

Ave✠Cruz

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Volume 6 Issue 1 | Venerable Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and Holy Cross Family Ministries



Ave Crux, Spes Unica – Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope!

We in the Congregation of Holy Cross profess this truth as the center of our spiritual tradition, and for over 180 years, we have worked to bring the hope of the Cross to schools, universities, parishes and other ministries on five continents.

We are men with hope to bring, yet discerning God's will and taking this step in our lives was not entered into lightly or on our own – finding the right next step often comes by reaching out to a Vocations Team member. Our role is to help you hear and answer God's call. Reach out to us and we will help you discover where God's call is leading you.

CONGREGATION *of* HOLY CROSS
UNITED STATES PROVINCE
OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

Office of Vocations
P.O. Box 541
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 631-6385



www.holycrossvocations.org



vocations@holycrossusa.org



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Volume 6, Issue 1

Venerable Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and Holy Cross Family Ministries



Contents

Page 3

HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRIES

Fostering the Faith Life of Families Throughout the World

Page 6

VENERABLE PATRICK PEYTON, C.S.C.

A True and Faithful Servant of God's Love

Page 10

PRAY

A New Documentary About the
Extraordinary Life of Father Peyton

Page 11

INTERVIEW WITH FR. WILLY RAYMOND, C.S.C.

President of Holy Cross Family Ministries

Page 13

FATHER PEYTON

A Model of Devotion to Our Lady

Page 14

THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

A Family at the Service of Families



Holy Cross Family Ministries

FOSTERING THE FAITH LIFE OF FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Venerable Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., devoted his priestly life to spreading devotion to Mary and encouraging family prayer, especially the Rosary. He used radio, television, film, and 540 Rosary rallies across the globe, to accomplish his goal.

Father Peyton's mission of helping families pray together continues worldwide through Holy Cross Family Ministries (www.HCFM.org), an apostolate of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM) is dedicated to promoting and fostering the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families. To this end, HCFM offers resources and opportunities to families, including faith-based video series, prayer retreats, Rosary distribution, and numerous interactive and in-person prayer experiences.

After Father Peyton's death in 1992, his apostolate not only continued, but grew into a network of ministries that support and encourage family life around the world today.

"Our team consists of 44 Holy Cross sisters, brothers, and priests, 150+ lay team members, 400 volunteers, and 1,100+ donors," said Rev. Wilfred (Willy) Raymond, C.S.C., president of Holy Cross Family Ministries. "Together, we are bringing prayer and faith into the lives of many in need ... unleashing the power and promise of family prayer and enriching the spiritual lives of countless families when our world needs it most."

HCFM not only enriches the spiritual lives of families worldwide, it also plays an important role in the training of diocesan family life ministry professionals, providing them with

tools, resources, and other supports for the renewal of the domestic church.

The ongoing mission of HCFM includes growing in understanding of the intersection of family and faith where it happens - in the home. Because of this, HCFM initiated a major research project with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), to better understand the successful transmission of faith in the home.

Promoting family prayer in the spirit of Father Peyton's oft-repeated quote, "The family that prays together stays together," remains the central mission of HCFM. As Fr. Raymond says, "Prayer binds the family together, brings us closer to God's love and mercy, and brings needed peace to our world. Father Peyton, founder of HCFM, knew the power of prayer better than most."



HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRIES

Our Mission at Work

Family Rosary

(North Easton, Mass.)

www.hcfm.org/family-rosary-usa-international

Family Rosary is committed to promoting the prayer life of families through Rosary distribution, retreats, days of reflection, and social media.

Family Rosary maintains 24 offices in 17 countries, engaging millions of families in prayer and spiritual development.

Rev. James Phalan, C.S.C., is the national director of Family Rosary, responsible for its day-to-day operations. He also oversees Catholic Mom and the Museum of Family Prayer. Fr. Phalan recently served on the Family



Rosary Team in France, managing the Family Rosary Pavilion at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. Just last year, Fr. Phalan had a cameo appearance in *Down To Earth with Zac Efron*, a Netflix documentary series.

Rev. Pinto Paul, C.S.C., serves as the international director of Holy Cross Family Ministries. In this role, he represents Family Rosary leadership in the 16 countries outside of the United States that have active ministries serving the spiritual and prayer needs of families. Prior to his role as international director, Fr. Paul served as special assistant to the president of Holy Cross Family Ministries and was a member of the campus ministry team at Stonehill College (Easton, Mass.).



Family Theater Productions

(Los Angeles, Cali.)

www.hcfm.org/family-theater-productions-1

Family Theater Productions creates faith-based family programs that entertain, inspire, and educate families around the world, predominantly through digital platforms such as YouTube, as well as through television and radio. The Family Theater billboard campaign, begun in 1947, continues to inspire families today. Some of Family Theater's most popular programs include **CatholicCentral.com** (which explores Catholicism for teens, educators, and those seeking information about the faith) and **LenteCatolico.com** (videos in Spanish that present the faith in humorous and informative ways).

