In the aftermath of the earthquake disaster in Haiti, the school invited two local high school students to speak with the student body about their Haiti experiences.

Cazenovia High juniors Tess Johnson and Alex Burnett travelled to Haiti during their 2009 April break, as members of St. James Parish in Cazenovia. St. James has a sister parish in Haiti, the mission church of St. Ives. Among the work of St. Ives, beyond tending to spiritual needs, is to supply area population with clean water, to provide education, and to assist in building projects.

The area St. Ives ministers to was not directly affected by the earthquake, Tess said, but was flooded with refugees in the days following.

Showing students photos from their recent trip, Tess and Alex described their group's daily interactions with the people. They also spoke of challenges of living in the impoverished parts of Haiti.

"It was really hard, but you did get used to it," Tess said. "You see what they don't have, and when you come back you see everyone has iPods, TV, electricity. But you look at them and you see their genuine happiness. They live for the moment."

HCA junior Hannah Scheuermann, who did mission work in Port-au-Prince in April 2009, could relate Tess and Alex's experiences.

"What the people have, they make the most of it," Hannah commented. "It didn't matter how much they had, they were happy, hospitable, and always had time to talk to you."

Tess and Alex encouraged students to "stay connected" with our brothers and sisters in Haiti through prayer and fundraisers for the relief effort. HCA held a bake sale at St. Joseph Parish in Oneida two weeks later to raise funds for the Haiti earthquake victims.

## • HCA EXHIBITS AT IGNITE CONFERENCE

The Annual Syracuse Diocese Men's Conference - IGNITE - was a great success for both the Diocese and Holy Cross Academy. With a large attendance expected at the OnCenter, the school set up an exhibitor's booth alongside various Catholic organizations from across New York. Frequent visits from laymen and priests (it may have had something to do with the snacks strategically placed near the exhibitors!) allowed us to get the word out about HCA.

Bishop Robert Cunningham was the main celebrant and homilist for the morning Mass, and great speakers were scheduled throughout the day, including Fr. Larry Richards and Jesse Romero. The conference concluded with a Holy Hour and Benediction.

HCA looks forward to taking part as an exhibitor at the first Syracuse Women's Conference this coming October.



The senior class attended Public Policy Day in Albany on Tuesday, March 9. Organized by the New York Catholic Conference, the day-long event included a Mass offered by Archbishop Timothy Dolan.



## HCA LIFE

Holy Cross Academy always strives to be a learning community where students can improve themselves, make lasting friendships, and find joy in their daily work.

As teacher Deacon Jim Chappell says, "Kids are encouraged by one another to excel, to grow, to do as well as they possibly can. And that's a very refreshing interaction that you see among the student body in the halls, in classrooms, or on the athletic field."



### • HCA SELECT CHOIR IMPRESSES AT ONEIDA JAZZ FEST



The Holy Cross Academy Select Choir entered this year's Oneida Jazz Festival for the first time and came away with more than they expected. The Choir won the gold medal with an aggregate score of 96.

"This is a significant step for us" commented director of music, Scott Rutledge. "To gain this experience and the insights of outstanding judges is invaluable to our goal of becoming the very best choir we can possibly be. To be honored with a gold

medal is also a surprise and a tremendous source of encouragement for us. I feel so blessed to be working with these kids. They work very hard and are so focused for their age."

Besides Select Choir, Holy Cross Academy has a junior choir made up of seventh and eighth graders, a senior choir for ninth through twelfth graders, a chant schola exploring early music and Gregorian chant, and a band that splits its time equally between classical and jazz studies.

The Holy Cross Select Choir is exploring the possibility of attending the Batavia Jazz festival in late April, followed by the defense of their Darien Lake Gospel Choir championship in June, and their end of semester spring concert.

"Ultimately, we want to progress to the point that we'll be invited to sing at Carnegie Hall," Rutledge continued. "It is a goal we speak of often. The Oneida Jazz festival is another step in that direction."



### CHOIR AT THE DOME

The HCA Select Choir sang the National Anthem at the Carrier Dome on Jan. 13, prior to the Syracuse Women's basketball game vs. Rutgers. The Orange won 79-66.

The choir auditioned in early September, along with dozens of other singers and groups, for the chance to sing the National Anthem at a Syracuse game.

# The Priests of HCA

Holy Cross Academy has been blessed with many local priests who have generously offered their time to offer Mass, hear confessions, and visit with students this academic year. Since this is also the “Year for Priests” designated by Pope Benedict XVI, we would like to extend a special word of gratitude to those servants of God who are assisting our students on their spiritual journey (*see right*).

Pope Benedict declared a “Year for Priests” beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. The year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests with the Holy Father from June 9-11, 2010. With the announcement of this Year for Priests, the Pope also declared St. John Vianney the Universal Patron of Priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé d’Ars.

This year, Holy Cross Academy has been privileged to provide opportunities for students to receive the Sacrament of Penance at least twice a month, followed by Mass attended by the entire student body. In addition, local priests have celebrated Mass at the school on Holy Days of obligation.

We are especially thankful to Fr. Thomas Riley, founder of the Holy Cross Catechetical Center in New London, NY. It was at that center in 1997 where Holy Cross Academy first opened its doors. Though Fr. Riley went to his eternal reward in 1993, the fruits of his labor can still be seen today in the lives of many young people and their families at HCA.

Through the intercession of St. John Vianney, may God bless all the priests of the world as they strive to live their vocations with faithfulness and generosity!

