

# Holy Cross News

Vol. 17 No. 2

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

Summer 2011

# Bishop Moynihan Joins HCA for Milestone Tenth Commencement

Joly Cross Academy welcomed Bishop James Moynihan, the retired Bishop of the Syracuse Diocese, as the main celebrant and homilist for the Tenth Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Ceremonies. On Friday, June 24, families, friends and teachers of the Holy Cross Academy Class of 2011 gathered at the Academy Chapel to send off its newest graduates.

Bishop Moynihan, who led the Syracuse Diocese from 1995 to 2009, gave his blessing to the founders of HCA to establish the Academy in 1997. He addressed the graduates during his homily.

"Whatever your future accomplishments in life may be," he said, "your task will be not 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."



Bishop James Moynihan (center) and the Holy Cross Academy Class of 2011. They are flanked by (l-r): Rev. Reynald Yudin, OFM; Msgr. Matthew Luczycki; Fr. Richard Kapral; and Deacon James Chappell.

"I am proud of you and grateful to Almighty God for the opportunity to celebrate with you this tenth commencement and also the fifteenth year of [the Academy's] existence," he continued.

The nine seniors received their diplomas from Daniel Miller, President of the Board of Trustees, and Principal Therese Maciag.

The Valedictorian is Michelle Stadelmaier, daughter of Robert and Cindy Stadelmaier, Canastota. The Salutatorian is Kayla Johnson, daughter of Jerry and Anne Johnson, Verona. Both students plan on attending Hilbert College in Hamburg, NY, this fall.

In her heartfelt speech, Michelle personally addressed each of her eight classmates and recalled the strong friendships that bonded them throughout their years at HCA.

"This class has shared some amazing memories. Both inside and outside of school, we have formed friendships with each other that will never be forgotten," she stated during her address.

Speaking to the students in attendance, Michelle advised, "that regret is the hardest thing to live with, so try to live each day to the best of your ability, and that way regret can never touch you."

The graduates and their families then gathered in the Academy's cafeteria for a reception following the ceremonies.

The graduates of the Class of 2011, along with the colleges they plan to attend beginning this fall, are:

Christopher Abbe (SUNY Maritime), Cody Anderson (MVCC), Brad Eberly (Hilbert College), Kayla Johnson (Hilbert College), Carrie Lohr (Herkimer County Community College), Catherine Pfluke (SUNY Oneonta), Kevin Rudd (workforce), Steven Seelman (SUNY Cobleskill), Michelle Stadelmaier (Hilbert College).

#### **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.

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- -Dan Miller, President
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- -Stan Cehonski, Member
- -Michael Laucello, Member
- -Teri Maciag, Member
- -Rev. Joseph Kehoe, Spiritual Advisor

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- -Michele Beach: Lunch Room
- -Eric Belusar: Spanish
- -Stan Cehonski: Computer
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- -Rev. Dan King: Phys. Ed
- -Lory van Lieshout: Art/Yearbook/
- Student Council/PTSC President
- -Bill Marchak: Mathematics
- -Deb Miller: Secretary
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- -Elizabeth Moses: Religion
- -Jolene Nelson: Religion/Latin/Music
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- -Scott Rutledge: Choir/Instrumental
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- -Mary Ellen Shaver: Library
- -Bonnie Strail: Lunch Room
- -Jerry Williams: English
- -Rob Zeller: General Science/Earth

Science/Biology/Chemistry/Physics

#### Message from the Board of Trustees

Academy. It presents an opportunity to reflect on our progress over the years and to look to the future with hope. When HCA opened in 1997 with just four students, we were primarily focused on the core of our mission: providing an excellent, faith-imbued curriculum in a warm, supportive environment. At the time, we may not have foreseen all of the wonderful enhancements which have developed to create the character of HCA. Sometimes these are just as important as the core curriculum.

Learning how words are put together in English class takes on a tangible reality when explored through the context of a drama production. Virtues jump off of the page when put into action by volunteering at a soup kitchen or raising funds for tsunami victims. Newton's laws are experienced first hand when applied with finesse during a soccer championship.

