2020
Holy Cross Jubilarians
SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS

Br. James Lakofka, C.S.C.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Rev. Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C.
Rev. Kenneth Grabner, C.S.C.
Rev. William Hund, C.S.C.
Rev. Jerome Knoll, C.S.C.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST VOWS

Br. Patrick Lynch, C.S.C.
Br. Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Rev. John Connor, C.S.C.
Rev. Stephen Gibson, C.S.C.
Rev. William Kelley, C.S.C.
Rev. Edward Malloy, C.S.C.
Rev. Leo Polselli, C.S.C.
Rev. Oliver Williams, C.S.C.

Rev. Frank Quinlivan, C.S.C.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Province

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Rev. James Burasa, C.S.C.
Rev. James Foster, C.S.C.
Rev. John Herman, C.S.C.
Sixtieth Anniversary of Ordination

Rev. Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C.

Rev. Kenneth Grabner, C.S.C.

Rev. William Hund, C.S.C.

Rev. Jerome Knoll, C.S.C.

TWTNFTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Rev. James Burasa, C.S.C.

Rev. James Foster, C.S.C.

Rev. John Herman, C.S.C.
As disciples of Jesus we stand side by side with all people. Like them we are burdened by the same struggles and beset by the same weaknesses; like them we are made new by the same Lord’s love; like them we hope for a world where justice and love prevail. Thus, wherever through its superiors the Congregation sends us, we go as educators in the faith to those whose lot we share, supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere in their efforts to form communities of the coming Kingdom.

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 2:12

Jubilee.HolyCrossUSA.org
50 years ... and the best yet to come.

These fifty years were prepared during other years of personal transformation in a rich and colorful community life in our Eastern Province. In 1961, with about 40 classmates, we began a lifelong adventure as disciples-in-making. That is still ongoing ... and the best is yet to come. Fifty years as priests has become our common ground for celebration and thanksgiving. As for me, there are many fellow CSCs who have blessed my discipleship with their generous and deep support.

Profound thanks to Bill Toohey, whose pastoral leadership with youth and his insight into preaching showed me Christ as the only real theme to share in a community you truly care for. Pat Sullivan shared ground work for his thesis with us from Holy Cross College as we joined him to interview families in Baltimore ... where we lost our fear and gained love for the poor in their needs. Jerry Lawyer in his street walking hellos to everyone he met on the neighborhood sidewalks in The Bronx, learning as disciples to share peace and joy generously.

A special thanks to José Prado in Brazil, whose love for theology and openness for fledgling authors opened a new source for appreciation of new insights of theological wisdom to be shared and lived in pastoral outreach. When Holy Cross College was integrated to Notre Dame, the opportunity to study scripture with Josephine M. Ford opened up a new and wonderful experience of biblical endeavor that has me forever grateful to her. This preparation fortified efforts to share love of scripture during many years of seminary teaching here in Peru.

Throughout all these years, there have always been close-though-distant classmates whose friendship and occasional encounters have enriched the ongoing love of pastoral life and the fruits we can share with each other. Frank Quinlivan, whose simple love for people shines brilliantly in the shadows of poverty ... Joe Callahan whose love of scripture and song always kept him joyful and available ... Bob Brennan with his calm and sage advice always worth listening to ... Dave Farrell, a dynamic and thoughtful contributor to many solutions.

As for me, this lifetime in Peru has been a source of deep blessings both as disciple and as pastor for amazing communities of profound and consistent faith lived throughout difficult realities enlightened in our efforts to walk toward better times created together. Aging along the way and maintaining health through some difficult moments, the present season includes a slowing down and an appreciated sense of earned wisdom as personal experience and clarity in core values to be shared moving on as disciple-pastor for the remaining moments of grace to be lived gratefully.
Rev. John Connor, C.S.C.
Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination

I was born on November 27, 1940, at Ft. Lewis, Wash., to Albert and Betty Connor. I have a brother, Michael and a sister, Cathy.

