

CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3



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New Seminarians 2015–2016



The Vocations Team: (left) Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C., and Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C.

Hearing and Answering the Call

Jesus calls each of us to holiness. We are called to be His disciples so that we might find joy, peace and fulfillment. He calls because it is only in Him we find that for which we long. He calls us in a way that is often subtle, significant and suited to our own spiritual journey. Through this particular call, the Lord invites us to the life that will lead most directly to Him.

As the new vocations director for the Congregation of Holy Cross, I bring you the latest issue of CHOICES, introducing our new seminarians for 2015–2016. This issue strikes deep into the heart of how one might seek out the call that leads to true joy and fulfillment – here in this life and in its fullness in the Kingdom of God.

These seminarians wrestled with, and likely continue to ponder deeply, the same questions you are striving to answer for yourself – as they discern God's call in their own life. While discernment looks different for every one of us, and will look different to you – one thing will seem strikingly similar – the reassuring way in which they prayed for peace, sought a true fit with the Congregation of Holy Cross, followed the path that leads most fully into a relationship with God, were of joyful service to others, and had meaningful conversations with priests, brothers, and sisters that walked before them.

If you feel the Lord might be calling you to enter into religious life as a priest or brother, please feel free to contact us. Our work is to help men such as you to hear and answer God's call – to come and see.

Our Lord's Blessing on Your Way,
Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C.
Director, Office of Vocations
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Rev. Neil Wack, C.S.C., was appointed director of vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross on July 1, 2015. After earning a degree in computer science, Fr. Wack entered the seminary at the University of Notre Dame in 1997 and was ordained a priest at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in 2004. He was assigned to a parish in Colorado, and then was transferred to his home parish of Christ the King in South Bend, Ind., in 2005. He was named pastor in 2007. Under his leadership, Christ the King School, from which he graduated in 1984, continued to be one of the flagship schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend. As director of vocations, Fr. Wack coordinates vocation promotion efforts at Holy Cross campuses, parishes and other apostolates across the United States.

Moreau Seminary

ENTERING THE POSTULANT PROGRAM

The Postulant Program at Moreau Seminary, located across St. Joseph Lake from the Golden Dome at the University of Notre Dame, is a one-year, pre-novitiate program. It is designed for men ages 21 to 35 who are prepared to immerse themselves in Holy Cross Community life, while continuing their personal discernment, spiritual development and growth in knowledge.

These men have pursued their college studies in various places and have been exploring their religious vocations, often aided by ongoing contact with the Office of Vocations and other members of Holy Cross.



DREW MICHAEL CLARY

Although Drew grew up Catholic and, looking back, finds signs of his calling woven throughout his life, it wasn't until he came to the University of Notre Dame that he started to take his faith seriously. "I think

that I first acknowledged it consciously a few years ago when I applied to be a Big Brother for the Big Brother Big Sisters Program. During the interview, they asked who my best friends are, and the list was overwhelmingly composed of Holy Cross priests."

The eldest of three boys born to Richard and Pamela ("Rick" and "Pam") Clary of Castroville, Texas, Drew has a rich educational and service background to draw from, and a long list of Holy Cross priests – too many to acknowledge – that have helped him; though he says his parents deserve most of the credit. "Their love, support and prayers over the years have freed me to make choices for myself as I have been called to them. Their unconditional love has been a huge blessing

in my life, and it is as undeserved as it has been unacknowledged for much of my life.”

Drew graduated from Medina Valley High School in Castroville, Texas, in May 2005; received a bachelor's degree in economics/political science from the University of Notre Dame in May 2009; and earned a master's degree in May 2011 from the University of Notre Dame (Alliance for Catholic Education). He taught middle school social science, math and religion for two years at Most Pure Heart of Mary School. In addition, he coached football and basketball and helped with some administrative duties. Since completion of the ACE program in 2011, he also worked at Notre Dame for the ACE program. His duties have been varied, but he cites one of his major accomplishments as helping to lead the Fighting for Our Children's Future National Bus Tour – a 55-city, 30,000-mile project that took the tour to almost 80 schools across the nation in eight months.

Drew's first introduction to Holy Cross was in Fisher Hall at Notre Dame as an undergraduate. “Daily Mass with Fathers Rob Moss, Tim Scully and Dick Warner were an unforgettable – and central – part of my undergraduate experience.” Attending Notre Dame, working as an ACE teacher, and returning to Notre Dame, drew him closer still. “Through my work with ACE, I was blessed to work with and come to know many other Holy Cross priests and communities across the U.S. and around the world. Pope Francis recently said that priests must be joyful because people can tell when they're not – I have been deeply touched by the warmth, commitment, zeal and deep joy that is routinely displayed by all the members of the Congregation I have been blessed to meet ... I have come to know myself, my faith and my God through this community. No other community would make sense for me.”

