



Holy Cross News

Vol. 18 No. 2

The Official Newsletter of Holy Cross Academy

Summer / Fall 2012



In hoc signo vinces!



Daniel J. Miller, President
Board of Trustees

Faith – A Sure Foundation

We need a sure foundation...which gives our lives significance in moments of crisis and darkness, even in daily difficulties. This is what the faith gives us.” - Pope Benedict XVI

When we speak of Faith, we sometimes tend to focus on the academic, a definition, or a set of beliefs that we may not understand, but are obligated to adhere to. But what is the heart of Faith? Let’s consider Faith at the most basic level, a concept that anyone can grasp, even a child.

When a child wants to be held, he stretches out his arms. He wants to be picked up and held close. He wants to feel the warmth and security of the one he loves and who loves him. This simple confidence of a child who knows he is loved is the heart of Faith.

As we “mature,” this simple trust can fade. We begin to believe that we can do things on our own, through our own strength; that following the rules and establishing goals will result in the desired outcome. We convince ourselves that praying properly for the correct reasons will bring certain results. When things don’t happen as we expect, we wonder why our prayers didn’t “work,” why God didn’t listen. Is this true Faith or has pride or superstition taken hold?

Simple child-like confidence in Our Lord who is trustworthy is our sure foundation. True maturity builds on this foundation. **Mature confidence demands heroism in living out the virtues.** It is only through Grace that we can accomplish anything, and we must cooperate with Grace in order to act with heroic virtue. This is the only way we can transform our society and it is work that must be done *one heart at a time*. This is our call here at Holy Cross: to form a new generation of virtuous and heroic individuals who will transform our society.

Pray that the Holy Spirit performs this work in and through us. Pray that we answer the call to heroism. Pray that the work we do at Holy Cross provides a secure and loving training ground for students who are called to be heroes in our fallen world. When darkness surrounds us and we feel abandoned, let us stand with confidence on the sure foundation of Faith and press onward!

In Christ,

Prayer Intentions

Please join our HCA family in prayer:

- For the Eternal Repose of the souls of Dr. Asa Smith, Elizabeth (Betty) DeVito, Wendy Wojciechowski, Elsie Agan
- For the health of Rev. Msgr. Matt Luczycki, Don Behr
- Prayer Intentions of Pope Benedict XVI for September, 2012:

General Intention: That politicians may always act with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth.

Missionary Intention: Help for the Poorest Churches. That Christian communities may have a growing willingness to send missionaries, priests, and lay people, along with concrete resources, to the poorest Churches.



HOLY CROSS ACADEMY

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

OUR MISSION

Holy Cross Academy exists to provide a rounded education for the whole person, to help students seek the truth, love God and neighbor, and to become saints.

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SUBSCRIPTION FREE UPON REQUEST.

Commencement - 2012

Excerpts from Principal Therese Maciag's address to the Class of 2012:

This is a milestone year for Holy Cross Academy as we conclude our 15th academic year.

And throughout the year, we have seen the Class of 2012 exemplify the heart of our mission: Charity. It is a pleasure to present diplomas to a very special class of young men and women who embody the best qualities that Holy Cross strives to instill in students: academic excellence, faith in God, charity toward all.

You understand that true friendship is built on true Charity, directed to the greatest good which is union with God and membership in the Divine Family.

When new students arrived, whether from our own backyard or from across the world, you welcomed them and brought them into the Holy Cross family. And just like a family, you accepted them unconditionally and showed them kindness. You mentored and looked out for the underclassmen, setting a good example for them.

As you leave HCA, take that joyful spirit of Charity with you and show the world that being virtuous is the highest calling and leads to genuine happiness. The world does not recognize this and will try to substitute lesser goods or even evil for good. I am proud of you and confident that whatever you choose to do, you will be a witness to the faith and, with the Grace of God, help win souls for Christ.

Remember what you have learned, stay close to Our Lord and our Blessed Mother, and always know that here at Holy Cross, you will always have true friends.

Excerpts from Amy Collins' Valedictory Address:

The seeds our parents planted in our souls have flowered here at this school, in this family.

Back in seventh grade I was a quiet follower. The class as a whole was like most seventh grade classes, immature and loud with the Atlantic Ocean splitting the boys and girls, but time and good teachers changed that. We have matured and grown to become the family that we are. The religion teachers here at Holy Cross especially inspired me. Such a deep love of the Faith was contagious. These classes had a huge effect on who I am now, so thank you to all the teachers who spread the Faith in each lesson. There is no way you can get enough gratitude.

As for my family, thank you for the encouragement, the support in everything, academics, sports, religion. You've helped me grow into a mature, independent young adult. Mom and dad... Pat, Becky, Matt, Dan, Laura, Mark, Grace, Luke, Kim... I love you guys!