Sometimes it is the "secondary" things that give life to the primary. Then they are not secondary at all, but part of a cohesive whole that reflects our very nature. What good is a brilliant musical score if not sung, if not heard? The beauty of the arrangement on the staff is only fulfilled in the performance. Putting into practice that which is learned in the classroom is how lessons are internalized and become part of life.

One example of an area where HCA students have put theory into practice is music. From singing with local parish choirs at Mass, to performing the National Anthem at the Carrier Dome and Alliance Bank Stadium; from guest-appearing with the Oneida Area Civic Chorale to joining with The Elders in concert, music is an area where HCA students shine, sharing their gifts with the community.

There have been many other accomplishments, including being recognized as a Top 50 Catholic School in the United States, winning championships in sports, and offering courses such as Robotics, Video Production, Archery, Drama and Ski Club. We may not have directly anticipated these particular accomplishments from the beginning, but we have always known that amazing things were in store for Holy Cross Academy.

By the grace of God and hard work, we will continue our growth and create more opportunities for our students and to help improve our society. In the future, you will see enhanced academic and extracurricular offerings and improvements and additions to our campus. You will see HCA taking on a more prominent role in the community, a ray of light and hope for our culture. You will see HCA providing a greater service to the Church and local parishes through collaboration in events and activities. And you will be a part of all of this through your prayers and support!

Holy Cross is growing up. We remain dedicated to our primary mission, but it is a joy to see the Academy develop its unique character: focused on Jesus Christ, founded on universal truths, and exemplified in everyday living.

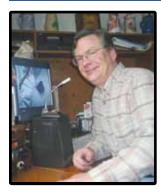
-Dan Miller President, Board of Trustees

#### **Prayer Intentions**

Please pray:

- For the eternal repose of the soul of Pat Sansone.
- For the health and well-being of Bishop Thomas Costello, Stephen Curley, Tom Kosten, Paul Gamache, Bishop James Moynihan & Monica Patterelli.

#### New Members Join HCA Board of Trustees



**Stan J. Cehonski** has joined the Board of Trustees. He and his wife Mary Ellen have been married since 1978 and are the parents of a son and a daughter.

For the past twenty-five years, Mr. Cehonski has worked as a test engineer at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

He is an involved member of Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Verona,

volunteering as a religion teacher, lector, and web-master, and serving on several committees and parish groups. Mr. Cehonski also teaches the computers course at HCA.

He is also an avid HAM-radio operator (callsign N2STC), taking up the hobby in 1995. He has worked to recruit more HAMS into the hobby, and had the honor of elmering other operators. He enjoys electronic repair/inventing and ran an electronics repair business on the side for many years.



Michael J. Laucello, Esq, has joined the Board of Trustees. He and his wife Victoria have been married since 1984. His daughter Christina graduated from HCA in 2008 and is a senior at Franciscan University of Steubenville. His son Michael, Jr. graduated from Niagara University and is a graduate student at Columbia University.

Mr. Laucello graduated magna cum laude from Union College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received Departmental Honors in English. He attended graduate school in English at SUNY-Binghamton, where he taught Expository Writing. Mr. Laucello is also a former AP English teacher at HCA. Since graduating from the University of Buffalo Law School, he has practiced law in the areas of civil litigation, bankruptcy, and social security disability.

He has served as a legal advisor to two NY State Supreme Court Justices and the Surrogate's Court Judge of Oneida County. He is a licensed real estate broker and is the owner of Laucello Real Estate in Clinton. He is a parishioner at St. Mary's in Clinton.

#### Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

ongratulations to this year's graduating class, and to all the students, teachers and staff on successful academic year!

We are truly privileged to have Holy Cross Academy in our community, and I thank God and all the people who have made this possible.

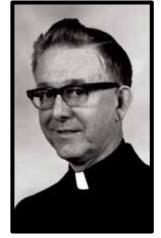
When I think of where HCA has come from since 1997, Father Thomas M. Riley immediately comes to mind. Fr. Riley was the founder and director of the Holy Cross Catechetical Center in New London, a precursor to Holy Cross Academy. As pastor at Holy Cross Church, he was truly a master in catechesis and adult religious education. His courses were very organized and systematic, and he always followed the Magisterium — the official teaching authority of the Catholic Church. He had the gift of taking the documents of the Church and explaining them in a way that people could understand and love them. I will always be thankful for the ideas he gave me beginning in the Fall of 1976, when I first met him at his rectory.