Rev. David Guffey, C.S.C., is the national director of Family Theater Productions. He is responsible for both media production and pastoral outreach, and has numerous credits for his award-winning work in television and film including, "Carrying On", "You Will See", "Finding Mary", "Assumptions", "Family Dinner", "40 Hours", and "Down from the Mountain Top".



Father Peyton Family Institutes

www.hcfm.org/the-father-peyton-family-institutes

Father Peyton Family Institutes provide transformative social services and support for families in India and Peru, while aiming to address the root causes of problems affecting the lives of people in poverty-stricken communities.

Father Peyton Family Institutes provide support in the form of marriage and engagement enrichment programs, youth art and faith programs, music programs, substance abuse and domestic violence counseling, nutrition and

health programs, youth sports and chess clubs, adult leadership courses, and senior support groups and activities.

Catholic Mom

www.CatholicMom.com

The mission of Catholic Mom is to support and encourage women in the vocation of Catholic motherhood and Catholic family life. From inspiring reflections to practical tips, Catholic Mom offers support in all aspects of daily Catholic living. Daily blog posts cover topics important to Catholic moms, including marriage, faith, home, work, friendship, parenting, books, and media. Daily Gospel reflections are aimed at encouraging deeper prayer. A Catholic "Momcast" takes on topics related to practical spirituality, relationships, and living the liturgical year. Weekly Catholic Mom Hangouts consider comments and questions on a variety of topics, including work, family, faith, and friendships. And finally, Sunday Gospel Activities provide resources for families to help prepare for Sunday Mass.

It's evident that today's society is in desperate need of strong Catholic moms and dads, which can mean stronger

families and greater unity within the home. **CatholicMom.com** provides access to explore useful and engaging spiritual parenting resources.

