

EDUCATION • PARISH • MISSION

Ave CruX



Volume 4 Issue 2 | The New Seminarians

Office of Vocations, Congregation of Holy Cross



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 175 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 director. Our role is to help you hear and answer God's call. Drop us a line and we will help you discover where God's call is leading you.

CONGREGATION of HOLY CROSS
UNITED STATES PROVINCE
OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

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A New Director

Jesus summoned the crowd with His disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and that of the Gospel will save it." (Mark 8:34-35)

It is my privilege to serve as the new director of vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers. I am ably assisted in this role by two associate directors: Fathers Tim Mouton and Dennis Strach. We are ready to accompany you on your path of discernment. We would also be glad to share with you the joy that we have found in following Christ as vowed religious of Holy Cross.

The men in this edition of *Ave Crux* also seek to follow after Christ as religious of Holy Cross. They include four men entering the undergraduate seminary at Old College and a postulant class of ten, five of whom are new to formation and five of whom are moving to Moreau Seminary from Old College. As you read their stories, you'll be inspired to discover how their response to the promptings of grace have led them to Holy Cross.

Our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, was full of zeal for Christ and His Church. He placed his hope in the Cross of Christ because it is the manifest sign of God's power and desire to bring new life from death. We follow in his footsteps as *Educators in the Faith* and we're looking for men to join us - men who are consumed with what Father Moreau called that "flame of burning desire to make God known, loved, and served, and thus save souls."

Kindly pray for the men presented in this issue, and for all of our men in formation. May they know the true joy that comes with losing one's life for the sake of Christ and the Gospel!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C.
vocation@holycrossusa.org

Fr. John DeRiso, C.S.C., is director of vocations for the U.S. Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross. He resides in Siegfried Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, presiding at Mass and serving as a pastoral presence for the men of the dorm. Prior to his assignment in the vocations office, Fr. John served as rector of the Shrine of Blessed Basil Moreau in Le Mans, France. He has also served as pastor of Our Lady of Holy Cross Parish (Le Mans) and of Saint Joseph Parish (South Bend). Fr. John received his B.A. and his M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame. He professed his Final Vows in September of 2001 and was ordained a priest in April of 2002.



Welcome to Old College

Old College was the first building to be constructed on the Notre Dame Campus in 1843. It sits directly beside the famed Log Chapel which was the original structure on the property. Men may enter the Old College Program as students at Notre Dame, or Holy Cross College. Old Collegians are free to pursue any academic discipline they choose, but they live in community with other men who are discerning religious life in Holy Cross. They spend time together sharing meals, praying the Divine Office, and attending Mass, and they also may participate in campus activities and extra-curricular events.



Matthew Brown

Porterville, California

I first came into contact with Holy Cross during a summer trip to Notre Dame. Going into my junior year of high school, I knew Christ was calling me to a specific vocation, but at the time had no idea it was the religious life. The Notre Dame Vision program allowed me to interact

with other faith-filled individuals from across the country and explore the rich traditions Holy Cross had to offer. My discernment of priesthood began after that very same trip. After Mass, Fr. Tim Mouton, C.S.C., invited all young men discerning the religious life to join him and a few other Holy Cross faithful for lunch at the Old College Undergraduate Seminary. During these first steps into what now will be my home in the fall, I began to seriously consider joining. Love drew me to this vocation. I feel moved to love others with my whole life.

I am often tempted to watch YouTube videos in my free time, and in so doing, I find myself taking in *Ascension Presents*, with Fr. Rob Galea, and Brian Holdsworth. Those channels provide thoughts, commentaries, and direct applications of the catechism to daily life. In addition to these, classic Catholic novels on apologetics have also consumed much of my time.

Since coming to the faith, I have found that the root of doubt is fear in oneself to perform. To dispel my own doubts of

my ability to love or the vocation I am discerning is found in *John 16:33* - "I have told you this so that you might have peace in Me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

More about Matthew ...