The best piece of advice Drew has overheard for those discerning a vocation? “I heard that a vocation occurs at the intersection of two freedoms: The freedom of God to call us and our free will. While God may be calling any of us to religious life, He would also never cheat us of our free will. Keep your heart open to the call and open to saying yes, but remember that that second step – saying yes – is a decision to be made and not something that just happens to you if you remain passive!”



“A young person is always a person in search of something worth living for ...”

Pope Francis



**NICHOLAS
GABRIEL
GALASSO**

Few may realize that discernment, applying to a vocation in Holy Cross, being accepted and entering formation doesn't instantly wipe away all doubt. These anxieties are a part of the continued work

of discernment, according to Postulant Nicholas Galasso. “To be honest, there is still some level of doubt within me if Holy Cross is truly where I am called, but that doubt arises from the fact that I have yet to live in community and formation with the Congregation. A huge realization for me was that there comes a point in discernment when the question of, ‘is this where I'm called,’ can only be answered by living that life and asking that question from within.”

As to what prompted Nicholas to apply to live that life and seek his calling, he points to his early childhood, and to the very beginning of his time at Notre Dame.

“At some level, the call to a religious vocation has always been there for me. When I was a kid I remember wanting to play priest but knowing I couldn't because I didn't have the right stuff or ‘powers,’ as I thought of it at the time. While I thought about it superficially in high school, it wasn't until I came to Notre Dame, began working in campus ministry, and actually began spending time with Holy Cross priests, that it became a serious thought ... I decided to ask my rector, Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., about Holy Cross and he recommended that I attend a Corby Night. (Scheduled evenings of community prayer and conversation in Corby Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame).

Throughout my four years, we [Fr. McCormick and I] had many conversations about Holy Cross, discernment, and vocations, and it was my first opportunity to see what the life of a Holy Cross priest really looks like on a practical level. During my junior and senior years at Notre Dame I also directed the dorm chapel choir, and Fr. Pete was fantastic about making sure I was receiving a great formation experience as part of my duties and in allowing me to take a leadership role with the liturgies celebrated there.”

A 2012 graduate of the University of Notre Dame (theology/sacred music), and prior graduate of Homer-Center High School in Homer City, Pennsylvania, Nicholas is the eldest of three children of Frank and Tracy Galasso of Blairsville, Pennsylvania. He says his preparation for the program was like most entrants: "attending daily Mass (when my work schedule allows it), praying throughout the day, and trying to live the spiritual life ... I continue to read and pray over the Holy Cross Constitutions and what it will mean for me to live according to them." Nicholas also finds strength in the Holy Cross motto: "Ave Crux, Spes Unica" - of being so deliberate and intentional about accepting one's crosses and carrying them with the joy and love of Christ.

"Sometimes we're so worried about becoming something, whether it's a priest, spouse, religious, etc., that we forget that our vocation is to holiness, and it's one we are called to live out each day of our lives, no matter where we are in our own journey. By focusing on that call to holiness, and asking what we need to be holy, your path will reveal itself in time. As Cardinal Newman wrote, 'I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step is enough for me,' so too with those discerning their vocation - you need to trust in God's Providence and that He will lead us to Himself."

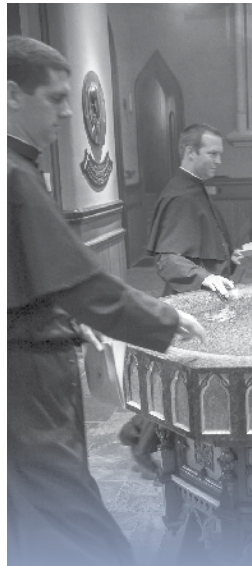


GABRIEL JULIAN GRIGGS

You may wonder what's so appealing about Holy Cross - and the answers may vary, but they all seem to draw on the mission and the way the Community carries it out. As Gabriel puts it, "When I started looking into

religious life more formally, the primary draw with Holy Cross was the writings of Blessed Basil Moreau, the mission of the Congregation as educators in the faith, and the rich community and communal prayer life of the religious."

"As someone who feels called to teach, I was struck by the humility and sense of purpose in Moreau's statement (speaking in the voice of Christ): 'Hide yourself in God with me, and do not dream of appearing again before I show myself to the world. Hide yourself. Bury yourself willingly in the dust of a classroom or in the obscurity of a rural parish church.' This meditation of standing at the foot of



"Our consecration in Baptism is a departure on a journey that requires us ... to be refashioned by the Lord's creating grace over and over again."