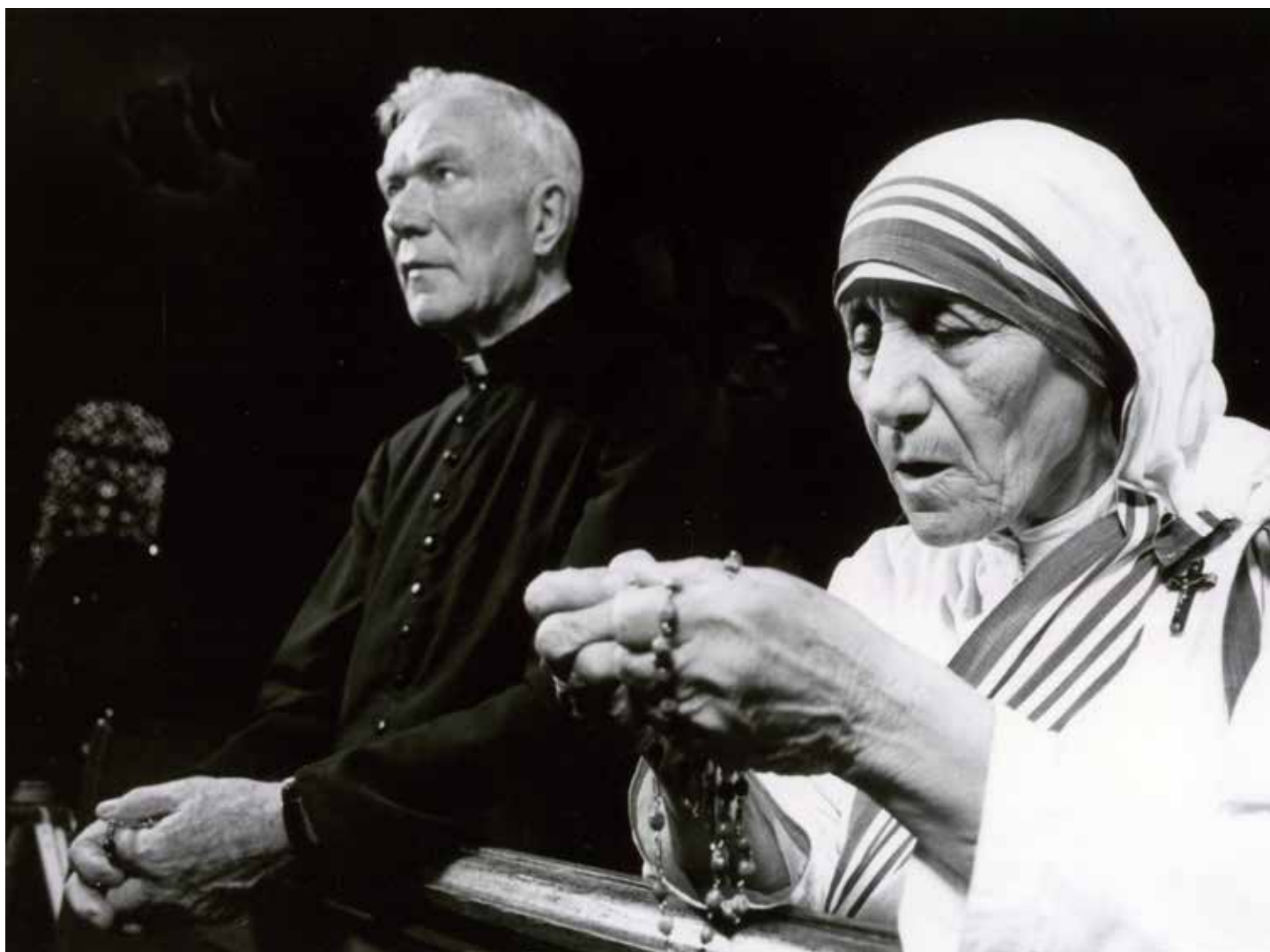
Museum of Family Prayer

(North Easton, Mass.)

www.MuseumofFamilyPrayer.org

The Museum of Family Prayer presents visitors with a contemporary experience of Venerable Patrick Peyton's ongoing ministry to Christian families. The museum offers a unique, interactive experience of prayer that the entire family can take part in together. Guests may participate in daily Mass and daily Rosary, attend a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and walk an outdoor Rosary path. Museum guests can also discover more about Venerable Patrick Peyton. Exhibits display some of Father Peyton's personal effects, explore his early life and seminary years, and describe his time in Hollywood leading family prayer on the radio. The museum is a showcase not only of Father Peyton's vision and apostolate, but of the power of prayer as well.





VENERABLE PATRICK PEYTON, C.S.C.

A True and Faithful Servant of God's Love

Patrick Peyton was born in 1909 to a large, poor, Catholic family in Ireland. He dreamed of being a missionary priest from a young age. At his home parish in Attymass, Ireland, that desire grew; however, his applications (plural!) to the seminary were rejected. He'd sought admission to the Redemptorists, as well as to the Capuchins, and to the Society of African Missionaries. All rejected. That's enough to make the strongest among us feel defeated!

Perhaps with his modest upbringing in mind, Patrick refocused on a career and on seeking a fortune. He decided in 1927, at the age of 18, to ask for his father's consent to journey to America.

Patrick wanted to sell real estate in the United States.

Patrick already had family members in America. His father agreed that he and his brother, Tom, could make the trip to America and live with their sister, Nellie, on one condition: "Go down on your knees and make me a promise here before the picture of the Sacred Heart. From now on there will be nobody but yourself to advise you and to decide for you. But your first responsibility will always be to save your soul, and so I want you to promise to be faithful to Our Lord in America."

Upon their arrival, Patrick and Tom were

mesmerized by Scranton, Pennsylvania, "the Electric City." However, Patrick searched for weeks, without success, for employment. Unbeknownst to Patrick and Tom, sister Nellie had arranged a meeting between them and Monsignor Kelly, who offered Patrick a job as a sexton (custodian) in the cathedral. Patrick accepted, and there - in the silence and peace of the cathedral, and filled with the joy of talking to Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother each day in prayer - Patrick felt at home, and his dream of becoming a missionary priest was fervently awakened yet again. His brother Tom also made the decision to become a priest.

“Go down on your knees and make me a promise here before the picture of the Sacred Heart. From now on there will be nobody but yourself to advise you and to decide for you. But your first responsibility will always be to save your soul, and so I want you to promise to be faithful to Our Lord in America.”

or simply to PRAY.

Patrick was soon visited by Fr. Cornelius Hagerty, C.S.C., who said to him, “You have the faith, Pat, but you’re not using it. You brought it with you from Ireland. Your mother gave it to you, just as her mother had given it to her.” Fr. Hagerty also spoke to Patrick about Mary’s intercession: “She has never failed anyone who had recourse to her with faith and perseverance.” Patrick prayed to Mary, Our Blessed Mother, for a cure.

On October 31, 1939, Patrick knew he had been cured, and indeed, the doctors almost immediately saw signs of improvement for which they had no scientific explanation. Patrick, convinced of the intercession of Mary, later stated, “When I needed her and her power and her friendship, she didn’t forget that ever since I had been a little child and could open my mouth, I had used that power to say the Rosary; so when I needed her friendship, she was glad to give it to me.”

On June 15, 1941, at Sacred Heart Church at the University of Notre Dame, Patrick was ordained a Holy Cross priest along with his brother, Tom. Father Peyton’s first assignment was as a chaplain to a

group of Holy Cross brothers who taught at the Vincentian Institute in Albany, N.Y., and it was there that he not only dutifully fulfilled his commitment as chaplain to the brothers, but dreamed of establishing the **Family Rosary** in millions of homes.

