



# Holy Cross News

Vol. 16 No. 2

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

Summer 2010

## Commencement 2010



*The Class of 2010 following the Commencement Mass, flanked by (l-r): Rev. Richard Kapral, Rev. Joseph O'Connor, Msgr. Matthew Luczycki, and Deacon James Chappell.*

Families, friends and teachers of the Holy Cross Academy Class of 2010 gathered on Friday, June 18, at the high school chapel for the Academy's ninth commencement. Fr. Joseph O'Connor, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Syracuse, was the main celebrant at the Commencement Mass and addressed the graduates during the ceremony.

"The way you live your lives will make God believable. Are you going to make God real to a world that is starving for truth?" Fr. Joseph challenged the seniors.

The ten seniors – all college-bound this fall - received their diplomas from Daniel Miller, President of the Board of Trustees, and Principal Therese Maciag.

"One defining characteristic of Holy Cross Academy is the way it resembles a family," said Principal Maciag. "We strive to create an environment that is nurturing, supportive, built upon love. The class of 2010 is the realization of this quality in a tangible way."

The Valedictorian was Daniel G. Collins, son of Pat and Joann Collins, Wampsville. The Salutatorian was Teresa A. Street, daughter of Kenneth and Mary Ellen Street, Rome. In his Valedictorian Address, Daniel Collins mixed gratitude with his characteristic humor.

"All you can hope for is that when you graduate you have enough inner kid to have fun but enough responsible adult to survive," he said.

The graduates and their families gathered for a reception following the ceremonies.

"Holy Cross Academy is proud to send these ten young men and women on to college and the world to share their faith and talents," said Trustee Margaret Miller. "Their light will shine for years to come."

## 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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- Teri Maciag: Administrator
- Margaret Miller: Secretary,  
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### FACULTY / STAFF

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- Jerry Williams: English
- Rob Zeller: General Science/Earth Science/Biology/Chemistry/Physics

## Message from the Board of Trustees

### TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE

The family is the most basic and most important building block of the larger culture. When families break down, the culture suffers, and when families are strong, the culture flourishes. Our success at Holy Cross is directly attributable to the strong families that enroll their children here. The virtues they learn at home are reinforced at HCA and this contributes to the overall environment.

Holy Cross Principal Teri Maciag included these words during the 2010 Commencement ceremony:

*“One defining characteristic of Holy Cross Academy is the way it resembles a family. We strive to create an environment that is nurturing, supportive, built upon love. But this does not come about on its own. It requires that individuals live this out on a daily basis.”*

We know that the culture doesn't just happen, but is the result of individuals, families and larger groups living life in specific ways. An athlete trains with a specific goal in mind and his individual performance contributes to the success of the team. In the same way, the virtuous individual contributes to the building of the culture through his concrete actions and the way he lives his life. Those who are not working to restore and improve it are degrading it through negligence. No one is exempt from influencing the culture. There is no bench to sit on. We are all in the game.

Our society has been pushing religion to the fringes of culture, relegating our faith to mere personal feelings rather than to its rightful place as cornerstone, pillar and beacon. Bringing the truths of the faith to the world is what it means to love our neighbor. This is our obligation as individuals, as families, as a culture. The Truth that we believe is God Himself. All truth originates with Him and ultimately directs us to Him. Keeping the truth silent and “tolerating” falsehood adds to the demise of culture and is contrary to love.

At HCA, we strive to develop virtuous individuals, to support the family, and to influence the culture in a positive way. We are proud to be sending another graduating class on to the next phase of their lives and pray that they will carry the torch of truth with them.

Sincerely,

Daniel Miller  
President, Board of Trustees

## Prayer Intentions

- For the eternal repose of the souls of Anne Glidden and Marge Teepell.
- For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- For our friends and supporters who have passed away or are ill.

# SCENES FROM GRADUATION



## *All Seniors College-Bound This Fall!*

The Class of 2010 has a 100% college acceptance rate. Below are the colleges and universities our newest alumni will be attending:

James J. Cobb	SUNY Canton (Canton, NY)
Daniel G. Collins	St. John Neumann Seminary College (Yonkers, NY)
Amanda M. King	Houghton College (Houghton, NY)
Stephen D. Miller	Christendom College (Front Royal, VA)
Braden J. Morrissey	North Country Community College (Saranac Lake, NY)
Caitlyn M. Parody	Mohawk Valley Community College (Rome, NY)
Teresa A. Street	Mohawk Valley Community College (Rome, NY)
Mark C. van Lieshout	Onondaga Community College (Syracuse, NY)
Nicholas van Lieshout	John Paul the Great Catholic University (San Diego, CA)
Joseph Young	Mohawk Valley Community College (Rome, NY)



# “Men in Black” Soccer Game @ HCA

*The following article is reprinted with permission from the Catholic Sun.*

The playing field at Holy Cross Academy (HCA) was the site of the latest Men In Black (MIB) sports event.

MIB, made up of seminarians and priests, took on a younger team of Holy Cross Academy students — and they prevailed in a real nail-biter.

The two teams were tied 5-5 and MIB won the shoot out, 4-3.

Father Cleophas Tuka, originally from Kenya, has played soccer most of his 43 years. He scored the first goal of the game when he hit a diving head ball past the HCA goal-keeper.

“I just saw an opportunity and took it,” Father Tuka said.

When he served as a priest in Kenya, his diocese had its own team made up of priests, Father Tuka explained, and they played against priests from neighboring dioceses.

“We played against other priests and it was a reunion for us. There were a number of priests we had gone to school with and we would socialize after the game,” Father Tuka said.