To the underclassmen, especially the class of 2013: Be leaders. Set a good example. Be the kind of students others will look up to. Make the faith and the sacraments the center of your life and the life of your school. This is a great school, but it is you who can make HCA better with every year.

To my fellow classmates: Don't be afraid to embrace the Faith. We have a gift here at Holy Cross, a privilege that many do not have. We have been in a safe, comfortable environment, and even here we at times have fallen short or not taken advantage of all that our school has to offer. Sometimes there is a great temptation to choose "cool" over "holy." But that is a false choice. Striving for holiness is the coolest thing you can do.

When we leave here, the world will try to discourage us from living our faith and ridicule us because of it. But if you keep the memories of Holy Cross in your heart and keep your eyes on the Cross of Christ, you will never lose your way.





A person is a person... - Kristina Stutmann Class of 2012

On January 23rd, 2012, students, teachers, parents, and various Pro-Life organizations and groups came together in the streets of Washington, D.C. to participate in the March For Life. What impressed me the most about the March (this is my first one) was how united and driven everyone was to protest the Supreme Court decision in 1973 to allow abortion-on-demand to be the law of the land.



The spirit of the event was filled with a strong belief in the gift of life. There was an overwhelming sense of determination, courage, and excitement. The realization of what we were all fighting for struck me with complete inspiration and gladness to be part of it all.

Some people believe that before a baby is born, he/she does not have the same rights as a person already born. I believe that their rights are equal with ours and that their right to life should be protected. As I marched, that belief stuck in my mind. This belief gave meaning to what I and others around me were fighting for. Though the trip to Washington, D.C. was long and tiring, what made it completely worthwhile was the constant reminder of fighting for those who could not fight for themselves and the unity that came from it.

During the March, I took a moment to look around at the sea of people, young and old, who were walking with me. I saw how dedicated all of them were to be walking in the cold, rainy weather as they took time out of their lives to be there. Witnessing that strength and determination, it made me even more proud and blessed to be there among them.

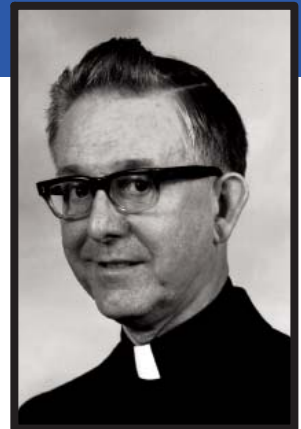
While on the march, I experienced an emotional reaction I did not expect when I saw the true horrors of what abortion really is. Tears welled up in my eyes at sight of the images I saw. I wondered how anyone could think that abortion was right. Many people do not realize how devastating and cruel it truly is and the effects it has on others.

I would have to say that this experience has enriched me in that it has made me more sensitive to the issue of abortion. To quote Dr. Seuss, "A person is a person, no matter how small."

Spiritual Message - Fr. Joseph F. Kehoe

Congratulations and Best Prayerful wishes to all our 2012 graduates. Today I would like to share with you some of the basic books I use for teaching the Catholic Faith. I also find these books very helpful in my own spirituality.

- (1) "The Jerusalem Bible - Reader's edition" - from Leaflet Missal
- (2) "Navarre Scripture Commentary" (20 books) - from Leaflet Missal
- (3) "Catechism of the Catholic Church - Second Edition" - from Leaflet Missal
- (4) "Outlines of the Catholic Faith" - from Leaflet Missal
- (5) "Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church - from Leaflet Missal
- (6) "Vatican Council II Documents"-(2 Volumes) - by Austin Flannery O.P.
- (7) "Handbook of Prayers"- by Rev. James Socias - from Leaflet Missal
- (8) "Daily Roman Missal" - by M.T. F. - from Ignatius Press
- (9) "The Liturgy of the Hours" (4 Volumes) C.B.P.C.
- (10) "St. Joseph Church History" - by Rev. L. Lovasik, S.V.D. from O.S.V.
- (11) Encyclicals by the Pope - from Daughters of St. Paul & U.S.C.C.B.
- (12) St. Joseph New American Catechism" book "0" and book "1" - Leaflet Missal
- (13) "St. Joseph Confirmation Book" - by Fr. L. Lovacic
- (14) "Knowing your Faith" - by Rev. Raymond B. Fullam - from C.B.P.C.
- (15) "Pocket Catechism - St. Joseph Edition" - by Rev A. Lodders, C.S.S.R - C.B.P.C.
- (16) "Pray the Rosary" - Book #40-05 - from C.B.P.C.
- (17) "Pillar of Fire Pillar of Truth"- from Catholic Answers by Keating - San Diego Calif.
- (18) "Baltimore Catechism" #2 - by Fr. Bennet C.P. - Leaflet Missal
- (19) "Catechism of the Council of Trent" - Loomer Theological Booksellers
- (20) "My Imitation of Christ" - Thomas A. Kempis - from Leaflet Missal



*Fr. Joseph Kehoe
Spiritual Advisor*

During the summer months I enjoy preparing my religion classes for the coming year. In the year ahead, I plan to especially use the "Contents" sections of the "Handbook of Prayer"-by Rev. James Socias.