“Holy Cross was founded with a vision of ministry and community inspired by the Holy Family. This image appealed to Patrick Peyton as a young man considering a vocation and throughout his priesthood,” said Rev. David Guffey, C.S.C., National Director at Family Theater Productions. “Father Peyton looked at the world and observed the pressures on families that threatened to divide them. He wanted them to know peace and unity ... the kind of peace he had known as a boy growing up in his family in Ireland, and that unity fostered by praying the Rosary together as a family in their cottage kitchen. This insight led to his life’s work promoting the Family Rosary.”

Father Peyton first saw success with a radio show and eventually went to Hollywood to establish an ongoing program. There, he would share his vision of promoting family prayer with celebrities like Jimmy Stewart (the main character of *It’s a Wonderful Life*), Lucille

In the spring of 1929, Holy Cross priests from Notre Dame, Ind., visited Patrick’s parish in Scranton. Their preaching and presence spurred Patrick into realizing and expressing his desire to become a missionary priest with Holy Cross. And so, Patrick and his brother, Tom, entered Holy Cross Minor Seminary at the University of Notre Dame. In June 1932, Patrick and Tom entered the Novitiate – an intensive year of spiritual exercises and prayer. They professed their temporary vows with Holy Cross in 1933. Patrick’s dream to be a missionary priest was now seemingly within reach.

His dream, however, would soon appear as though dashed and derailed when his health began to deteriorate in 1938. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and his condition progressively worsened. Doctors offered Patrick two options: a risky surgery with little hope for success,

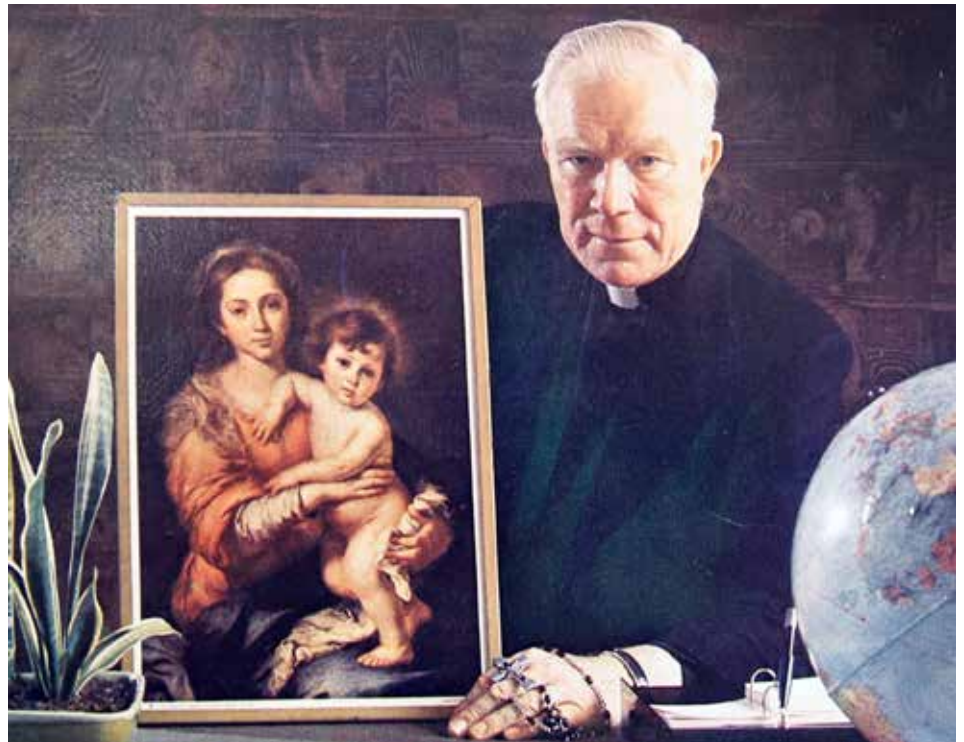


Father Peyton radio program on Mutual Broadcasting System, 1952.

Ball (of *I Love Lucy* fame), and many others. The vision was becoming a reality.

Father Peyton's Family Rosary apostolate extended far beyond the silver screen or big screen ... it was a worldwide phenomenon! Rosary rallies with attendance in the hundreds of thousands and nationwide billboard campaigns would reaffirm Father Peyton's mottoes: **"The family that prays together stays together,"** and **"A world at prayer is a world at peace."**

Between 1948 and 1985, Father Peyton would hold 540 rallies on six continents in support of family prayer. Millions of faithful would gather to hear his message of family unity through family prayer. The inspiring work of Holy Cross Family Ministries was born!



The Family That *Prays* TOGETHER *Stays* TOGETHER

In County Mayo, Ireland, farmer John Peyton married Mary Gillard in 1899. Patrick Peyton was born on January 9, 1909 – the sixth of nine children. His father, already stricken with poor health, was about 42 years old at the time of Patrick's birth.

The Peyton children grew up working on a farm and praying the Rosary nightly. John Peyton's dominant quality was his "spirit of faith," and this faith was practiced each night - leading the family in **praying the Rosary**.