Family: Youngest of three children of Jeffrey and Cynthia Brown

Home Parish: St. Anne's Parish, Diocese of Fresno

Education: Harmony Magnet Academy, 2019; entering Old College through Holy Cross College-Notre Dame Gateway Program

Hobbies: Adventuring, video production, spending time with my brothers and sisters in Christ



Aidan Kearns

Richmond Hill, New York

Ever since I was a child, I felt drawn to the priesthood, but it became clear to me during the funeral of Fr. Catania, a great priest who served for many years at my parish, and who baptized me. He was a major role model in my life. When he died, it just became clear that God was

calling me. Other than that, I haven't had much influence in making the decision to explore my vocation. It just kind of wound up happening.

My parents are Notre Dame alumni, so when I told them about my vocation, they suggested Holy Cross. Maybe a month later, I received a letter in the mail from Old College Undergraduate Seminary inviting me to a Come and See Weekend. I was inspired to apply to Holy Cross after I came to visit for a weekend, and I just felt that I belonged - I felt like this is what I am supposed to be doing. You could say it is a coincidence, but I don't believe in coincidences.

To prepare for Old College, I bought a pocket bible and began carrying it with me at all times. I would read it on the subway, at home, and in school. Every time I opened it, I felt as if it was telling me something that I really needed to hear.

This may sound weird, but when dispelling doubts, I just talked it all out in my head. I convince myself to put

faith back in God and it works itself out. If you put your faith in God and continue forward - slowly He will reveal His plan for you, too.

More about Aidan ...

Family: Fourth of five children of Patrick and Jean Kearns

Home Parish: Holy Child Jesus, Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

Education: Fiorello LaGuardia High School, 2019; entering Old College through Holy Cross College-Notre Dame Gateway Program

Hobbies: Martial arts and carpentry



Connery McFadden

Williamsport, Pennsylvania

I started to hear God's call to a religious vocation when I was in high school, but it wasn't until I graduated that I actually acted on the call and started discerning. Yet I do recall before that, when I was much younger, saying that I would one day become a priest; and hopefully, if

that's God's plan for me, that one day will come.

I found out about the Congregation of Holy Cross when I visited Notre Dame during the spring of my senior year of high school. Then I was introduced to the order further by Br. George Klawitter, C.S.C., who taught my English 101 class. His class allowed me to explore the Congregation's formation program as an end of the semester research assignment. I discovered how the Congregation is truly a family and how they make everyone feel included and valuable. I then started going to daily Mass, increased my daily prayer significantly and really took the Sacraments seriously before I decided to enter formation. I received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past December at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame and grew fully into communion with the Catholic Church. Beyond all that, what was most pivotal in helping me defeat my doubts was having the needed support from my family and friends. They are right alongside me as I walk this journey.

If you are discerning a vocation, prayer can be very powerful. God can answer a lot of your prayers if you just ask. It may take a couple days, weeks, or even months, but God will always lead you to where He wants you to be. Make it a priority to always seek God in everything you do and the rest will follow.

More about Connery ...

Family: Youngest of three children of Patrick and Monique McFadden

Home Parish: St. Boniface Catholic Church, Diocese of Scranton

Education: Holy Cross College sophomore, American Studies major and philosophy minor; entering Old College through Holy Cross College.

Hobbies: Running, playing soccer, photography, connecting with people

Special Awards/Recognition: Ronald Reagan Youth Leadership Award, Diocese of Scranton Bishop's Youth Award, United States Presidential Volunteer Service Award



Thomas Searl

Wichita, Kansas

I first learned about the Congregation of Holy Cross when a friend's uncle introduced me to a Holy Cross priest while we were visiting the University of Notre Dame. This led me to extensive research on the Congregation, and during further correspondence with the Office of

Vocations, I decided to apply to the Summer Seminary Immersion Program (SSIP). SSIP is a two-week academic course offered by the Congregation of Holy Cross in conjunction with the Notre Dame Summer Scholars Program. I was inspired to apply to Holy Cross primarily through interactions with members and friends of the Congregation. Of course, I loved so much about the apostolates and spirituality of the Congregation, but it was ultimately experiences in prayer that showed me where my path should lead.