I was ordained to the priesthood on January 3, 1970, at Fort McPherson, Ga., by Bishop Thomas Donnellan of Atlanta, Ga.

I served most of my priesthood in the Coachella Valley (California) for some 39 years among the Hispanic community.

In January, 1982, Fr. Jose Pawlicki, C.S.C., asked me to assist him in Indio, Cali. with a Hispanic center and The Valley Missionary Program. While there, I formed a team for the Hispanic Pathfinder Retreat for Youth. This retreat was given for 25 years. With the help of Riverside County Alcohol Division, a group of us began the Esperanza Youth and Family Center for the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse among youth.

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In 1987, Holy Cross accepted the responsibility of Our Lady of Soledad Parish in Coachella, Cali. Fr. Robert Nogosek, C.S.C., was named pastor of the parish and I was designated his associate pastor. Fr. Jose Pawlicki, C.S.C., continued as the Director of the Valley Missionary Program.

The Valley Missionary Program continued to hold its 4-day retreats. In 1991, Fr. Pawlicki and the Valley Missionary Program Members built a Retreat Center. In 1993, they also completed a Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Alongside of it was a statue of St. Joseph with the Christ child. Over time, Fr. Jose’s health deteriorated and on Dec. 13, 1999, he died. The memorial Mass was celebrated by Bishop Gerald Barnes and was attended by more than 1,500 people.

I was invited to become a member of the Riverside County Mental Health Board. One program, promoted by the Department of Mental Health was Called to Care, a 14-week training program for caregivers which emphasized active listening skills. Also by this time, I was doing a great deal of pastoral counseling in our parish.

In 1999, a new pastor was named for Our Lady of Soledad Parish. Fr. Bruce Cecil, C.S.C. Fr. Robert Nogosek, C.S.C., was named director of diaconate formation. Among Fr. Bruce's many new initiatives was fundraising to build a new church. He purchased 10 acres on which the new church was eventually built in 2019.

During this period, I became interested in spirituality and spiritual direction. I received training at the School for Spiritual Direction given by the Benedictines of San Luis Obispo. The Diocese of San Bernardino recognized my contribution to pastoral ministry by awarding to me the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal in the Spring of 2007.

In the summer of 2010, our Holy Cross Community decided to withdraw our commitment to serve in Our Lady of Soledad Parish. The Trinitarian Missionaries assumed responsibility for the parish.

In June 2017, I moved to Holy Cross House, Notre Dame, Ind. I thank God and Holy Cross for the blessing of my life in Hispanic pastoral ministry.
Rev. Stephen Gibson, C.S.C.
Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination

Having been born in Fort Wayne, Ind., and spending my grade school years in Tiffin, Ohio, I followed my brother and sister into Holy Cross College as a freshman in Holy Cross Seminary, along with 55 other young men. Frank Quinlivan and I are the only two left from that class.

As a college seminarian at Moreau, I was glad to be among the first to join the Community for the International Lay Apostolate (CILA) and spend a summer in Mexico with Len Collins in Tacamboro, Michuacan, while Frank and John Connor went to Peru. At the encouragement of Greg Steigmeier, I asked to be assigned to the Foreign Mission Seminary in Washington, D.C. When our theology training returned to Notre Dame, Duane Balcerski and I asked to spend our last year in Uganda, where I was eventually ordained at Virika Cathedral in Fort Portal. I then married my father and my stepmother at my first Mass at Saaka the next day.

Returning to the States after a few years of teaching at St. Leo’s College, I gladly joined the staff at Fatima Retreat Center and spent the next 32 years there. During three of those years, I was also the rector of Carroll Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

Because of a developing interest in audio/video productions, I was able to serve the community on many occasions with presentations for Province Assemblies and other community gatherings, and for the beatification of our founder, Fr. Moreau. I am profoundly grateful for the fact that this interest took me to every corner of the world. We truly are an international congregation for which we have so much to be proud.