Twice, young Patrick went to live with his grandparents, Robert and Kitty Gillard, and again experienced the **nightly praying of the Rosary**.



"As a priest, Father Peyton was single-hearted in his desire to lead people to Christ through family prayer, especially the Rosary. His zeal for this mission, given by God and affirmed by his Holy Cross community, enabled him to overcome fears and natural limitations as he preached with passion and rallied people to the cause of family prayer."

— Fr. David Guffey, C.S.C., National Director, Family Theater Productions



The Cause for CANONIZATION

While he lived, Father Peyton's prayers and healing touch assisted many people in their needs. Since his death, numerous reports of favors received through his intercession have been noted. Some tell of physical healings, others tell of spiritual favors received (e.g., eyesight restored, cancers cured, and broken bones suddenly healed), and still others tell of alienated Catholics returning to the sacraments and families finding hope and courage in suffering.

Father Patrick Peyton's Cause for Canonization was officially opened on June 1, 2001. Over 150 people were interviewed in countries around the world. After the Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints

reviewed the Positio for his Cause in 2015 (a 1,300-page report that studied his life and ministry for heroic virtue and sanctity - a synthesis of an even larger 6,000-page report called a Diocesan Inquiry), it was concluded that Father Peyton had indeed lived a life of heroic virtue and sanctity, and recommended to the Holy Father that Father Peyton should be declared "Venerable."

There have been two possible medical miracles connected to Father Peyton's intercession that have been studied in their home dioceses. Now that Father Peyton has been declared "Venerable", these possible medical miracles can be reviewed and an opinion can be rendered by the Congregation for the Causes of

Saints. They will select one of the two and begin their study.

For more information about Venerable Patrick Peyton's life and Cause for Canonization, visit **www.**

fatherpeytoncentre.ie, the website for the Father Peyton Memorial Centre in County Mayo, Ireland. A place of respite, prayer, and peace, the Center is a popular pilgrimage destination, with guided tours of rare memorabilia and photographs, and a video presentation of Venerable Patrick Peyton's life. Many other books and resources have been produced as well, most of which are available online.

PRAY

A New Documentary About the Extraordinary Life of Father Peyton

In 2020, a new documentary was released about Venerable Patrick Peyton's heroic life of prayer, titled **PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON**. **PRAY** tells the true story of how an Irish immigrant who set sail for America in 1928 with dreams of riches, ended up becoming known around the world as "The Rosary Priest." Father Peyton's devotion to the Blessed Mother, as well as friendships with Hollywood celebrities and ordinary families, helped him to promote his mission of family Rosary prayer.

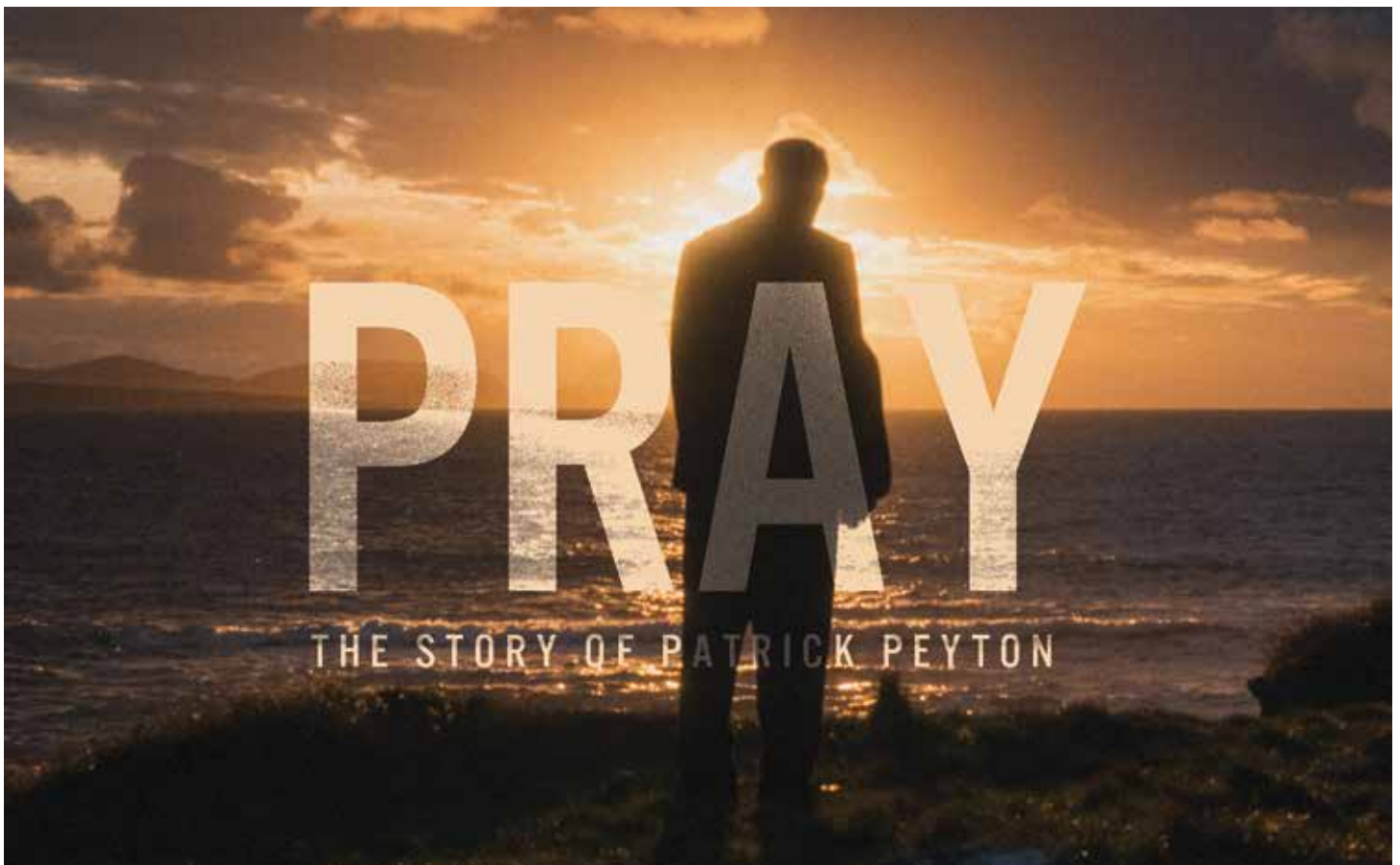
PRAY is more than a movie - the release of the film launched the "Pray Together Now" Movement. When Venerable