My family has always been very supportive and my younger sisters specifically have been a great example of faith for me. The environment at my house was always very conducive to discernment and when I finally decided to take advantage of that, I was met with full support. Fr. Tim Mouton, C.S.C., was also an invaluable resource in answering any of my questions and helping guide me toward fruitful ways of discernment. My high school chaplain, Fr. Curtis, was also very helpful in drastically improving the opportunities for both growth in faith and discernment at my high school.

My advice to those discerning a vocation is to talk to someone about it. Prayer and reflection are excellent ways to begin the process, but eventually you have to tell someone, and the insights you gain from both your own reaction to talking about it, and a reaction from the person you confide in can teach you a lot. If you aren't quite ready to talk to someone about it, be confident that if you're supposed to continue down the path to religious life, God will give you the right opportunity to go deeper when it's time.

More about Thomas ...

Family: Third of five children of Jason and Chrissy Searl

Home Parish: St. Thomas Aquinas, Diocese of Wichita

Education: Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School, 2019; entering Old College through the University of Notre Dame

Hobbies: Reading, going on walks, playing frisbee



Making the Move

After completing their junior year at Old College, men typically move to Moreau Seminary to complete their senior year. They may have majored in any academic discipline, but this year they may focus more on theology and philosophy as they discern whether they will proceed to the novitiate, take their temporary vows, and enter Notre Dame's M.Div. Program. Old College seniors will combine with other men who've previously completed bachelor's degrees to form the postulant class at Moreau Seminary.



Keenan Bross

Flint Hill, Missouri

My nerdy self could not imagine a life without STEM. I couldn't set aside my greatest love - the Sciences - to enter seminary. Sweeping in came Holy Cross - letting sciences be part of my studies and my ultimate vocation. My love for physics isn't just a fancy but useless

attachment. It can continue at the center of who I may become as an *Educator in the Faith*.

I've had direct contact with Holy Cross priests and brothers from the beginning of my discernment with the Congregation. It has been, more than anything, the example of these role models and brothers that has drawn me time and time again to the Congregation. Nothing gives me more joy, and even sometimes tears, than imagining, *could these really be my brothers for the rest of my life?*

From my first days with Holy Cross, I've felt an inexplicable comfort among our communities. Whether it be with a bunch of strangers my first day in South Bend or our trade school in rural Tanzania during my international experience with Holy Cross in Kitete, Tanzania, and Santiago, Chile, I feel part of something and it feels right. There's a bond I love and hope to preserve, even across such massive differences. Not only do I feel at home with my brothers in Holy Cross, but I feel home in what

we do. I can imagine myself in any number of our fantastic apostolates, because the way Holy Cross lives its vocation is how I desire to live mine. Don't be afraid to be who you are! Your vocation isn't about being someone you aren't, it's about being fully who you're called to be. You know it's right not when you feel called to change everything about yourself, but rather when you feel free to be who you were made to be.

More about Keenan ...

Family: Fourth of five children of Matthew and Janice Bross

Home Parish: St. Theodore, Archdiocese of St. Louis

Education: University of Notre Dame senior, Notre Dame, IN; physics major, philosophy minor

Hobbies: Basketball, volleyball, hiking, biking, music, concerts

Special Awards/Recognition: Nanovic Research



Devin Dettman

Bowling Green, Kentucky

While I was in high school, I received a postcard for a pre-college seminary immersion program for rising seniors. During this Summer Seminary Immersion Program (SSIP), I lived in Old College for two weeks, learning about Holy Cross's history, spirituality, and

vision of formation. I fell totally in love with Holy Cross, and the rest is history. I didn't have any single epiphany or breakthrough moment. Rather, it was a gradual process of self-discovery and trying to listen to the voice of God in my life. God really lit a fire in me with love for the Sacraments and for theology and learning more about my faith. To me, the life of a priest seemed like one of the most beautiful, adventurous things ever. I felt really moved in prayer to think about seminary especially with Holy Cross. Plus, a lot of people went out of their way to tell me what they saw in my life and how seminary would be a good fit for me.