For the last eleven years, I have been the spiritual director of the Fr. Peyton Centre in County Mayo, Ireland. Under the guidance of Holy Cross Family Ministries, our ministry here includes many social services to senior citizens, youth retreats and activities, community events and liturgical celebrations. Last year, Attymass received national attention as the best little village in all of Ireland, receiving the Pride of Place Award.

Over the years, I have been delighted to have a number of visitors here to Ireland. Most recently Jack Keefe, who was here for a few months of good fellowship, prayer and uplifting conversation. My hope would be that many others would see this as a great place to come for some quiet time and an opportunity to experience this beautiful land of “Saints and Scholars.” We have a guest residence for as many as ten visitors.

I am grateful to all the men and women, lay and religious, who have inspired me and guided me and challenged me and put up with me through all these years. And may there be a few more years yet to come.
I grew up in Lowell, Mass. After graduating from Merrimack College, I taught high school science and math for several years. While teaching those courses and helping students wrestle with the social and academic challenges they had to face in the classroom, I thought of ministry in the broader sense and of trying to help people of all ages through the priesthood. Not long after making up my mind, I entered the Holy Cross Fathers Seminary. After ordination in 1970, I was on the mission band, in Dartmouth, Mass., giving missions or retreats in parish settings, retreat houses and to religious communities. The retreat work I was engaged in was enjoyable. I met a lot of good people searching for and trying to come to terms with the Church they had grown up in that had changed so much with the implementation of Vatican II. It was an enriching experience as well as a very rewarding one!

After that ministry, I was appointed for the next six years to a parish in Bethel, Vt., in the central part of the state. This parish was one of five churches to which I and another priest had to minister. There was a lot of poverty in the area, mirrored in the dilapidation and disrepair I found on the church property itself. Remember, this was in the mid-70s. It was a time when a lot of people were returning to nature, giving up big jobs and taking a pay cut for the quality of life they hoped to find in rural Vermont. Again, I met some beautiful people.

From the hills of Vermont, I then moved to Texas to be with Rev. Larry Bauer, C.S.C. He was ordained the same year I was born, though I was the pastor. The parish was in Copperas Cove, near Fort Hood Military Base. Again, I was privileged to meet many beautiful people at very significant times in their lives. I know I found the Lord present in their lives and I hope they found His presence in me. Next assignment was back in Massachusetts to Holy Cross Parish in South Easton. Again, new experiences and many wonderful people.

After South Easton, I was appointed to be an assistant pastor in Bennington, Vt., for five years and then, for two years, an assistant at St. Mary’s Parish, Taunton, Mass. Again, I had a chance to meet some extraordinary people who shared part of their lives with me and were an inspiration to me.

After that, I was named pastor to a parish in Taunton, Mass., and had to minister there as the only priest. Later, after that assignment, I was called to a meeting with my provincial. I expected him to say, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You may go to the beach and enjoy the rewards of a good life!” Instead, I got: “Bill, I have a new assignment for you - Bennington, Vt.” So I went back to Bennington, replacing two priests assigned there earlier. A year later, the Bishop of Vermont asked me to take on another parish, so then I had two parishes! Lucky me!

At age 75, retirement finally seemed appealing! And it was and still is. Now, I live with 25 priests. I do, however, help out in local parishes on a limited basis. I have been fortunate to have never lived alone, but have always lived with other Holy Cross priests or brothers.

During the last 50 years, many events stand out: the death of my parents and other friends and relatives who were present 50 years ago; the changing views of the priesthood, with many friends who were holier than I and much more effective, choosing to leave the active priesthood; and very touching times of deaths and funerals, whether death was unexpected or came as a welcome friend in their lives. Finally, the inspiration of family and friends living a faith-filled life also stands out. All these happenings and
the people associated with them come to mind, reminding me that life has been good, very good, and that I have been blessed, not only by the good Lord, but also by the good people whom I have tried to serve as a Holy Cross priest. Indeed, I have been blessed.
I completed my 18th and final year as President of the University of Notre Dame on July 1, 2005 and now serve as President Emeritus. I am a full professor in the Department of Theology and have been a member of the faculty since 1974. As President Emeritus, I continue to teach and conduct a seminar for first-year undergraduates each semester. I make my home in Sorin Hall.