We are truly blessed to be CATHOLIC. Let us share this gift with the people we come in contact with. In Closing I hope everyone had a happy and restful summer, may God bless you.

News Briefs

NATIONAL RECOGNITION



When it comes to Catholic Identity and overall excellence, we have always considered Holy Cross to be one of the best educational options around. Being recognized on the national level is icing on the cake. The **Cardinal Newman Society** has awarded HCA with special recognition in the specific areas of **Catholic Identity** and **Civics** education. Since the inception of the Honor Roll in 2004, Holy Cross has been recognized in each year honors are awarded.

ADORATION & TALENT SHOW AT HCA



During the evening of Friday, February 10, HCA students, parents and teachers spent a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, led by Fr. Thomas Ward. Fr. Ward currently ministers at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Binghamton. Later in the day, students participated in a Talent Show featuring musical performances, comedy routines, poetry, and skits.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL

HCA's class of 2012 traveled to Albany back in March to participate in the annual "Catholics at the Capitol" public policy advocacy day. Catholic bishops from the eight dioceses in New York, including Syracuse's Bishop Robert Cunningham, joined over one thousand citizens at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The event is organized by the New York State Catholic Conference, which represents the Bishops of New York State in matters of public policy. Deacon Jim Chappell, HCA's 12th grade government and economics teacher, has made this trip an annual part of his course.

After an early 6:15am departure from HCA, the group arrived in Albany to register and to meet with Assemblyman Bill Magee at his office. In the meeting, students advocated for the legislative priorities of the NYS Catholic Conference, including support for pregnant women and opposition to abortion, reimbursement to Catholic schools for state-mandated services, and protecting the poor, immigrants and the incarcerated. Afterwards they stopped by Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney's office, and later met briefly with Bishop Cunningham.

Public Policy Day concluded in the afternoon with a short procession from the convention center to Immaculate Conception Cathedral, led by the Knights of Columbus. Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany then offered Mass at the Cathedral.



Deacon Chappell and students prepare for their meeting with Assemblyman Bill Magee to advocate for the legislative priorities of the NY State Catholic Conference.



Two HCA students are a step closer to becoming Eagle Scouts, completing service projects benefiting the school and the local community.

Jon Noble (2012) replaced the two Holy Cross Academy signs, one in front of the school and one on Route 365. Gabrielle Esparza, class of 2014, organized a soccer camp for area youth.

The projects allowed the scouts to demonstrate organizational skills and leadership qualities. We are proud of our scouts!



HCA Makes Major League Debut at Camden Yards!



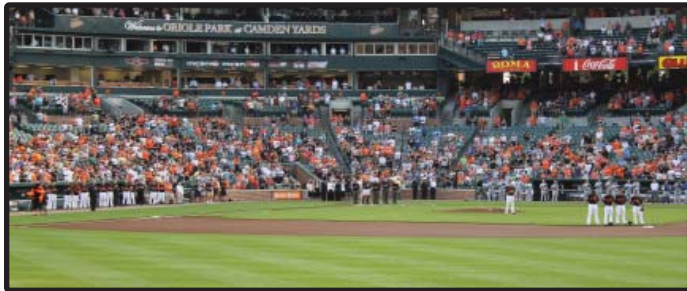
Holy Cross Academy's Select Choir, under the direction of Mr. Scott Rutledge, finally made it to the big leagues! After a highly competitive audition process, the Baltimore Orioles organization chose the Choir to sing the National Anthem prior to their game against the Kansas City Royals on Friday, May 25.

"One of the first goals I set for our program," Mr. Rutledge said, "was to sing at a major league baseball game. It took almost three years, but this opportunity is the culmination of lots of hard work on all our parts, and a blessing from God."

Students and parents planned fundraisers to help alleviate the costs of travel, lodging, and food for the trip. The Select Choir has performed the National Anthem twice for Syracuse University basketball games, and once for the Syracuse Chiefs at Alliance Bank Stadium.

Mr. Rutledge knows this opportunity means increased visibility and notoriety for HCA and its music program. It is also another step towards a major goal that he hopes the music program reaches in the very near future.

"Another goal I have always dreamed of is to sing at Carnegie Hall," he commented. "This trip to sing for the Orioles is another meaningful step towards that attainable goal."