Since then, I've prayed a lot. The life of a seminarian can be pretty fast-paced. One can easily feel swept away or caught up in the thick of everything if they don't maintain a solid relationship with God.

When it comes to dispelling doubts about my vocation, I'm pretty pro-doubt. I think our doubts help shape our discernment and push us to take it seriously. Appreciating the place doubt

has in my discernment has helped me to handle my doubts in a positive, constructive way without letting them paralyze me.

I encourage you to take your time as you discern your own vocation. God's not trying to trick you and He's not going to let you miss His will for your life if you're open to it.

More about Devin ...

Family: Oldest of two children of Matthew and Theresa Dettman

Home Parish: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Diocese of Owensboro

Education: University of Notre Dame senior, Notre Dame, IN; philosophy major, theology minor

Hobbies: Reading and writing, playing board games, making Spotify playlists, going to concerts and to the movie theater

Special Awards/Recognition: Moreau Five Pillars Digital Badge



Stephen Kawulicz

Brookfield, Connecticut

My mother went to Notre Dame, so it was always my dream to follow in her footsteps. She has also always been important in my vocation, and it is because of her connection to Notre Dame that I was introduced to the Congregation. My pastor was also

influential in my initial discernment to enter formation. Over a series of months my senior year of high school, we met for a sort of quasi-spiritual direction and talked about my discernment, especially regarding Holy Cross.

This community inspired me. During my visits to Old College, I felt so at home and welcomed - it felt right. Beyond that, the focus on education and the pedagogy of Holy Cross are close to my own heart. The emphasis on inculturation and answering the needs of a specific, small community has always moved me.

I spent last semester in London, which provided ample time for personal reflection along with putting some distance between me and my life in Old College, making it fitting as a period of transition between stages of formation.

A combination of experience and reflection has helped me endure through periods of doubt. I think experience is one of the best teachers, and I can recall numerous occasions where I was doubting my vocation, but I have yet to

experience anything that parallels this life in formation. I have been able to make sense of most every doubt I have had.

I think that patience is crucial - patience with others, with God, and most importantly with yourself. I have taken on a mantra in discernment, "Trust the process." First of all, this refers to the formation process, but it also refers to your own process. Everyone is a work in progress, every journey is unique, and every vocation is ultimately beautiful.

More about Stephen ...

Family: Youngest of two children of Paul and Toby Kawulicz

Home Parish: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Diocese of Bridgeport

Education: University of Notre Dame senior, Liberal Studies major with philosophy and theology double minor

Hobbies: Reading, hiking, sports, listening to music



John Ryan IV

Billerica, Massachusetts

I had thought about being a priest since seventh grade, but it wasn't until Welcome Weekend at Notre Dame my freshman year that I first considered a call to the religious life. I was at the Opening Mass in the "JACC" and I saw fifty or sixty Holy Cross priests process

in. I had never seen anything like that before and there was something about such a beautiful sign of community that drew me in. It was getting to know these Holy Cross religious and the witness of this *great band of men* that inspired me to apply. Their joy and enthusiasm, their hope as they strode in their following of the Lord, made me want to fall in step with them. I decided to apply during my sophomore year at Notre Dame, and I entered Old College at the beginning of my junior year.

I had a particularly tough time with doubt during my second year in Old College. There were a few weeks in the fall when I thought I might not continue my formation with Holy Cross. I shared this with my spiritual director and he told me that oftentimes one has to consider leaving before one can really stay. I have found that to be the case. Seeing that I could choose to leave formation at any moment allows me to consider what it is that is making me stay. The insights I have gained from those reflections and considerations have done the most to dispel my doubts.