*Holy Cross
Constitution (6:58)*

the Cross and remaining hidden in Christ was one of the many reflections from Moreau's writings that really appealed to me."

The eldest of three of Ann Donohue-Griggs and the late Gladden Griggs of South Bend, Indiana, Gabriel learned about Holy Cross during his time at Notre Dame. Gabriel graduated from Notre Dame in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and applied mathematics, following graduation from Trinity School at Greenlawn, South Bend, Indiana.

"I was fortunate to live around the corner from Fr. Sean McGraw, C.S.C. Over the years, I've also gotten to know Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., through various events, so it was great to work with him and learn about Holy Cross through him as well. During my junior year of college I put some serious thought and prayer into the idea and even remember thinking distinctly that I could see myself being fulfilled in religious life. Of course, I pursued my own plans for a while and it was not until this past year that it became clear that I was being invited to more formally discern religious life."

For Gabriel, this invitation took place over the course of a few stages and he has strong advice for those who may be discerning. "The first stage was opening my ears to hear what God was asking of me ... during the second stage, I was growing more and more open to the religious vocation. For most of my life, I had been preparing myself for marriage, so it took some time to open up to a life of celibacy. Throughout this period, I worked through a few audiobooks about John Paul II and I thought to myself: 'I want to be like him.' This process of realization was characterized by a great desire to try out religious life and a sense that it might just be a vocation in which my whole person would be integrated. God knows us better than we know ourselves and He also wants us to be joyful - even more than we do. He will love us no matter what we choose, but He also created us with particular talents and abilities to be used for the building of His Kingdom. Be explicit in your prayer, ask how you are being called to serve and, most importantly, listen and then follow through once you have gotten your answer."

Vocation Discernment Retreats

Our life in Holy Cross is one to which the Lord Jesus has called us. By answering His call, we have been drawn into a life of fulfillment and joy where we find ourselves serving Christ and His Church in ways that we never imagined.

Are you called to join us in serving God's people as an educator, pastor or missionary? We can help you answer this question.

For high school juniors and seniors, college students and college graduates, Holy Cross offers retreats specifically designed to assist you in your discernment.

The discernment retreats for college students and college graduates are designed to teach the basics of how to hear God's call, while also providing opportunities for participants to deepen their discernment through prayer, personal reflection and interaction with Holy Cross priests, brothers and seminarians.

Prayer to Know One's Own Vocation

Lord, my God and my loving Father, You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I knew that You are in all things, and that every path can lead me to You.

*But of them all, there is one especially by which You want me to come to You. Since I will do what You want of me, I pray You, send Your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what You want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all of my love, with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen**

Learn more about these and other Holy Cross retreats at retreats.holycrossvocations.org, by emailing vocation@holycrossusa.org or calling (574) 631-6385.

**Excerpted from the USCCB website: usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayers-to-know-ones-vocation.cfm*



"Surely in the eyes of faith, nothing more deserves our respect and adoration than does the Sacred Heart."

Blessed Basil Moreau



STEPHEN FRANCIS SHERIDAN

Recounting his discernment, Stephen shares two very valuable lessons: one of trust when trying to make out that subtle yet persistent voice - the voice of God; and, one of confidence - to take the next step ...

"During my junior year of high school, I had the opportunity to go on a Kairos Retreat. Kairos was my first real experience of conversion. As I worked to understand how to live my life in keeping with the reality I had encountered on retreat, I was confronted with many new questions and possibilities that had been invisible to me before. The one question and possibility that gently impressed itself upon me and has never since faded away is what I now believe, (after almost seven years of discerning that quiet but persistent voice), might be God's call to become a Holy Cross priest. It has taken me a long time to come to commit to entering the seminary because, for me, the voice of God was hard to make out. It was like standing at a four-way intersection calling out for direction, and being able to hear a person's voice offering me responses, but not being confident enough in what I thought I was hearing to commit to this road as opposed to the others. Time helped me trust in what I thought I was hearing and take real steps to explore what lies in this direction."

The fifth of six children of Chris and Karen Sheridan of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Stephen graduated from Bishop McCort High School in 2008; earned a bachelor's degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame in May 2012, and completed his master's degree in theology from the University in July 2014.

It wasn't until Stephen transferred to Notre Dame as a sophomore that he knew anything about Holy Cross. "All I knew was that I wanted to find my place at Notre Dame. This led me to make an attempt to learn more about what Notre Dame is. In learning about what Notre Dame is, I began to learn about Holy Cross ... Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., was most influential in helping me make the decision to explore my vocation with Holy Cross, not because he pushed me to commit, but because he guided me through my own process. Fr. Jim allowed me to hear, and hear more clearly, what was actually being

spoken from God to me through my own desires, relationships and experiences. Fr. Jim did not add another voice to the mix, but helped me sift the worthwhile from the clutter; the good stuff from the rest of the stuff. He really helped me discern one good from the next without pushing or pulling me this way or that."

