



THE FOUR

CORNERSTONES

HOLY CROSS
MISSION CENTER



*“The farther we go
the more we stand*

*in giving
to receive.”*

*Constitutions of the
Congregation of Holy Cross, 2:17*

What are the Four Cornerstones of the Holy Cross Mission Center?

With the ever evolving needs of our Holy Cross family and the impact of global events, the Holy Cross Mission Center (HCMC) has identified four areas of emphasis – **Four Cornerstones** – which reflect the important mission work of Holy Cross around the world and build upon the traditional ministries of the Congregation – education, parish, mission.

The HCMC will continue to **build bridges and serve the most vulnerable**, with hopes to build communities of more Compassion and Peace through projects in the following **four areas of support**.



The **Four Cornerstones** are consistent with the Church's Social Teaching and also present in Pope Francis' ministry and leadership. They hold up the Gospel of Love, form the foundation for living out the charism of mission, and are also already a part of our Congregation's ministry endeavors.

Women & Children



Immigrants, Refugees & Indigenous People



Environment & Care for Our Common Home



Peace Awareness & Initiatives



What are the Four Cornerstones of the Holy Cross Mission Center?

With the ever evolving needs of our Holy Cross family and the impact of global events, the Holy Cross Mission Center (HCMC) has identified four areas of emphasis – **Four Cornerstones** – which reflect the important mission work of Holy Cross around the world and build upon the traditional ministries of the Congregation – education, parish, mission.

The HCMC will continue to **build bridges and serve the most vulnerable**, with hopes to build communities of more Compassion and Peace through projects in the following **four areas of support**.

The **Four Cornerstones** are consistent with the Church's Social Teaching and also present in Pope Francis' ministry and leadership. They hold up the Gospel of Love, form the foundation for living out the charism of mission, and are also already a part of our Congregation's ministry endeavors.



Women & Children

Women and children are often ostracized, forced to live without opportunity, facing extreme inequality, injustice, marginalization, and impoverished health and education. Children often bear the brunt of this poverty – **there is no one poorer than a poor child**. Success in bringing justice and battling poverty is dependent on the empowerment and support of women.

Lack of access to clean water also deeply affects women and girls because they are given the task of traveling to get water – impacting their education and ability to break through the ceiling of poverty, as well as continuing a systemic cycle of marginalization and maternal morbidity.

Providing safety, a home, education, food, medical and emotional support for children and young people has been the work of Holy Cross throughout many generations and across all lands. Ministries such as **Yancana Huasy** and **Fundamor** support children whose rights have been taken, or children who have been abandoned or abused.

Immigrants, Refugees & Indigenous People

Receiving and aiding immigrants is a Catholic issue and a call of the Church. Our common faith tells us that we are brothers and sisters; we are all children of the Living God, no matter what race, ethnicity, language, or place of origin. Thus, we are **responsible for taking care of each other** – immigrants around the world can benefit from our assistance, and refugees require immediate care as they are fleeing situations of danger and hardship.

“The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin.”
(No. 2241, emphasis added).

Holy Cross Ministries from Nairobi to Chittagong and Santiago to South Bend, and all places in between, have served and continue to care for immigrants and refugees. We work through many avenues, especially education. Together, we can support the wealth of refugees, and not just their economic security, but by **promoting freedoms and liberties**.

Environment & Care for Our Common Home

The environment is a global concern, yet many areas feel a greater impact than others, such as in Haiti and Bangladesh, where climate change has divided communities, destroyed or washed away structures, and affected food supplies. Caring for our Common Home is not just a question of environmental respect, but also a **need to answer the needs of the poor**.

“Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”
(Laudato Si, 49)

Our brothers and sisters living in poverty are generally the most impacted by degradation to Creation. They are most often those who go without access to clean water, which can **impact people's economic status, mental, physical and emotional health, as well as academic performance**.

Peace Awareness & Initiatives

This cornerstone calls us to look at our power and see how to use it for the betterment of others. Reflecting will help us grow in **gratitude for blessings** and **increase solidarity** with our global brothers and sisters.

“Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice” ~ Benedict Spinoza

Peace is the golden thread woven throughout all of our areas of ministry, and the three other cornerstones, and it's a lifelong mission that must be conveyed through both words and actions in order to bring change.

The HCMC has tremendous interest in **peace studies and initiatives in Holy Cross schools around the world**, especially Brazil, France and the United States. One example of peace initiatives linked with traditional ministry is the Notre Dame Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. Not only do these works of Peace have a place in education, but in parishes, retreats and catechesis as well.

Please join us in continuing support for the advocacy and protection essential to the growth and success of children, bringing the Gospel to immigrants, refugees and indigenous peoples all over the world, and bringing about change by supporting peace programs with students, schools, parishes, ministries and beyond.

“These four initiatives evolve from the one Cornerstone – the love Christ has for all people. May the Lord bless these works and all those who support them, as we serve some of the greatest needs in our world and Church today.”

To donate, or for more information about our Four Cornerstones, please visit:
Cornerstones.HolyCrossUSA.org.

Fr. Michael DeLaney, C.S.C.