With these thoughts, I wish to invite you all to take time this summer to become more familiar with the teachings of the Church. There are so many excellent resources in print today which you can obtain at a local bookstore or through publishers like Ignatius Press or the Leaflet Missal Company. You may begin by simply choosing a book on Church teachings relevant to your state in life (married, single, religious, etc...).

I also truly enjoy the Jerusalem Bible, Reader's Edition, now to God.

back in print. Spend time — even five minutes each day - reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture, especially the Gospels. As St. Jerome famously stated, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

Finally, you could look around your area for parishes offering Adult Religious Education Classes. At St. Francis Parish in Durhamville, I began on June 6 conducting classes for adults which will continue throughout the next year. We will meet for 24-30 sessions, on every other Monday evening from 7:30pm



Fr. Joseph Kehoe Spiritual Advisor

— 9:00pm. Topics include "The Purpose of our Existence," and "The Story of our Salvation: Our Answer to God's Love Must Be in Prayer and Action."

We will study prayer and the Sacraments, the Sacrifice of the Mass, the Creed and principles of morality, the Ten Commandments, and the precepts of the Church. The resources I use, such as Outlines of the Catholic Faith from the Leaflet Missal Company, help simplify the topics and present the essential points. Time spent studying one's Faith is never time wasted.

I wish everyone a happy summer. Let us all continue to stay close to God

## The Tenth Commencement - 2011





















At the conclusion of the Tenth Commencement, Bishop Moynihan was honored as the first recipient of "The Cyrenian" (see photos left), an award instituted this year by Holy Cross Academy. In bestowing the honor, Trustee President Dan Miller commended the Bishop on "all that you have done for the Church, for the Diocese, for individual souls, and in recognition of your life of distinguished service to Christ and His Church."

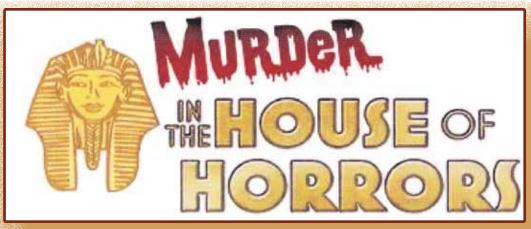


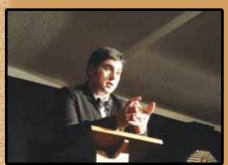
The honor takes its name from Simon of Cyrene, who assisted Jesus Christ in carrying His cross to Calvary (Matthew 27:32). The Academy is dedicated to that same Holy Cross, and its mission is to assist Our Lord in bringing young men and women to their proper end: salvation.

Throughout history there have been many Simons of Cyrene, dedicating their lives to assisting in the redemptive work of Christ, both in quiet ways and in public ways. It is our desire to recognize some of these individuals among us today, to thank them, and to honor them for their work.



## **HCA Drama Presents Mystery Dinner Theater**



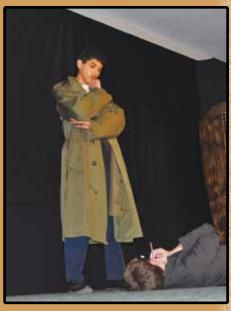






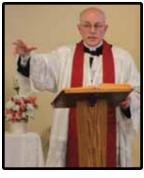








## THE PRIESTS OF HCA: THANK YOU!































uring the 2010-2011 school year, HCA made tremendous strides in the liturgical life of the school, thanks to the time and dedication of an increasing number of area priests, including several from Rome, NY, and others from as far as New Hartford and Utica. We were able to schedule more Masses and opportunities for students to receive the Sacrament of Penance at school than in any previous academic year!

In September, we welcomed Fr. Edmund Castronovo, who helped the school celebrate her feast day, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. He brought a relic of the True Cross and led the students in a brief series of devotions, complete with an explanation of the history of the relic and the feast day.