I am the author of more than 50 articles and book chapters, the editor or co-editor of two books, and have published ten books. My latest book was released in October of 2018 and is entitled Monk's Musings. In 2007, I published a 4-part audio CD series on ‘Terrorism, Counterterrorism and the Ethics of Warfare’ by Now You Know Media.

I earned a doctorate in Christian ethics from Vanderbilt University in 1975 and Vanderbilt honored me in 1998 with the establishment of a chair in Catholic Studies in my name. I have also been awarded 25 honorary degrees. I earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from Notre Dame in 1963 and 1967 and a second master’s degree, in theology, in 1969 while studying for the priesthood. I was ordained to the priesthood in Sacred Heart Basilica on campus in 1970.

My service to higher education has been long-standing and presently includes membership on the boards of the University of Portland, St. Thomas University, and our own Notre Dame Board of Trustees. During my 18 years as President of the University of Notre Dame, I played a leadership role in many of the major higher education associations, including the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), Campus Compact, the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU), the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), and various committees of the NCAA. I was also a long-time member of the Business-Higher Education Forum.

In addition to my involvement in Campus Compact, my roles in encouraging social service have included activity with AmeriCorps, Points of Light Foundation, and the Board of Governors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

In combating substance abuse, I have been a member of the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, President Bush’s Advisory Council on Drugs, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the Governor’s Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, and I am currently a member of the board of the Center on Addiction, (formerly National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse) at Columbia University. I have also been co-chair of a major study on college drinking for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. In a related matter, I chaired an NCAA committee on sports wagering.

I have served the Catholic Church in a number of capacities, including participation on the Ex corde Ecclesiae committee and the Bishops-Presidents committee of the U.S. Catholic Conference. I frequently speak at fund-raising events on behalf of Catholic primary and secondary schools and Catholic hospitals.

In 2013, I was appointed to Riley Children’s Hospital Board of Governors and I serve on the South Bend Leadership Committee for Riley Children’s Foundation.

In August 2008, I donated a kidney to my nephew and since then I have become an advocate for organ transplantation.

I am a native of Washington, D.C., and was born May 3, 1941.
May 22, 2020, the day intended for our Annual Jubilee Celebration at Notre Dame, Ind., is also the day of my 80th birthday. I was born in Fall River, Mass., the son of Gaetano and Mary Polselli and was one of nine children – Armand, Amato, Eugene, Gaetano, Mario, Anna, Rita, Leo and Anthony. My early education was in public schools until I enrolled at Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass., in 1958 and graduated in 1962 with a degree in Economics. I entered the Peace Corps upon graduation and was sent to Valdivia, Chile. Those were exciting and formative years both for the work I did and the associations I had with local lay and religious missionaries and the bishop of the diocese.

The Congregation of Holy Cross accepted me in 1965 and after studies in Washington, D.C. and Notre Dame, Ind., I was missioned to Chile for my diaconate. I was ordained to the priesthood on July 14, 1970. I began teaching at Notre Dame High School in Bridgeport, Conn., but quickly moved on to vocation recruitment, Novitiate formation and in 1981, become pastor at Most Holy Trinity in Saco, Maine. In 1986, I received a fateful phone call telling me of my election to the General Administration of the Congregation, for which I served from 1986-1992. Those years were challenging, but in retrospect, they provided me with some lasting gifts. I developed a profound appreciation for the international character of our Congregation and fully inserted myself into the diverse cultures and languages. I was able to study Italian and French and use both today along with the Spanish I acquired in the Peace Corp and Brazilian Portuguese that I acquired with the assistance of our Holy Cross brothers in Brazil.