In your own discernment, be open. Listen. Pray. Pay attention to what tugs at your heart. Additionally, cultivate deep, holy, and beautiful friendships: I cannot stress enough how important loving these beloved companions that God has placed in your life is for discerning your vocation. "One does not live well without friends," as Thomas à Kempis writes. We were created for love, to love and to be loved, and the love of friends is beautiful and real.

More about Johnny ...

Family: Oldest of five children of John and Jean Ryan

Home Parish: St. Theresa of Lisieux, Archdiocese of Boston

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.A., theology, philosophy minor, 2019

Hobbies: Baseball, football, playing guitar and piano, and hanging out with friends and family

Special Awards/Recognition: Member of the Glynn Family Honors Program at the University of Notre Dame



Daniel Vo

Phoenix, Arizona

I first heard God's call to a religious vocation in middle school when I was first beginning to really enjoy being Catholic. My parents and my youth minister, Joseph, were very influential in helping me explore my vocation. They were the first people that I talked to

about the possibility of a calling to a religious vocation and they were supportive in every way possible. It was something that stuck with me throughout high school and I figured I have to go find out if this is what God is calling me to do.

I found out about Holy Cross through Saint Raphael's Parish - a diocesan parish where the pastor is a Holy Cross priest, Fr. Ed Kaminski, C.S.C. Here I learned about what Holy Cross is all about. During both of my visits, I was welcomed right away and felt at home being with the community, and it inspired me to apply to Old College.

As I enter the Postulant Program, I have prepared by making sure I keep up what I have learned in Old College and just simply taking time to reflect, pray, and be open and vulnerable with others about my journey. I have found the most helpful thing for me in terms of dispelling doubts has been just being open, honest, and vulnerable with others. Never underestimate someone else's wisdom. Some doubts just cannot

be solved alone.

If you are discerning a vocation, I would advise you to always pray. Talk with others, especially priests and youth ministers. Most importantly, go out for visits to seminaries. Take that chance and stretch yourself. You never know unless you go for a Come and See Weekend. Ultimately, remember that God wants us to be happy with our vocation.

More about Daniel ...

Family: Oldest of two children of Vinh and Mylan Vo

Home Parish: Saint Raphael/Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Diocese of Phoenix

Education: Holy Cross College senior, Notre Dame, IN; psychology, philosophy minor

Hobbies: Sports, collecting sneakers, listening to music

It's All New to Us

“Welcome to Moreau Seminary”

Men who have previously completed a bachelor's degree, and wish to discern religious life or priesthood in Holy Cross will enter the formation program as postulants. They study philosophy and some theology at Notre Dame as non-degree seeking students. If they complete their postulant year, they continue on to the novitiate, where they continue their discernment. Postulants live in community with temporarily professed seminarians and scholastics, as well as finally professed brothers and priests at Moreau Seminary. It's a time for them to experience religious life and get a better sense of the charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross.



Charlie Ducey

Portland, Oregon

God's call to religious life became more apparent to me during my time in an intentional Catholic community in England. Amid a largely secular society, I realized the uniqueness of the Catholic faith that I had taken for granted for much of my life. Spending time among

Catholics of various stripes and in several countries (England, the U.S., and Germany), I sensed God calling me through these people to serve His Church, where the need for the unifying and renewing power of Christ's love is so great.

When it comes down to it, what inspired me to apply was the example of men living the vows of Holy Cross. I remember the first time I met Holy Cross seminarians, some of whom are nearing ordination now, and thinking to myself: wow, these guys are really living for something ... and they're happy! The priests and brothers I met made clear that it wasn't just something these men were living for but someone; namely, for God, for His Church, and for each other.

I have been preparing for the Postulant Program both privately and publicly. Privately, I have tried to ask God in prayer how best I can serve Him. I have also resolved to attend daily Mass as much as possible to be near to Christ in the Eucharist each day. On a more public level, I have sought out conversations

about vocation with trusted friends and members of Holy Cross. To know God's will requires more than one's own insights, so I needed to hear more about the priesthood and myself from people far more knowledgeable than I am.

More about Charlie ...