In addition, we were blessed with visits from two priests from the Syracuse Diocese Chancery: Fr. Joe O'Connor, Director of Vocations; and Fr. Joseph Scardella, Director of the Office of Worship. Fr. O'Connor spent a day at the school, visiting each religion class to discuss vocations and the importance of listening to God's call. Fr. Scardella celebrated Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension, and then led a workshop for high school students on the upcoming implementation of the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal.

To continue to build relationships between our priests and our school, and as a way of returning the favor of our priests' generosity, the HCA Choirs have sung at Masses in several of our local parishes this year as well, including St. Agatha's in Canastota, St. Patrick's in Oneida, St. Joseph's in Lee Center, and the Confirmation Mass held at St. Joseph's in Oneida.

HCA wishes to extend a special thank you to Fr. Edmund J. Morelle, who retired in the summer of 2010 after serving as pastor for many years at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Verona. Fr. Morelle has supported HCA since its founding, frequently visiting to offer Mass for students or teacher conference days, and always remembering the school in prayer. May he, and all our area priests, be blessed with many more years of service to God through His Church!

(1st Row, L-R) - Fr. Edmund Castronovo; Fr. Kevin Corcoran; Fr. Robert Dwyer;

(2nd Row, L-R) - Fr. Phillip Hearn; Fr. John Hogan; Fr. Richard Kapral

(3rd Row, L-R) - Fr. Joseph Kehoe; Msgr. Matthew Luczycki; Fr. William Mesmer

(4th Row, L-R) - Fr. Joseph O'Connor; Fr. Joe Salerno; Fr. Joseph Scardella;

(5th Row, L-R) - Fr. James Tormey; Fr. Lucian Urbaniak; Fr. Reynald Yudin, OFM

#### Fundraising Events at HCA Get a Boost!

ince the first students enrolled in 1997, HCA has exercised great fiscal prudence and careful stewardship of its budget to maintain an education that is both excellent and affordable. Revenue from tuition only covers some operating expenses, so donations to our Annual Fund and profits from our fundraising events are the chief tools to make up the remaining balance. Fundraising events are essential to the Academy's sustenance and growth, as they generate a 15% average of our annual revenue.



Students work the concession stand at the 2011 CNY Sportsman Show. The generosity of our volunteers is the key to every fundraiser's success.

HCA holds several major fundraisers throughout the year, as well as other smaller events in between. This year, the Academy reorganized the volunteer structure of how these events are planned and executed, resulting in an organized and invigorated Parent-Teacher-Student Committee (PTSC).

In addition to being a parent and an art teacher at HCA, Lory van Lieshout is the PTSC President. She has said that the committee's first and foremost goal is "to raise funds to allow us to offer area students a viable Catholic alternative to the public school system."

"Our second goal," she continued, "is to encourage more participation from families in school activities, thus lessening the demands of all the events on a few people. It's the 'many hands make light work' concept."

The PTSC is comprised of four elected officers — President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer — who focus on planning all the school's fundraising activities. They ensure each event has a chairperson or persons, and that every junior and senior high class lends a hand during the year. They also run meetings on a regular basis to evaluate past fundraisers and consider new fundraising initiatives.

"At our PTSC meetings this year I have been pleasantly surprised at the number of parents that have attended," commented Mrs. van Lieshout. "I think that having a more organized approach helps encourage participation."

Principal Teri Maciag sees this newly-energized PTSC as a tremendous benefit to the Academy.

"We are so blessed to have parents on the PTSC who are willing to go the extra mile to lend a hand with fundraisers and events for the benefit of the students," she said.

The PTSC has been busy at work throughout the late winter and spring months, when several major annual fundraising events take place: The CNY Sportsman Show (February); Fudge Sale (April); Mother's Day Plant Sale (May); and the HCA Dinner Dance (May). Each

one relies on hard-working parents and students who generously volunteer their time and talents!



Let's put the "fun" back in fundraising: Students participate in "Bowl-a-Thon" to raise money for their bus trip and lodging at the 2011 March for Life.



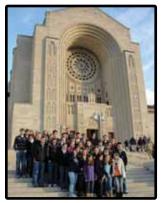
2011 Mother's Day Plant Sale at the Sangertown Square Mall, New Hartford.