The Journey to the Big Leagues



January 13, 2010:
The Carrier Dome
Syracuse, NY



June 28, 2011:
Alliance Bank Stadium,
Syracuse, NY



May 25, 2012:
Oriole Park at Camden Yards,
Baltimore, MD

Ethan Parlato: Boys State Delegate



I was nominated as the candidate for Boys State from my school, Holy Cross Academy for this year. I was not certain at first, what this program was about. I spoke to the student who was nominated last year and talked to him about what occurred there. I also was invited by the American Legion in Oneida NY to come for an informative meeting. The American Legion Post # sponsored me once I was chosen to be the delegate and spend the week of June 24th to June 28th 2012 at Morrisville College, Morrisville, N.Y. with over 1000 other delegates from around New York State.

When I first got to Morrisville and walked into the Boys State Headquarters I was nervous about the whole thing. When I walked into the dorm I was going to be staying in I was thinking "Man... how am I gonna be able to sleep in here?" Then along with about 100 other boys we tried to figure out how to "get in formation" so we could go eat.

When Sergeant Chandler showed up everyone went quiet out of fear of being yelled at... most of us had heard the rumors about the Marines that organized the participants. Nobody was able to eat their whole dinner, as we only had 8

minutes to eat, before we were back outside. When we went to bed that night nobody slept under their blankets because if they weren't perfect the next morning our rooms would be torn apart.

Then came the purpose of the Boys State Program, learning the political process on a city, county and state level. We learned in a hands-on, trial and error setting. We had a little help from the American Legion Counselors, but we did most of it ourselves. We learned just about everything in election politics from running for offices to selling votes. In fact for the first time ever at Boys State one of the party leaders was "arrested" for voting fraud.

We also had some speakers come in and talk to us. Such as Richard Hanna, Joe Griffo, the Oneida County DA, a Holocaust survivor, and a canine squad and a swat team from the NYS State Troopers.

Throughout that week we all quickly learned discipline, which we followed almost everywhere. We were required to march, standing in formation, and addressing any adult in a formal fashion.

By the end of our four day stay as members of Boys State, we were able to eat our dinner in 5 minutes and make 45 degree angles on our bed sheets. I had learned a lot about the political process from the city level to the state level. I learned about the duties of some of the offices, the process one must follow to get elected to office, as well as voter habits, for example: a lot of people like the "funny guys" that run for office, not necessarily the straightforward and serious ones. I also learned some basic column movements for marching.

Overall it was a challenging but awesome week where everyone participated in politics, sports, and even policing the campus.

Monks Preach Lent Retreat at HCA

To better prepare for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, students traditionally participate in a day-long retreat during the Lenten season. This year's Lent Retreat was held on Friday, March 2. Fr. Gabriel Mary and Br. Andrew James, monks from the Community of St. John, directed the retreat.

The theme throughout the retreat was *Adoration - Living in the Presence of God*. Fr. Gabriel and Br. Andrew gave talks to the students in the morning about adoration, prayer, and looking beyond the distractions of everyday life that keep us from acknowledging God's love and our dependence upon Him. They brought up examples of adoration from Sacred Scripture, in the life of Jesus, and in the lives and writings of the saints. A lively Q&A session with Br. Andrew, where he answered questions students wrote down beforehand, was the final talk. Mass and a brief period of Eucharistic Adoration concluded the morning portion of the retreat.

After lunch, Fr. Gabriel and Br. Andrew joined students in a great game of Ultimate Frisbee. Fr. Gabriel's team held off a last-minute surge from Br. Andrew's squad to win by two goals. Students were invited to stay after school dismissal at 2pm for a smaller group session that included time for *lectio divina*, Vespers, adoration, a pizza dinner, and an evening bonfire.

HCA was blessed to have monks from the Community of St. John lead this year's retreat and we hope they can return again in the near future!

You can learn more about the Community of St. John at www.communityofstjohn.com.



Br. Andrew James speaks to students about adoration and prayer. Inset: Fr. Gabriel Mary offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



Following Mass, Fr. Gabriel led students in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.



Monk + Ultimate Frisbee = Awesome Photo!

Dinner Dance at the Rusty Rail!



- National Honors
- Commencement 2012
- March for Life
- HCA at Camden Yards
- Year of Faith
- ...and much more!

Inside:

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Faith: The Assurance of Things Hoped For.

*H*oly Cross began the Year of Faith with the entire Church on October 11, 2012. In a “Faith Moment” proclaimed over the PA system, students heard a Scripture verse encouraging them to entrust their needs to God, who loves them and gives them hope. They will hear new faith messages weekly throughout the year as a means of lifting their hearts in thanksgiving for the graces they have received and as an expression of their trust in God’s promises. The entire school community was invited to place their petitions in a specially prepared book and to pray for one another’s intentions.



Please join us by sending your personal prayers in the enclosed envelope, and they will be remembered in our Year of Faith book.