Patrick Peyton started his mission, he set a goal of getting 10 million people to pledge to pray together daily, which he far surpassed. The Pray Together Now campaign gives families access to practical tools and resources to make daily family prayer, especially the Rosary, a cornerstone of their life. It also includes prayer reflection nights where parishes and groups can gather to build community.

"Father Patrick Peyton was deeply devoted to Our Lady and urged families to pray the Rosary together," said Fr. David Guffey, C.S.C., national director of Family Theater Productions and executive producer of **PRAY**. "We

encourage Catholic families to come together and honor the Virgin Mary, pray the Rosary, and watch **PRAY**, a remarkable movie that focuses on the transformative power of prayer."

PRAY was released in theaters in October of 2020. In January 2021, **PRAY** became available on DVD and for digital purchase via iTunes, Amazon, and Google Play. Holy Cross Family Ministries will also be collaborating with parishes and schools for additional screenings of the film. Visit **www.PrayTheFilm.com** for more information, or to purchase a home viewing license.





An Interview

WITH FR. WILLY RAYMOND, C.S.C.,
PRESIDENT OF HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRIES

Fr. Willy Raymond blessing a married couple at the Museum of Family Prayer.

In the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the constitution on Mission states: "Wherever through its superiors the congregation sends us, we go as educators in the faith..." How does the mission of Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM) reflect this charism of the Congregation, and how does HCFM embody Holy Cross spirituality?

Holy Cross Family Ministries aims to promote and foster the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world. We believe this to

be the best education in the faith that we can provide. Our Institutes for the Family collaborate with diocesan partners and form lay leaders for the purpose of announcing to families the good news the Church has to offer on marriage, family, and healthy spirituality.

Holy Cross' emphases on unity modeled on the Holy Family, on zeal for mission, on trust in Divine Providence, and on confidence in the Cross of Christ as our only hope, along with Father Peyton's

Marian spirituality and passion for family prayer and the Rosary, are essential components of the spiritual patrimony of Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM). The Holy Cross religious serving in HCFM, and our many lay collaborators, have embraced Holy Cross spirituality as a great asset for our ongoing development and ministry to families.

How are the priests, brothers, and sisters of Holy Cross represented in the

mission and apostolates of HCFM? We have approximately 45 Holy Cross religious serving in Holy Cross Family Ministries Centers around the world. Several Holy Cross sisters are serving in Chile and in Mexico, Holy Cross brothers are serving as ministry leaders in Bangladesh and in Ghana, and Holy Cross priests serve as Center directors. We consider it a distinct blessing to have all three societies of the Holy Cross Family (brothers, priests, and sisters) serving in our ministry.

“In the family, young people learn how to communicate, how to share their affection and values, and how to live a life of purpose and significance.”

How do you think Father Peyton's story speaks to young people who are discerning priesthood/religious life?

At the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in 2015, Pope Francis said: “The Family is God’s Masterpiece.” Father Peyton often repeated his belief that the family is God’s greatest gift to us. Around the globe, there is no more urgent need than the spiritual health and well-being of the family. Contemporary culture, secularism, consumerism, and hyper-individualism are all major threats to the family. Father Peyton’s confidence in family prayer as the primary building-block of the Church, of society, and of civilization was right on target. Helping the family to pray together and stay together is a

mission second to none, for it is given to the family to serve as God’s chosen instrument for bringing his grace and love into every human life. What greater challenge could a young, believing Catholic take up today?