Upon returning to the Eastern Province of Holy Cross in 1992, I was asked to work with Family Rosary in Albany, N.Y., and live with our Holy Cross brothers in Valatia, N.Y. That lasted but a few years and following that ministry I was assigned as pastor in Bennington, Vt., and was also asked to be the administrator of Saint Francis de Sales in Bennington. I would eventually merge the two.

For the last 20 years, I have been with Family Rosary in North Easton, Mass., and for most of those years was the designated chaplain. It has been exciting to witness the growth of the ministry worldwide but also locally with the engagement of the Brazilian, Haitian and Cape Verdean communities.

As I enter the fourth stage of my life, it remains to be seen how much longer I will remain with Holy Cross Family Ministries; however, if that were to terminate, I anticipate my being actively involved with several local parish collaboratives.
Fifty years! My first thought is: Who would want to celebrate fifty years of anything! Who is counting?

While I certainly have not been counting, the years have flown by. True, my life has not always been a rose garden, but it is fair to say that I have enjoyed each and every year. It has been a great adventure. With the exception of three sabbatical years in Africa and one in Asia, all my teaching years have been at the University of Notre Dame. I have taught thousands of students and it is rare for me to travel through an airport and not meet a former pupil. During my time at Notre Dame, I have served as priest-in-residence in four dorms: Dillon, Flanner, Siegfried, and currently Welsh Family.

While my classes focus on the core principles of business ethics and Catholic social teaching, my own personal vocation is nurtured by the conviction that in a small way, I am building up the Kingdom of God by my life and work. The inspiration guiding me is that I am leaving the world a little better than I found it. Helping students see that the Gospel values of compassion, generosity, social justice, forgiveness and care for others have a place in a successful professional life is my vision. I have been blessed by a community of scholars at the University of Notre Dame who see to it that I do not take myself too seriously and that I plod along with success and failure alike. Discovering the hidden face of Christ in the least likely places has been nurtured by our common spirituality.

Having been blessed with unusually good health, I love travel and experiencing new cultures. For the past 20 years, I have spent a month or two in South Africa as well as a month in South Korea. Academic appointments during the summer months in these two countries have enabled me to expand my research and enhance my teaching.

One of the formative experiences early in my life was working summers in a Wall Street financial firm as a messenger boy. Fortunately, there were few messages to deliver and I had much time to read and reflect on the role of business in society. What became clear to me was the enormous power of business. After completing undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame, I served as an officer in the United States Navy. While I loved the sea (and still do) and running the ship underway, one of my responsibilities was the care and discipline of a number of young men who had poor family life and little education. This was a whole level of society that I had never experienced before, people who clearly needed help if they were to be contributing members of society. Could we somehow mobilize the power of business to address the problems of the least advantaged?

When the United Nations announced in 2000 that it was forming a new unit that would coordinate businesses throughout the world in a new challenging role of advancing the poor and disadvantaged, I was overjoyed. The unit was called the United Nations Global Compact. Businesses that joined agreed to look out for the welfare of the weak and slowly try to overcome world poverty. The United Nations passed 17 Sustainable Development Goals encompassing a whole range of issues including hunger, health, education and climate. Businesses agreed to apply resources to these social issues. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the United Nations Global Compact Foundation since 2006 and have seen its membership grow from a few dozen companies to over 10,000 companies in 160 countries today. While we still have a long way to go, the world is a
much better place than it was because of the many projects of the business community.

One of the joys of my life is having nine nieces and nephews study at the University of Notre Dame. Getting to know them and seeing their parents at regular visits has been a wonderful experience.

I hope these reflections help the reader understand how and why the fifty years have gone so fast. But then again, who is counting!
Looking back at my seminary formation, all has basically disappeared since I was ordained in 1970 – Holy Cross High School Seminary is long gone and so is the Novitiate in Jordan, Minn. I had four years of college seminary at Moreau Seminary, but, by 1970, that was a very different place. I had theology living at the Foreign Mission Seminary and going to Holy Cross College in Washington. Both were closed. On the day of ordination, if one finds his whole formation leading to that day gone, it might make him wonder.