## In Memoriam - Fr. Paul Marx, OSB

Fr. Paul Marx, who founded Human Life International (HLI) in 1981, passed away on March 20, 2010, at the age of 89. Known as “The Apostle of Life,” he will be forever remembered for his relentless work for the pro-life cause in America and abroad. HLI is now present in 87 countries and is the largest international pro-life organization in the world.

Holy Cross Academy was very privileged to have Fr. Marx as a supporter of the school, especially in its founding years. He wrote about HCA:

*“Like never before, in this materialistic, godless culture, it is imperative for parents to see to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual education of their children.”*

*“I congratulate the founders of Holy Cross Academy who will provide this kind of education. Parents who send their children to Holy Cross Academy will be ensuring their intellectual, moral, and spiritual formation.”*

May the soul of Fr. Paul Marx rest in peace.



(Clockwise from top left) - Fr. Joseph O'Connor; Fr. Jonah Pollock, OP; Fr. Donald Karlen; Fr. William Mesmer; Fr. Edmund Morelle; Fr. Thomas Riley †; Fr. Joseph Kehoe; Fr. Ray Yudin, OFM; Msgr. Matthew Luczycki; Fr. Richard Kapral

# Annual Fund 2009

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to Holy Cross Academy. This list recognizes gifts made during the 2009 Annual Fund - from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009. Your continued support is vital to the mission of Catholic education.

Special appreciation also goes to those who have donated items and equipment, those who donate their time to volunteer at HCA, and those who keep the school in their prayers.

The 2010 Annual Fund is ongoing through June 30, (see opposite page) and HCA will publish a list of donors in the next edition of Holy Cross News. Thank you for your continued generosity!

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† - Please pray for donors who have passed away.

-This list has been prepared with great care to ensure its accuracy. If we have omitted your name, misspelled it, failed to place it in the appropriate category, or if you wish to be anonymous or have your name listed, please contact the Main Office at 315.363.1669.



"The commitment of **HOLY CROSS ACADEMY** to the whole truth about God and man, as communicated through the teaching of the Church, will be a beacon light which will help spread the good news of the Gospel and form a new generation of future Catholic leaders."

-Dr. Timothy O'Donnell  
President, Christendom College

# "Holding On to Lasting Values"

## -Annual Fund 2010

These tough economic times have been felt everywhere, and in upstate New York, it is clear that schools are truly feeling the pinch. As we all know, when things get difficult you prioritize, cut back on excesses and hold on to things of value.

At Holy Cross Academy, our values have been clear from the start:

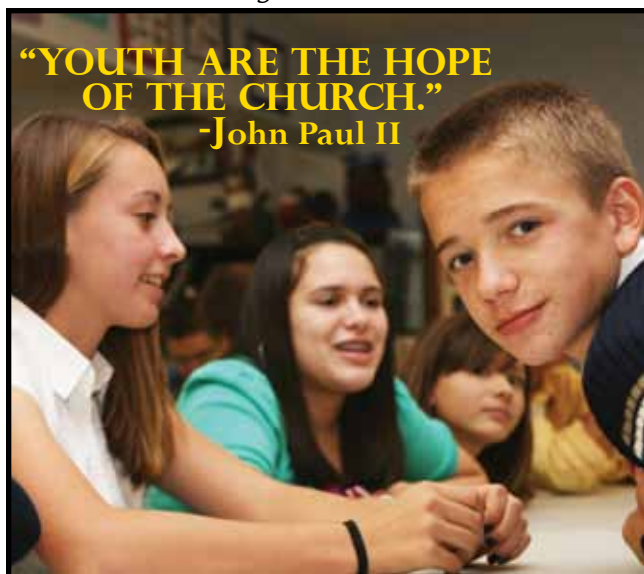
- Having a Christ-centered, academically challenging, jr.-sr. high school available to central NY families
- Providing a safe, family-like atmosphere for students to learn, pray and grow in friendships
- Transmitting the truths of the Faith and our rich Catholic heritage

These values have real, lasting effects on our culture. HCA students are prepared to continue their studies in college while holding fast to their Faith. Our graduates are going on to schools like Franciscan University, Christendom College, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, as well as the colleges and universities here in New York State. Others are entering religious life, seminaries, and doing missionary work. *We are succeeding and the results are clear.*

Holy Cross Academy is committed to ensure that high school education is both excellent and affordable. Tuition is very low to accommodate large or needy families. This means that we rely almost exclusively on the generosity of benefactors from our local community and beyond.

My hope is that you share our values and will support our efforts to make them present in the lives of our students. I ask you prayerfully to consider making a tax-deductible gift to Holy Cross Academy. You may also wish to consider planned giving in the form of a bequest to the Academy. Most importantly, please offer your prayers for continued blessings upon our Board of Trustees, faculty, students and families.

- Scott Nelson  
Director of Advancement



You can help HCA meet the vision of our late Holy Father with a gift to our 2010 Annual Fund, which runs through June 30.

Here is how your gift can make a *lasting impact*:

- \$5,000 will sponsor one student for an entire year
- \$2,500 will cover annual Art and Music supplies
- \$850 will keep HCA running for one day
- \$500 will help with classroom renovations
- \$100 will purchase sports equipment

Please use the enclosed return envelope, or you can donate online at [www.holycrossacademy.com](http://www.holycrossacademy.com) by clicking "donations." You can then securely use a credit card or your PayPal account.

### "HOLDING ON TO LASTING VALUES" - ANNUAL FUND 2010

- ☐ I offer this gift to help the mission of Holy Cross Academy: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I will pray for Holy Cross Academy
- ☐ I wish to remain anonymous

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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***Thank you for supporting us with your prayers and financial gift!***



*Detach and send to:*  
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4020 Barrington Rd.  
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- Visit from Fr. Joseph O'Connor
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