How are Father Peyton's story and message relevant for families today?

Just as it was when Father Peyton founded his ministries more than 75 years ago, it is true today that the family is the domestic church and the basic unit of society. Children learn more in the home than anywhere else. The family is the first place where young people encounter love and come to know and love God, the faith, and the saints. Father Peyton himself said: “For the first nineteen years of my life, this was our daily practice as I grew from childhood, to boyhood, to my teens. Because of the daily family Rosary, my home was for me a cradle, a school, a university, a library, and most of all, a little church.” In the family, young people learn how to communicate, how to share their affection and values, and how to live a life of purpose and significance. They learn how to live a faith-filled life and how to go out and share it with the world.

What does the advancing of the sainthood cause of Father Peyton mean for the Church and for the Congregation of Holy Cross?

Many people today lack hope. Most have no experience of the transcendent ... no meta-narrative from which they can make sense out of life. Venerable Patrick Peyton offers a pure, genuine manifestation of the power of grace and prayer to heal, to change hearts, and to change the world. For the Church, he seems to be exactly what our age yearns for: a truly holy priest who, guided by the Mother of God, spent every ounce of energy praying and working for the family. For the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father Peyton’s story is inspiring and uplifting for all of us. In some ways, he is bigger than Holy Cross and belongs to the whole world. He is the product of the Peyton Family of Attymas (County Mayo, Ireland) and of the Family of Holy Cross. Both families shaped and formed him into a humble servant of Mary and of her Divine Son.

Is there anything else you would like readers to know? The documentary PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON has introduced Venerable Patrick Peyton and his ministry to many people who had heard his famous saying - “The family that prays together stays together” - but did not know that he was the source of it. He was a humble man who put Our Lady and her Son at the center of all he did. Although he met and collaborated with Hollywood celebrities and spoke live, in-person, to 28 million people around the globe, everything he did was “All for Her” (the title of his autobiography) and for her Son.

The driving force behind Father Peyton’s mission and prayer campaigns ... the reason they were so impactful in unleashing the power and promise of family prayer ... was his personal holiness and his reliance on the prayer of the Rosary, on Holy Hours, and on the reverent celebration of daily Mass.

The cause for canonization has led to a thorough and in-depth examination of every aspect of Father Peyton’s life: His childhood in a Rosary-praying family in County Mayo, Ireland; his coming to America as an immigrant; his entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross; and his joyful discovery that his new Holy Cross family was devoted to praying the Rosary daily.

After ordination to the priesthood in 1941, Father Peyton served 51 years as a leading figure in global Catholicism in the mid to late-twentieth century. He died in 1992 with these words on his lips: “Mary, my Queen, my Mother!”

Fr. Willy Raymond, C.S.C., President, Holy Cross Family Ministries



FATHER PEYTON

A Model of Devotion to Our Lady

Last summer, I had the opportunity to serve at Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM) in Easton, Mass. In the midst of our COVID reality, I was glad to engage in virtual ministry to the faithful around the world who are devoted to Our Lady and to Venerable Patrick Peyton. My ministry included collaborating with the marketing and social media team, helping to produce the daily livestream Mass and Rosary (which often received over 10,000 views a day), and assisting with communication efforts related to the Cause for Beatification of Father Peyton. The other seminarians and I serving at HCFM were privileged to pray daily for the many intentions that we received. We placed these intentions at the feet of Our Lady, while invoking the intercession of Father Peyton.

During my years in formation, I had heard lots of amazing stories about Father Peyton and had always found them inspiring. Through his Rosary rallies and through his radio and television programs, he encouraged millions of

people to draw closer to Our Lady; yet it was my ministry last summer that allowed me to really come to know Father Peyton and to recognize him as a saintly friend.

I have a particular interest in digital media, and we have all seen the Church utilize social media in such a dynamic way for its evangelization efforts. Father Peyton was involved in the New Evangelization long before Pope St. John Paul II explicitly called for it! Father Peyton used the newest media of his time – radio, television, etc. – in his ministry of promoting Family Rosary. For a young person like myself, and for anyone active in the New Evangelization, Father Peyton can surely be a patron. I am inspired by his ingenuity and commitment to spreading the message of Family Rosary and of Mary's love for humanity.

For us in Holy Cross, Father Peyton is our brother, and he stands as a reminder that each of us should remain close to Our Lady. It's clear to me that many Holy

Cross religious have a deep devotion to, and love of, Our Lady. Our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, was himself devoted to Our Lady and entrusted the community to her patronage under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows. When Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., founded the University of Notre Dame, he placed the University and its mission under the protection of Our Lady.