I had always wanted to be a missionary and I have been very blessed to spend 32 of these 50 years in Bangladesh. There were also two sets of 9 years each in The States, which were very special times.

From 1970-1979, I was doing inner-city ministry in South Bend - St. Augustine Parish, St. Peter Claver House, Holy Cross Justice and Peace Center and Justice and Peace work for the Province.

From late 1979 until mid-1985, I was getting my feet wet in Bangladesh - one year in formation work, and 4 years in parish ministry after learning Bengali.

From 1985-1994, six years was spent at the Novitiate in Colorado. That was a transforming period in my life, as were my three years as assistant provincial in Notre Dame, Ind.

I was able to return to Bangladesh 26 years ago in mid-1994 and I am still there, now a member of the Bangladesh Province and still captivated by it and in love with it. It is my home.

These last 26 years to date in Bangladesh offered me a wide variety of experiences - a total of 4 years in our two pastoral Centers, 9.5 years as pastor of a rural tribal parish, then helping in our formation houses, where I am involved in different ways in our new university and also six years as Provincial.

There have been some chaplaincies, a lot of retreat giving, some committee work. With a lot of help from people here, there has been one long running work of helping poor and orphan young women continuing their education after high school, a project I really love. Many different ministries for sure but all from one commitment.

I'm pushing 77 years now, but have been blessed with good health although my legs are now usually stiff and sore. I hope to be able to continue in Bangladesh. I would hope one day to be buried there.

I love Holy Cross and am so grateful to the Congregation. It is a very special community and I am privileged to be a part of it.

I was/am very blessed by my family who always encouraged me and accepted so well only seeing me every three years or so. My only sibling, Sr. Mary Jeanne Quinlivan, O.S.F., here today, has been a constant source of love and care.

I love to read novels. That is my major recreation. I am totally computer illiterate. So, fifty years! Please do pray for me. I have tried to live simply and I have tried to be faithful. I think I can say that much honestly about myself.
I was born to Boniface Burasa and Scholastica Mukarwigema on February 16, 1960 in Rwanda. My family sought refuge status in Uganda. Sadly, my mother did not survive the violent exile and discrimination at that time.

I went to Ibuga Primary School in Uganda, did Ordinary Level and Advanced Level from 1979 to 1985 and joined the Congregation of Holy Cross in East Africa in 1986. I entered the Novitiate in Lake Saaka, Fort Portal, Uganda, in 1989, made Final Vows on August 15, 1994, and was ordained a priest on May 6, 1995.

Tragedy struck again when my father and other relatives were murdered in the Rwandan genocide. Despite the heartbreak of these losses, I did not permit my spirit or my faith to be crushed.

I received a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from Pontifical Urbaniana, Rome, Italy, Magna Cum Laude Probatus and a Bachelor’s degree in Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology Hekima Nairobi, 2nd Class Honors Upper Division. From 2000 to 2002, I completed a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (Master’s in Dogmatic/Systematics), Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, Magna Cum Laude, and in 2017, I completed my PhD in Sacred Theology with a specialization in Dogmatic (Systematic) Theology at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, Summa Cum Laude.

