



Holy Cross News

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The Official Newsletter of Holy Cross Academy

Summer 2014

Presenting Our 13th Graduating Class



Valedictorian Gabriel Esparza heads to Hilburt College in Hamburg, NY, next fall where he plans to major in political science and play on the college soccer team. “There’s a lot I will miss about Holy Cross,” he said. “Everyone gets along and we’re able to be who we are. I really appreciated how the teachers always went the extra mile. I enjoyed coming to school.”



Salutatorian Anne Vaccaro earned a full tuition scholarship to Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, NY, where she will study studio art and English. She looks forward to being a teacher one day. “I want to help other people get to Heaven with kindness and love,” she said. After attending public high school until the middle of her freshman year, Anne transferred to HCA. “I felt much more accepted here,” she said.



Deacon James Chappell, Jordan Emily Hatch, Savannah LaClair Hauck, Timothy D. Anderson, Anna Catherine Gianna Judge, Gabriel Stanley Esparza, Courtney Rose Abbe, Mitchell T. Durant, Breauana Nicole Otts, Jeremiah Kemal MacGaffick, Katherine Elizabeth Stanton, Michael B. Stadelmaier, Anne Margaret Vaccaro, Maria Rose Street, Fr. Richard Kapral, Fr. Donald Karlen

With sorrow at the inevitable farewell but excitement for the future, the Holy Cross Academy community celebrated our 13th graduation on June 27 at the Church of the Holy Family in Vernon, NY. After the beautiful Mass and a touching ceremony, everyone enjoyed a magnificent array of refreshments prepared by HCA parents and students.

All of the thirteen graduates, plan to continue their studies in community colleges, four-year schools or vocational school. Among the career fields they intend to pursue are teaching, culinary arts, worship and performing arts, computer science, public administration, and graphic design.



The Light of Faith



Daniel J. Miller
President, Board of Trustees

Do you know someone who lights up the whole room when they enter, someone who is always filled with joy and brightens the day of everyone they meet? Or have you ever had that feeling of satisfaction when you read a good book, solved a tough puzzle or completed a task at home or work? Have you ever felt an inner peace knowing that you are loved and sustained by another?

Now, take it to the next level, from the natural to the supernatural. The light, the joy, the satisfaction, the peace that we experience in our everyday lives is magnified by Grace and virtuous Faith. That is when ordinary activities and relationships become extraordinary.

It is the Faith that illuminates Holy Cross Academy, from the mission to the curriculum to student activities. And when all aspects of what we do are enlightened in this way, it is impossible to contain it. It spills over and encompasses everything.

“The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence.”
- Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei*

It is our aim to provide an extraordinary environment for our students, the opportunity to know the love of Christ, to share in His life and to walk in His light. This raises academics to the pursuit of knowledge and truth. This raises creative or athletic performances to sharing the joy of God’s gifts to us with the world. This raises having fun with friends to seeking together our eternal destiny, arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder.

It is our goal to help form HCA students so that when they enter the world, they will set their torches on the hilltops, shout from the rooftops, and glorify God in all that they do.

“Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
- Matt. 5:15-17

We hope you enjoy reading in this issue of Holy Cross News about how HCA students are reflecting the light of Christ in school and beyond. Thank you for your prayers and support which makes it all possible.

In Christ,

Prayer Intentions

Please join our HCA family in prayer:

- For the Eternal Repose of the souls of Caroline Matwijec, Virginia White, and Alice Plavcan
- For the health of Martin Gilbert, Reece Dailey and Stephen Curley
- For our students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, and benefactors
- Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis for September 2014:

Mentally disabled. That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.

Service to the poor. That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

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SUBSCRIPTION FREE UPON REQUEST

HELP SPREAD THE LIGHT

Keeping tuition affordable for all families is a high priority at Holy Cross Academy. We do not rely on State or Diocesan funding. *We rely on you.* You can easily make a contribution by clipping this box and sending it with a check in the envelope provided or through our website:

www.holycrossacademy.com
Click on “Support HCA” at to make a secure online donation.
Thank You!

Yes! I want to help keep the light of faith burning brightly for the students at HCA!
Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- other



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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Letting Our Light Shine



Superior performances of gospel and popular songs led the HCA choirs to win the Grand Champion trophy for all vocal categories at the Darien Lake Music Competition on May 31. They earned an aggregate score of 99.7 out of 100, competing against more than 40 schools from across the state, including large schools from Syracuse and Buffalo. “It’s always a thrill and a great challenge to perform and compete alongside such quality music programs from schools across the state that are many times our size,” said HCA Director of Music Scott Rutledge, “but ultimately it just comes down to having great kids who buy into the program, and are willing to put the work in to become their very best.”



Service to others comes naturally to most students at HCA, but it’s still important to acknowledge their contributions. On June 4, students who had completed and exceeded their community service hours gathered at the idyllic Kanon Valley Golf Course for the annual Community Service Banquet. Each student received a certificate, and Carina Snyder won the top award for her more than 125 hours of community service during the year. Many thanks to Kelly Boswell for her management of our Community Service Program throughout the year.



Sixteen Holy Cross Academy students in grades 10 through 12 were inducted into the National Honor Society on June 10, recognizing their accomplishments in scholarship, leadership, service and character. Pictured in the back row from left to right are Mara Pabis, Gabriel Esparza, Aaron Dostie, Andrew Vaccaro, Jilianne Cady, Kevin Lohr, Veronica Boswell, Margaret Cummings, and Emily Crofton. In the front row from left to right are Katherine Stanton, Courtney Abbe, David Twal, Rebecca Vanderhoof, Jessica van Lieshout, Maria van Lieshout, and Brianna Paugh. HCA’s participation in the National Honor Society is new this year thanks to the efforts of Kim Cady.



Several members of the HCA choirs, along with parents and alumni lifted their voices in praise during the Mass for the Great American Irish Festival in Frankfort, NY, on July 27. Later that day our senior choir joined the internationally renowned Irish band The Elders for the festival’s grande finale concert.

MY FAIR LADY VIDEOS

Copies of HCA’s musical theater production of *My Fair Lady* are now available on DVD. You can purchase yours for only \$10 by stopping by the school office or calling 363-1669.



Amidst the exuberance and joy of the annual spring formal dinner dance, HCA students proved once again that faith matters more than fun at their school. News came to junior Carina Snyder that a friend of her family, Reece Dailey, had suffered terrible injuries in a car accident. His life hung by barely a thread. When the students heard this, they asked the DJ to stop the music. Then they all bowed their heads and prayed. Shortly after that, Carina received a text saying that Reece, who had been completely unresponsive, had just wiggled his toes. Reece is now making slow progress toward recovery.