Family: Oldest of three children (including a twin brother) of Robert and Jennifer Ducey

Home Parish: Holy Family, Archdiocese of Portland

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.A., English, German minor, 2016; University of Heidelberg, M.A., German Studies, 2018

Hobbies: Jogging, playing soccer, reading, writing fiction, talking about God and the meaning of life

Special Awards/Recognition: Award in honor of Fr. Broestl, C.S.C., German department, Notre Dame; Fulbright Research Fellowship, Heidelberg, Germany



Thomas Groden

Lombard, Illinois

I was blessed to have been raised in an incredibly vibrant Catholic parish with a terrific school. When I was 11, I got a job at the parish office answering the phone and the door after the full-time secretary left for the evening. In this job, I worked closely with the parish priests and saw

firsthand the work that they did and the lives they lived. I helped connect people to priests at both the most trying and the most joyful moments of their lives and witnessed the powerful role a priest can have in someone's life. I may not have fully understood it at the time, but I now believe that this inside look at the priesthood instilled in me a desire to one day become a priest myself.

I realized early on that I would rather be a religious priest than a diocesan one. I considered a few different religious orders but my heart kept coming back to Holy Cross, due to a connection I felt with the work of the Congregation and its charism. Additionally, while Holy Cross is big enough to span the globe and offer a variety of ministries, it is also small enough to feel like a family. Perhaps most importantly, the men that I've met and come to know in Holy Cross all share a zeal for their ministry and a desire to make *God known, loved, and served*. I've appreciated their genuine desire to help me discover my vocation, whether that's with Holy Cross or not.

If you have thoughts that you might be called to religious life, explore it! I learned more about the priesthood and the Congregation and prayer for clarity and support as I began this new stage of my life. Talk to people about it, get in touch with people who can help you discern, and take small steps forward in the process.

More about T.J. ...

Family: Youngest of three children of the late Louis and Susan Groden; plus five siblings in adopted family

Home Parish: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Glenview), Archdiocese of Chicago

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.B.A., Finance and Medieval Studies, 2017; University of Notre Dame, M.Ed., Secondary Education, 2019

Hobbies: College football, politics, running, being outdoors, food and drink



Christopher Lushis

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

During my studies at Notre Dame, I considered whether entering a religious community was God's plan for my life. While I went on an informal visit to Moreau Seminary my senior year, I chose to spend a year working in my hometown of Bethlehem. In 2013, I

returned to South Bend, finding employment as a residence hall director at Holy Cross College. In 2014, when a community of Franciscan Friars enrolled at Holy Cross, I inquired about many aspects of their communal life and later made a formal visit with them and chose to enter the community. While this experience provided for significant growth in my prayer, personal discipline, trust in Divine Providence, and appreciation for fraternity, I left at the end of my novitiate year.

In the summer of 2017, I returned to Holy Cross College to assist with their Saints and Scholars Program, and was later hired as a full-time admissions counselor. Many of the presentations with prospective students began with an explanation of the Congregation's origins and Blessed Basil Moreau. As I researched more about Fr. Moreau, I learned of his deep prayer and reliance on the Eucharist. To discern religious life more seriously, I was allowed to live in the rectory of a local Holy Cross parish. I witnessed sincere love for God, joy in vocation, and generous hospitality

toward all.

I would encourage someone exploring a vocation to do so with openness and trust in God. A life of prayer, regular participation in the Sacraments, and spiritual direction are helpful aspects for discerning whether God may be calling you to serve Him in religious life. Be not afraid!

More about Christopher ...

Family: Oldest of two children of John and Ann Lushis

Home Parish: Notre Dame of Bethlehem, Diocese of Allentown

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.A., psychology/theology, 2010; Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, M.A., Pastoral Ministry, 2017

Hobbies: Prayer, staying attuned to news in the Church/world, ultimate Frisbee, basketball, touch football, baseball, swimming, socializing with friends



Christopher Mulholland

Atchison, Kansas

When I came to Notre Dame, I was quickly introduced to my then rector, Fr. Matt Kuczora, C.S.C., and many other Holy Cross priests and religious. From there I learned more about Holy Cross

across the country and the world, and grew in familiarity with their charisms and mission.