After ordination in 1995, I was assistant parish priest (curate) at St. Jude’s Parish, Kyarusozi, Uganda. From 1996 to 2000, I was pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Dandora, Nairobi, Kenya. Holy Cross Parish, which serves over 34,000 Christians, is in one of the poorest areas of Nairobi. There, I was challenged to become a profound spiritual leader and help people overcome life-changing situations and stressful conditions. From 2003 to 2012, I served as the first indigenous superior of the District of East Africa. Following my tenure as superior, I took a year long sabbatical, lecturing at Tangaza University, Salesian University College – Utume, and Chem Chemi, all in Nairobi, Kenya. I am currently parish priest at St. Jude’s Parish, Kyarusozi.
I was born on August 19, 1955, to John and Irene O’Flaherty Foster at Holy Cross Hospital in the Marquette Park area on the southwest side of Chicago. I lived the first six years of my life in St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, the parish in which my mother had grown up and where my grandparents still lived less than a block away. I am the middle child of seven. The deep and active faith of my parents, siblings, and extended family who lived locally, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins was a strong influence in my formative years. Our family ultimately moved 5 miles south to Evergreen Park and Most Holy Redeemer Parish when I was starting second grade. It was there that I met the Holy Cross community; while St. Nick’s school was run by the Adrian Dominicans, Holy Redeemer’s grade school was run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. I fondly remember the many Holy Cross sisters who taught and ministered there during my formative years: Sr. Colette, Sr. Hope, Sr. Agatha, Sr. Thomas, Sr. Eileen Therese, among them. There was also Sr. Lourdes, my fourth grade religion teacher, who was able to attend my ordination 25 years ago, and who died this past January at the age of 109. The Holy Cross sisters, along with all the priests and religious at St. Nick’s and Holy Redeemer, were a model of faith and stability during that turbulent decade for the Church and country, the 1960’s.

My interest in priesthood and religious life, nurtured within my family, initially took shape there at Holy Redeemer. In fact, during a third grade ‘Vocation Play,’ in which all the students dressed up in the formal habits of the various religious communities, Sr. Lourdes picked me to play the Holy Cross priest. I could just say, “and the rest is history!,” and bring this story to a close. It was a spark, but just a spark. There is more to the story. After graduating from grammar school in 1969, I attended Brother Rice High School, where I was taught by the Irish Christian Brothers, who helped to instill a strong work ethic, an appreciation for the complementarity of faith and reason, and a love for both the sciences and humanities, a passion that I carried forward into college. For college, I attended my second Holy Cross institution, the University of Notre Dame, where I studied Biology, but balanced that with music, singing and traveling with the Glee Club and Chorale over the four years. It was at Notre Dame that my interest in the sciences grew and where I began to see a future in medicine as a means to combine that interest in science with a desire to serve. I lived in Fisher Hall during those years at Notre Dame. Little did I know that my wonderful rector at the time, Fr. Carl Ebey, C.S.C., would be serving as the Provincial of the Indiana Province when I reconnected with Holy Cross 10 years down the road.

After graduation from Notre Dame in 1977, I attended the University of Illinois School of Medicine in Chicago, known at the time as the Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine. There, I developed an interest in Internal Medicine, and so I pursued a residency in Internal Medicine at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois, staying on there to pursue a fellowship in Infectious Diseases. I was ultimately board-certified in both and practiced for several years in the western suburbs of Chicago. Those years of medical education and training flew by. While I enjoyed working with patients and colleagues in the profession, and while I enjoyed the nature of medical practice, the almost Sherlock Holmesian approach to problem-solving and treatment, there was something missing. At various junctures during my medical training, at the end of medical school, or internship, or residency, or fellowship, thoughts returned to priesthood and religious life. While I knew that the treatments medicine offered were helpful, therapeutic or palliative,
often a deeper healing was needed, a healing that I couldn't provide. I wanted to connect with that source of healing. “By His wounds, we are healed.”

I began to look into religious life more formally and from the beginning, Holy Cross seemed like home to me. I entered the candidate program in 1989 and then the novitiate in Cascade in 1990. I then returned to Moreau Seminary and Notre Dame to pursue seminary formation and the Master of Divinity degree, completing that in 1994. I took Final Vows on August 29, 1994, and was ordained to the presbyterate on April 22, 1995. My first assignment was serving as deacon and then associate pastor of Holy Cross Parish in South Bend. I've been looking through old Final Vow and ordination cards recently, many from parishioners at Holy Cross Parish, men and women of deep faith, who helped to shape and form me in my early ministry. After that first year as a priest, I pursued further training, a Fellowship in Clinical Ethics at the University of Chicago School of Medicine, and then I returned to Notre Dame the following year.

