

Make Holy Cross Academy's Roof Worthy Again!

*"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."*

The roof over Holy Cross Academy is leaking and needs to be replaced to the tune of \$40,000. Yes, maybe it's just a roof, but **it's the "miracles" that happen underneath that roof that make this little academy special.**

I'll tell you a story about a girl who was bullied at the public school. She came to Holy Cross primarily to escape. But when she arrived, she found that it was not only an escape, but an embrace, an immersion into a close-knit family where she found true friends. Friends who accepted her, encouraged her, held her up and helped her thrive. She felt genuinely loved, both by students and teachers. And not only did her grades improve, but her spiritual life was enriched as well. You see, true friendships are established on true love which originates in the love of Jesus Christ for us. This is the heart of Holy Cross Academy. **This is the Love that lives under our roof.** Please help us replace that leaky roof to provide a haven for bullied kids, and love for all kids.

Under the roof of Holy Cross Academy are **dedicated, selfless teachers and volunteers.** Oh, they could be working in any other school at much higher salaries, but they choose to teach here at Holy Cross. Some even volunteer all of their time. I'll tell you about one teacher made the hard decision to go to another school that offered a higher salary. While she was there, she found that much of her day was spent just trying to keep the classroom in order and disciplining students. The Faith was not a priority for most of them at this particular Catholic school, and it was difficult to accomplish her primary calling – teaching. After a year, she returned to HCA.

One reason our faculty chooses to teach at HCA is because they are allowed to use their particular gifts and experience to best guide and educate their students. They don't spend endless hours navigating the red tape that usually accompanies the teaching profession. They have a true vocation to teach, and that's what they do. They love the faith, and they are able to integrate the teachings of the Church into the lesson plans. **They love the students and have a genuine concern for them as individuals.** Please help us replace that leaky roof so that Holy Cross can provide a special place for teachers to do what they do best: teaching, mentoring, and sharing the Faith with students.

Under the roof of Holy Cross academy, the curriculum is not one-size-fits-all. It is not dictated by the government. The core of our academics is Catholic, NOT Common. As an independent school, we do not have to accept a cookie-cutter program established by elites or bureaucrats far away, who have no idea what the needs of our students or the capabilities of our teachers are. Our program is designed for **these** students, in **this** environment, with **our** teachers. **That is how education is done.** That is why students thrive under our roof. Please help us replace that leaky roof so that the specific academic needs of our students can be met.

Under the roof of Holy Cross Academy, **conversions happen**. As part of the application process, prospective students and their parents meet with us for an interview. One family was asked if they were regular church-goers. They weren't. But during the conversation, they thought it would be a good idea. The student was very interested, and the family began attending with their child to show support. Before long, the entire family was received into full communion with the Church!

There are many more stories of students enrolling at Holy Cross, forming great friendships, and deciding to enter the Catholic Church. And more stories of their parents going out of their way to thank us personally for the gift HCA has been to their children and to their families. Please help us replace that tired roof, so that underneath it, even more will find a home in the fullness of Faith.

Under our roof, **the sanctity of life is honored**. Students form pro-life groups, pray and counsel at abortion clinics, raise funds for groups that support mothers and their babies, and enter writing and speaking contests in support of life. In fact, the entire school shuts down every January in order to attend the March for Life in Washington, DC. This is not simply an abstract policy position. This is a commitment rooted in love for the individual – the child, the mother, and the family. Years ago, a girl transferred to Holy Cross, possibly to hide from a problem. She was welcomed by the students who welcomed her and she developed some very close friendships. Some years later, she found herself in a heartrending situation - young, pregnant, with little support, and contemplating abortion. It was through her personal experience of unconditional love from true friends that she was able to make the decision to keep her child. Please help us to breathe new life into that leaky roof, so that the love and support of the gift of life at every stage can be known, shared, and respected.

Under the roof of Holy Cross Academy, many families have found a place that **supports the morals and ideals of their own family**. A school that is faithful to the Magisterium, and is a trusted partner in the formation of their children. They are confident that there will be no social engineering, no disinformation, no clouding of the truth about God and Man. **Some families moved from miles away just to be able to attend Holy Cross**. In some cases even grandparents followed them so that they could be part of something unique, something special, a community of love. Please help us repair that leaky roof and ensure that these families will continue to have this option, which is such a rare and precious opportunity for their children.

There are already leaks in the entry way, in the teacher's room, and in classrooms. And sadly, **there is damage in the chapel ceiling**. It is under *this* roof that students, faculty, and staff worship the Lord. It is under *this* roof that a dozen visiting priests come to celebrate Mass and hear confessions. It is here *especially* that we must ensure that we have a fitting and worthy place to celebrate the Eucharist.

Holy Cross Academy is a small school doing big things. Many families who attend have low incomes, and so tuition is kept very low. We are independent, which means we don't rely on funding from the state or diocese. **We rely on donations and prayers.** We survive on the generosity of friends, and the Grace of God. \$40,000 is a **HUGE** amount for our very modest budget. And the longer we go without replacing it, the more damage will occur.

Some emergency patching and repairs have been done by alumni, board members and parents. But this season, the wind storms have been worse than ever, ripping off shingles and making the need more urgent. We have many talented people associated with Holy Cross, but this is a big job and will require a professional crew. All of the shingles must be replaced, and most of the plywood sheathing is warped or damaged and must be replaced.

I know there are many other causes and needs out there. I know there are people suffering, and good people raising money to help them. I support them, and have donated to many of these efforts. And while this may be "just a roof," it is what takes place *under* the roof of Holy Cross Academy that is so important. It is inspired. It is unique. It is a haven. It is a family. It is the work of the Lord. Could you please help us replace our leaky roof, and help spread the word to your friends? **If we all lend a hand, we can get this done. We have nowhere else to turn.**

The cost of the repairs is **\$40,000**. The project can be performed in two phases costing \$20,000 each. Our initial goal is \$10,000 to cover the down payment on the first phase. I know it's not a drop in the bucket, but if the leaking continues, we'll have buckets overflowing!

I want you to know that every individual who helps out HCA will be remembered in prayer in our chapel and at the Masses celebrated under our roof. May God shower his blessings upon you for your generosity!

"Lord, we are not worthy that you should enter under our roof, but only say the word and our souls shall be healed, our students will thrive, our teachers will fulfill their calling, the Lord will be known and worshipped, our benefactors will be blessed, and the mission of Holy Cross Academy will continue to flourish! Amen!"

- Teri Maciag, Principal
- Daniel Miller, President