Here at Moreau Seminary, a group of seminarians and brothers in formation regularly pray the Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows. My brothers at Moreau Seminary have deep personal devotions to Our Lady. On my visits to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on campus, I give a friendly nod to fellow Holy Cross religious who are also there to pray. It's clear that our community's history and spirituality is deeply rooted in Our Lady, and this is reflected in the prayer and devotion of our priests, brothers, and seminarians.

As a seminarian, I am grateful for the model of Father Peyton's zeal for ministry and confidence in Mary. In my own life as a religious of Holy Cross, I hope to emulate that same zeal for ministry, as well as that profound and devoted love of Our Lady.

Nik Guiney, C.S.C., is a second-year-professed seminarian from Hudson, Ohio.



Photo: Holy Cross seminarians and brothers in formation praying at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.



THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

A Family at the Service of Families

“Family.” It’s in our genes as men of Holy Cross. Our holy founder willed it thus.

As the ninth of 14 children born to Louis and Louise Moreau in the town of Laigné-en-Belin, France, Basil Anthony Moreau (1799-1873) was very attached to his family of origin, and would remain so his whole life long. It was in the family where he learned to love God, Our Lady, and the Church. The Moreau family was a union of hearts, simple and serious about the Catholic faith, and its union was strengthened through the practice of daily family prayer.

During his seminary formation and as a young priest, Father Moreau grew in devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth. He adopted the practice of writing J.M.J. at the top of his correspondence.

Attachment to the Holy Family and to the hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, was making an impression on the soul of Father Moreau.

The virtues of family life, learned at a young age, and his fervent contemplation of the Holy Family of Nazareth, would play an important role in Basil Moreau’s thinking and in his project for the priests, sisters, and brothers of Holy Cross: “I have the firm belief of accomplishing the plan that I had conceived ... which is to found three establishments consecrated to the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph ... united among themselves like the Holy Family.” (Circular Letter 8 - June 26, 1839)

Faithful to our founder’s vision, this familial spirit finds echo in the

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross:

“We asked how we might follow [the Lord], and we found many footprints on the road. A great band of men had passed this way, men who had made and lived by their vows, men who had walked side by side in their following of the Lord. They beckoned us to fall in step with them. We wanted to be part of the family they formed in order to share in their life and work. This family is the Congregation of Holy Cross, founded by Basil Anthony Moreau.” (Constitution 1:5-6)

“Our own feasts [of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, of Saint Joseph, and of Our Lady of Sorrows] should give all of us the occasions as a family to pray and

celebrate together.” (Constitution 3:29)
 “It is essential to our mission that we strive to abide so attentively together that people will observe: “See how they love one another.” We will then be a sign in an alienated world: men who have, for love of their Lord, become closest neighbors, trustworthy friends, brothers.” (Constitution 4:42)

Contemplating the Holy Family of Nazareth with love and devotion, and exhorting his religious to imitate the Holy Family as their model, our founder desired that his family of Holy Cross be at the service of families; indeed, Father Moreau was concerned for the well-being of families. In a letter dated February 6, 1861, addressed to his spiritual sons and daughters, he lamented the “disintegration” of the family, even in his own day. Is it any surprise, then, that a century later, it

would be a spiritual son of Moreau - the Venerable Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. - who would propose the renewal of family life through prayer?

In ministries of education, parish, and mission, the Holy Cross family continues to serve and sanctify families in 16 countries on 5 continents. Most notable among these is Holy Cross Family Ministries, which, through its promotion of family prayer, makes resound throughout the world the words of Father Peyton - words as true in this century as in centuries past: “The family that prays together stays together!”

(Portions of the above text were excerpted from an address delivered September 12, 2014 by Fr. Pascal Garçon, C.S.C., priest of the Vicariate of France, as part of festivities surrounding the inauguration of the Shrine of Blessed Basil Moreau in Le Mans, France.)



Left photo: Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C., with parish family at Our Lady of Holy Cross Church in Le Mans, France. Above: A bas relief of the Holy Family at the Shrine of Blessed Basil Moreau in Le Mans, France. Below: Fr. Patrick Neary, C.S.C., with parish family at Holy Redeemer Church in Portland, Ore.

“It is essential to our mission that we strive to abide so attentively together that people will observe: “See how they love one another.” We will then be a sign in an alienated world: men who have, for love of their Lord, become closest neighbors, trustworthy friends, brothers.” (Constitution 4:42)





CONGREGATION *of* HOLY CROSS

UNITED STATES PROVINCE OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

Office of Vocations

P.O. Box 541

Notre Dame, IN 46556

(574) 631-6385

vocations@holycrossusa.org

holycrossvocations.org



Venerable Patrick Peyton discussing his Family Rosary mission with St. Pope John Paul II.

Front Cover photo: Venerable Patrick Peyton speaking at a Family Rosary rally in São Paulo, Brazil, 1964. Approximately two million people were in attendance.