The first thing that drew my attention to Holy Cross was the fact that it was so close to me as a Notre Dame student, so naturally my discernment of the religious life would begin there. I had read the *Holy Cross Constitutions* for hall staff formation, and was struck by Blessed Moreau's all-encompassing vision of formation and education. Of course, there is also the Cross, which, through celebrating Holy Week on Notre Dame's campus, I grew to pay more and more attention to. The more I learned about Holy Cross spirituality and formation at Moreau Seminary, the more I felt called to answer the question of religious life here.

From there, I knew that if I was to have any hope of discerning God's will in my life, I needed to practice listening. I learned it was important to ask the right questions and be patient for the answers. Instead of "should I be a priest?" the right question was "should I talk to a

vocations director?" I also talked to friends and family about it. The most useful in dispelling doubts was simply action. Taking steps towards answering the right questions was huge in being able to make the decision to apply. When it comes to your discernment - be sure to ask questions and pray for clarity. Talk to family and friends, people who know you well, about your thoughts, even your worries and doubts. The more you talk about it, the easier it will be to notice God moving in your heart. Finally, be patient in waiting for the answers. God moves on His own timeline, and He will reveal His will to you in the perfect way.

More about Christopher ...

Family: Second of six children of Edward and Valerie Mulholland

Home Parish: St. Benedict's, Diocese of Kansas City (Kansas)

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.S., electrical engineering, 2019

Hobbies: Bass guitar, electronics projects, hiking and outdoors



Tyler Tangen

Bonney Lake, Washington

I first found out about Holy Cross through attending the University of Portland. I had never heard of Holy Cross prior and didn't know much about religious life in general. I lived on campus in Schoenfeldt Hall and got to know our pastoral residents pretty well

through the years. Outside of dorm life, I continued to get involved with Campus Ministry and became familiar with Holy Cross and their unique way of life. A few discernment dinners later with Portland's Holy Cross community, and I began to build knowledge and understanding of what Holy Cross is all about and fell in love with the work they do.

When I was going through my Confirmation program, I got to know the seminarians who came to my parish to visit for holidays and breaks. They became close friends with my family and always joked with me about entering seminary. This was the first time that it clicked in my head that seminarians and priests were pretty normal people doing something really cool that maybe I could do too. It was definitely the first seed planted in my discernment.

The summer after my freshman year, I was fortunate to go on an immersion trip to Uganda in East Africa with three of my peers and a mentor. I saw Holy Cross

working in a completely different place and setting, and what struck me was the familiarity - the same charisms, mission and emphasis on community could be seen and felt.

I prepared myself for this next step by realizing I'll never feel fully prepared for what lies ahead! While speaking to a mentor and feeling the need to figure out my entire life in one moment, he would ask, "Where's the fire?" I realized my pressing matter wasn't so pressing. God doesn't expect us to become the people we're meant to be in an instant. God has a unique will for all of us - so be patient and don't stress!

More about Tyler ...

Family: Second of four children of Rich and Irene Tangen

Home Parish: Sts. Cosmas and Damien, Archdiocese of Seattle

Education: University of Portland, B.A., theology, philosophy minor, 2019

Hobbies: Running, listening to music, reading, playing with my family's dog



CONGREGATION *of* HOLY CROSS

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Pictured in front of the altar at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart are Rev. Mr. Joseph Pedersen, C.S.C., Rev. Mr. Vincent Nguyen, C.S.C., Rev. Mr. Gilbrian Stoy, C.S.C., Br. Joseph DeAgostino, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Zachary Rathke, C.S.C. They professed their Final Vows with the Congregation of Holy Cross on August 31, 2019.

Front Cover Photo: Seminarians Robert Lisowski, C.S.C., and Robert McFadden chat with a guest visiting from Le Mans, France, as they walk past the Grotto on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.