And through the efforts of the PTSC, a new major fundraising event is already in the works for the next academic year. "Country Fest" will be held at the Oneida Commons on Lenox Ave during the last weekend in September. In the same spirit as the CNY Sportsman Show, Country Fest will attract vendors from throughout Central New York, offer fun activities for families and children, and feature crafters, musical entertainment, food, games, and a parade.

"We are really hoping to make Country Fest a fun community experience while making good income for the school," said Mrs. van Lieshout. "We are always trying to find new and different ways to make larger amounts of money. That way we can phase out some small fundraisers which can burn out our volunteers over time."

## News Briefs: January - March

## HCA STUDENTS RETURN TO CAPITOL FOR MARCH FOR LIFE 2011



For the fourteenth consecutive year, Holy Cross Academy put classes on hold as the majority of the student body traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the 2011 March for Life. The National Mall was the meeting place for an estimated 300,000 people from across the country on Monday, January 24.

Students also visited many sites of historical and religious signifi-

cance in the area, including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Catholic Church in the United States and in North America (*see photo above*).

## BASKETBALL TEAM WINS FIRST NCAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME



On February 15, the boy's basketball team, advanced to their first NCAC championship game, where they narrowly edged rival New Life Christian School 50-48. Congratulations to Coach Stone and the entire team!

#### **OKINAWA EXCHANGE STUDENTS VISIT**

Nine students from Shuri Senior High School in Naha City, Okinawa, took time to visit the HCA community on March 7. They were studying on an exchange program with Oneida High School. While at HCA, they shared several cultural songs and dances (*below*) and exchanged stories from their native land while sitting-in on the ninth grade Global Studies class.



#### SENIORS ATTEND PUBLIC POLICY DAY



On Tuesday, March 8, students from the senior class traveled to Albany for the NY State Catholic Conference's 2011 public policy day. They first attended Mass offered by Archbishop Timothy Dolan at the newly renovated Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (*left*) near the Capitol, then attended a youth workshop at the Convention Center. After lunch, they toured the Capitol building and watched the State Assembly conduct a legislative session.

#### CHOIR FEATURED GUESTS AT CONCERT WITH IRISH GROUP THE ELDERS

On Saturday, January 29, at the Capitol Theatre in Rome, the Holy Cross Academy Choir added another impressive feat to its expanding resume. The students opened for the very popular Irish folk group The Elders and then shared the stage with them for several songs.

Among other pieces, they sang "The Blessing" made famous by Celtic Women, and then joined The Elders onstage to collaborate on both "The Voice," also from Celtic Women, and The Elders mega-hit "The Men of Erin."



The Elders lead vocalist Ian Byrne (right) and the HCA Choir in concert.

The choir plans on collaborating with The Elders once again at the Great American Irish Festival in Herkimer on Sunday, July 31.

## WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT UTICA PARISH FOR CATHOLIC GROUP



The Women's Ensemble stands before the main altar at St. Joseph/St. Patrick parish.

On March 11, the newly-formed HCA Women's Ensemble made an appearance at St. Joseph/St. Patrick parish in Utica. They were invited by members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Catholic, Irish-American organization, to sing preludes prior to their annual St. Patrick's Day Mass.

Selections included Gregorian Chants and several hymns of Irish origin.

The Women's Ensemble provided similar musical entertainment for members of the Knights of Columbus in Oneida at their annual St. Patrick's Dinner on March 17.

#### News Briefs: April - June

## LENTEN RETREAT AT HCA PREPARES STUDENTS FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

To better prepare for the Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, the student body embarked on an afternoon retreat at the Academy. The talks focused on Our Lord's Passion and the response Christians should have to God's love and mercy. Students also took time to pray before Our Lord truly



present in the Blessed Sacrament, a privilege given to HCA for one week during Lent by Bishop Robert Cunningham.

#### JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS EMBARK ON FIELD TRIP TO SYRACUSE'S MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



With the academic year winding down, the 7th and 8th grade science classes took a day to visit the Museum of Science and Technology in Syracuse.

There they experienced exciting and engaging hands-on exhibits, ranging from magnetism and electricity, to architecture and flight.