Since the fall of 1997, I have been teaching and advising in the College of Science at Notre Dame, at first under the guidance of Fr. Joseph Walter, C.S.C. Fr. Walter had been serving as the main pre-med advisor at Notre Dame and Chair of the Science Preprofessional Studies Department since 1970. He had written the formal ‘committee letter’ for me when I applied to medical school some 20 years earlier. He had been one of the founders and leaders of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions, so he knew the field well and served as a great mentor for me over the years. After his retirement in 2005, I was named Chair of the Department and Director of the newly established Center for Health Sciences Advising.

I've continued in those roles since then. As a member of the Corby Hall community, I've also had the opportunity to serve in a variety of other roles, as a Chaplain to the men of Knott Hall, as Chaplain to the Notre Dame Marching Band and Glee Club, and as a member of the formation staff at Moreau Seminary.

As I reflected on my work at Notre Dame for a Vocation video several years back, I said: “I enjoy being one-on-one with a student who is trying to discern how God is calling her or him to a future of service, and to some extent my background in medicine makes it easy for them to connect with me because they know that I was in their shoes a few years back, and so I have an understanding of the difficulties they face, especially in the core science courses ... To work in a place like this with very intelligent students, but also students with very, very big hearts who want to give their lives over in service to others, to be able to walk with them on their journeys as they make these fundamental vocational decisions in their lives, it is a privilege.”

The name of “Holy Cross” has been a part of my life from the beginning: the hospital where I was born, the sisters who taught me in grammar school, the priests who taught me in college, the parishioners who taught me as a first year priest, the community that has sustained and supported me over the years. My heart is filled with gratitude to my family and friends, my brothers in community, and colleagues who have supported me with their prayers and love. And I thank God for the opportunity to continue to serve God's people as a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross.
On the occasion of our Holy Cross community’s celebration of the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, I give thanks to God for many undeserved blessings during those years. It’s been a great blessing to be able to bring the love and the presence of Jesus to the people through the celebration of the Eucharist and so many baptisms, confessions, anointings of the sick and marriages.

I’m grateful to God for the faith that my parents, John and Judy Herman, shared with me from my earliest days. I’m grateful to them for twelve years of Catholic education and for getting me into Sister Regina Marie Schmidt’s first grade class, where she encouraged her students to consider vocations to the religious life and priesthood. I also owe a debt of gratitude to my mom, who on many Sunday mornings after Mass said to our family, “Wouldn’t it be nice if God called one of our sons to be a priest?” I wouldn’t be a Holy Cross priest now without my parents’ love, example, prayers and support. I’m grateful to my siblings and their spouses, Joan and Henry Pierson, Jim and Heidi and Jerry and Colleen, for their love and support along the way as well.

I’m grateful to our Holy Cross community as well for my vocation. I don’t know that I could have become a religious and priest any other way. I’m grateful to my provincial superiors for assigning me to St. John Vianney Parish in Arizona (twice), O’Neill Hall and Campus Ministry at the University of Notre Dame, La Luz Parish in Mexico and Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, Ind. Each ministry has been a blessing to me for the people I have encountered and served in each place and for all that they have taught me. I’m grateful to the classmates who began with me and are still with us for their friendship and brotherhood, Fr. Jeff Cooper, Fr. John Dougherty, Fr. David Scheidler and Bishop Bill Wack. I’m grateful that I was able to be ordained with Fr. Jim Foster. I’m grateful to my first pastor and friend, Fr. Joe Corpora, for helping me have a good start at St. John Vianney and for his example of priestly zeal, mercy and love for the poor.

Thanks be to God for so many undeserved blessings. I hope and pray for greater fidelity to God and His will in my life in the future and for God’s grace to work through me in my service as a Holy Cross priest the years to come.