When the Office of Vocation Promotion first came up with the idea of a “Men In Black” team in 2000, the games were typically played on the basketball court. The team traveled to diocesan high schools and played against their teams. This time, Father Joe O’Connor, director of the office, decided they would play a soccer game on the heels of the World Cup games.

“We actually stole the idea from Baltimore,” Father O’Connor said. “We wanted to show the young people that the priesthood is a healthy option. Sometimes their idea of a priest is limited to seeing him at the altar at Mass. When they can see priests doing things they do, like playing sports, it gives them a different perspective.”

One of the reasons for choosing to play at HCA has a direct relationship to the team — the newest seminarian to study for the Diocese of Syracuse, Dan Collins, just graduated from HCA. He will be going to St. John Neumann Seminary College in Yonkers in August.

“HCA has a really good Catholic atmosphere,” Collins said. “You get a good education because the class size is small and you get a lot of one-on-one attention. And you build lasting friendships.” *(Continued on page 5)*



*Bishop Robert Cunningham leads the teams in prayer before the start of the match.*



*Robert van Lieshout (l) and Chris Abbe (r) fight for possession with Fr. O’Connor (12).*



*The Holy Cross Academy team, consisting of current students and alumni, lines up during the pre-game introductions.*



*Bishop Cunningham with his "Men in Black" following their shootout victory.*

theater department. He played Alfred P. Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" at HCA in 2009.

Teri Maciag is principal at HCA, which offers a Catholic education for grades 7-12. The school currently has 77 students enrolled after beginning with four students 14 years ago. It is not part of the diocesan school system but operates with the permission of the bishop.

"We are registered with the New York State Board of Regents and we do everything with a Catholic perspective," Maciag said.

She said Collins was valedictorian of his senior class.

"He's so bright and he's got so much going for him. He loves God and it shows," Maciag said.

The soccer game was a good introduction to life among the priests of the diocese.

"I'm really looking forward to studying philosophy and theology," Collins said, "and the camaraderie with the other guys who are called to be priests."

Maybe some will even be called to play soccer, too...



*Fr. O'Connor with two future "Men in Black"?*



*MIB goalie Dan Collins faces a shot from HCA striker Steve Seelman.*



*GOOOOOOOO-AAAAA-LLLLLL! Despite his diving effort, Fr. Cleophas Tuka cannot save a shot from HCA's Gabriel Esparza (far right).*



*The two teams exchange handshakes after a memorable first Men in Black soccer match.*

*(continued from page 4)*

Collins is one of 10 children and he said his parents are very happy that he chose to pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

"I've wanted to be a priest as long as I can remember," he said. "First of all I think that is what God is calling me to and I'll be able to help people at their highest and lowest parts of their lives."

Soccer wasn't the only sport Collins excelled at in high school. He also played basketball and co-ed softball. Besides sports, Collins also enjoyed the

# News Briefs

**MAY 14:** During an assembly held at Holy Cross Academy, Mike Dwyer, Grand Knight of Council 473 of the Oneida Knights of Columbus, awarded senior Dan Collins with a \$500 scholarship towards his education as a seminarian for the Diocese of Syracuse.



**MAY 19:** 9-12 grade students traveled on a field trip to the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA (left). That same day, 7-8 grade students visited the Shrine of Blessed Marianne Cope in Syracuse.

**JUNE 3:** HCA successfully defended its NCAC coed softball title with a 8-3 victory over River Valley Academy. After giving up an early 3-0 lead, HCA rallied to score eight unanswered runs.



**JUNE 5:** For the second consecutive year, the HCA choirs and band performed at the Darien Lake Music Festival & Competition. They captured three awards, including first place in the Gospel category for the Select Choir.

# From the Advancement Office

## The HCA "Wish List"

As one academic year ends and another is set to start, we have put together a basic "Wish List" of items necessary to advance the spiritual and educational mission of Holy Cross Academy. If you wish to donate any items from this list, please contact Principal Teri Maciag.

A contribution to the Annual Fund can also help to cover the costs of purchasing school supplies and equipment.

God continues to bless Holy Cross Academy with providential donors, and we heartfully thank all who have contributed their money, time and talents!



- Chapel Furnishings: statues, processional cross, altar linens, religious artwork, Stations of the Cross
- Maintenance Equipment: commercial vacuums, floor buffer, general cleaning supplies
- Classroom Technology: Flatscreen televisions, DVD players, high-definition camcorder
- Athletic Department: Bleachers, electronic scoreboard, equipment storage shed, soccer uniforms
- Music Department: Baby Grand or Grand piano, french horn, bass clarinet, baritone and tenor saxaphones, baritone horn, timpani, chimes.

### ANNUAL FUND 2010-2011

I offer this gift to help the mission of Holy Cross Academy: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



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**Enter by August 31 to qualify for a BONUS \$100 Prize!**



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- Commencement 2010
- "Men in Black" Soccer Game
- NCAC Softball Champions
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- Annual Fund 2010-2011
- ...and much more!

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- \$5,000 GRAND PRIZE!
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- One Ticket Qualifies for ALL Drawings!

### Prizes:

1	\$5,000
1	\$1,000
2	\$750
10	\$500
10	\$200

**PLUS: SPECIAL EARLY BIRD DRAWING**  
Enter by August 31 to qualify for a BONUS \$100 PRIZE!

◆ Only 300 tickets available

◆ Benefits HCA students ◆ Drawing: Spring 2011

\*If all tickets are not sold, prizes will be adjusted proportionally. Complete rules available at [holycrossacademy.com](http://holycrossacademy.com)



**\$100/ticket**  
**ENTRY FORM INSIDE!**  
Or enter at [holycrossacademy.com](http://holycrossacademy.com)