Students also viewed a movie on the oceans' least explored and extreme regions - *Aliens of the Deep* - shown on an IMAX omnitheater screen sixty-six feet in diameter and six stories tall!

## HCA DRUMLINE WINS AWARD AT ONEIDA MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



The HCA Drumline, directed by Mr. Ed Noble, marched in the Oneida Memorial Day Parade on May 27, earning a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in its category. The Drumline is in its second year and has marched in parades throughout Madison and Oneida Counties.

#### DARIEN LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL CHAMPIONS

The HCA choirs and band made a fine showing at this year's Darien Lake Music Festival, taking first place in two of the five categories they entered

HCA competed in five categories: Class A band, chamber choir, women's choir, middle school choir, and high school mixed choir.

The Select Choir won the Chamber Choir category, while the Women's Ensemble took first place in the Women's

Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Rutledge proudly display the trophies from the Darien Lake Music Festival.

Choir category. The Senior High Choir finished in third place as a High School Mixed Choir. The Band and Junior High Choir both

made strong showings while finishing outside the top three.

This is the third consecutive year HCA has traveled to Darien Lake to compete, once again under the direction of Mr. Scott Rutledge and accompanied by Mrs. Jolene Nelson.

Students also earned special recognition for their solo voice performances: Rose Judge (7th grade); Robert vanLieshout (10th grade); Ben Vanderhoof (10th grade); Anna Judge (9th grade). Jon Noble (11th grade) and Josh Herter (10th grade) received recognition for accompanying the Select Choir on bass and acoustic guitar, respectively.

"These kids have an energy and spirit that is so inspiring to me. The improvement that they have shown is incredible," commented Mr. Rutledge on the day's events.

#### CO-ED SOFTBALL TEAM REPEATS AS CHAMPS



HCA completed the co-ed softball season on June 6, defeating River Valley 16-5 in the NCAC championship game. Not only did the team win every game, they outscored opponents 110 - 22.



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#### From the Office of Advancement

#### "What are Employer Matching Programs?"

there are many ways to contribute to Holy Cross Academy, and donating to our Annual Fund is the most common means of charitable giving. Every donor wants his or her charitable gift to have the maximum effect possible, especially in today's economic climate. Employer matching programs (sometimes referred to as *corporate matching programs* or *matching funds*) are wonderful ways to double or even triple the impact of your gift!

Many corporations support their employees' personal philanthropy and fundraising efforts and will match charitable contributions made by their employees to educational and non-profit organizations. This often includes contributions made by retirees and/or spouses. Usually all that is required is the completion of a simple form verifying your donation. Most corporations have the matching forms online for you to download, and some corporations ask you to apply directly online. Restrictions do apply on some gifts, so if you have any questions about your company's employer matching program, simply contact your employer's Human Resource or Benefits Department and verify their matching program policies.

Holy Cross Academy is a non-profit school with a 501 (c) (3) status and can furnish any documentation needed to qualify for the match. If you have any other questions, please contact the Advancement Office. And, of course, let us know if your employer will increase your gift with a matching donation!

As always, thank you and God bless you for your generous support. All gifts, whether big or small, help us to provide the teachers, staff, curriculum, and extra-curricular programs required to keep the Academy vibrant and to ensure its future strength.

- Scott Nelson, Director of Advancement

Plant a seed that will thrive through many seasons...

Consider HCA in your will or estate planning...

Make a better tomorrow today.

With every year, a new time for planting arrives, and a new harvest follows. And year after year, you have provided more seeds, more new beginnings, more new opportunities for our students to receive an excellent education in a supportive Christian community.

This June, Holy Cross Academy sent forth its Tenth Graduating Class. We achieved this milestone trusting in God's Providence and relying on the goodness of our supporters. Since opening in 1997 with four students, we cannot begin to count the many lives Holy Cross Academy has touched in that time span.

The seeds of your generosity today will reap a bountiful harvest in the lives of young people tomorrow.

There's no better legacy.

#### "MOVING FORWARD WITH FAITH" - ANNUAL FUND 2011

I I offer this gift to	help the mission of Holy Cross Academy: \$	
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# The Tenth Commencement

June 24, 2011

"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."

-Pope Benedict XVI