Ultimately, what helped solidify Stephen's decision to enter formation with the Congregation of Holy Cross was adopting the right perspective and seeking help: "Try to see vocation as not simply the destination but also as the route carrying you there ... everything will be okay. Pursuing one's vocation is not evading the alternative misery; it is responding in all of the big and small, momentary decisions and life-long commitments to the call that God initiates in order to bring one to his/her fullest self. Let others in to help. If you trust them and they are trustworthy, good things will come of sharing your thoughts and worries with a friend rather than bottling them and letting them fester."

Continuing Formation

These men are advancing in the structured formation program that is available to University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College students who entered the Old College Undergraduate Seminary.

They move to the Postulant Program at Moreau Seminary during their senior year or upon completing their undergraduate degree and share in the immersion in Holy Cross Community life.



**ANDREW
DAVID FRITZ**

How does one begin to discern a vocation to the priesthood? For Andrew, prayer was definitely helpful in the beginning. "When I was thinking about Holy Cross and entering formation for the priesthood, spending time with



"Who could, O Mary, reveal to the world all there is of tenderness in your heart for us?"

Blessed Basil Moreau

the Lord and asking Him to help me do His will was a small way in which I could stay close to Him. One bit of advice that has been reiterated to me over the past three years I have spent in Old College is that, when it comes to discernment, you can't really mess it up. There really is no 'wrong path' you can choose if you seek to follow God and His plan. There is comfort in knowing that it is all on God's shoulders, not your own."

The second of four children of David and Peggy Fritz, Andrew first met Holy Cross when he attended a summer conference for high school students after his sophomore year in high school. "My older sister Melanie encouraged me to go to a luncheon inside of Old College – the Congregation's undergraduate seminary. Although there was an abundance of free pizza to be eaten that day, some of the seminarians and the vocations director gave us an informal introduction to what Holy Cross is all about, and what it means to discern the priesthood. It was a different way of living out a ministry than I had grown up with in my parish back home or had been attracted to until I interacted with the priests over that week."

Andrew graduated from Wilde Lake High School in West Columbia, Maryland, in May 2012 and is currently attending the University of Notre Dame and will obtain his bachelor's degree in May 2016. He has mentored high school students and given witness during ND Vision (summer 2013). "For me, discerning the priesthood and discerning Holy Cross came as a bundled package. It wasn't until attending ND Vision in 2010 that I started thinking about the priesthood, and it wasn't until a year later that I first heard a call to discern in Holy Cross."

"The summer after ND Vision, I attended a leadership retreat for the Archdiocese of Baltimore called **HIGHLI**. It was over this retreat that one of the counselors asked me if I was discerning a vocation to the priesthood. For me this was a big deal – someone else had seen a gift within me, and so I took that to prayer, and decided to look into Holy Cross more. The call I heard was much like Samuel who heard the voice of God loud and clear, but didn't know it was God until another person (Eli) showed him who it was that was speaking."

Ultimately, it was the mission of Holy Cross to make God known, loved and served that really inspired Andrew to apply. "... Such a different perspective than I had ever come across in the parishes my family had been members of growing up. The priests that I have met have all been very personable, kind and loving men, which made their ministry all that more attractive. Seeing them live in community as brothers, as part of a family, and seeing them take vows – all of it just made sense."



ETHAN SAMUEL LOTT

It's probably not entirely realistic to imagine that everyone who discerns a vocation to the priesthood simply wakes up with an epiphany, leaps out of bed and exclaims, "I'm going to discern a vocation to the priesthood!" Nor would

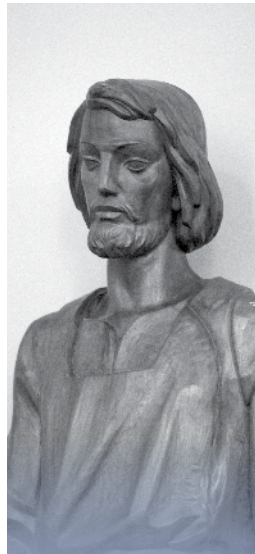
they know exactly where or how to discern at first, but for Ethan, the priesthood has been a thought since Catholic primary school, and that seems about as far back as one can get. "Ever since then, it's been something that I've prayed and thought about, and I believe it is God's plan for my life."

Ethan, a future University of Notre Dame graduate (May 2016), majoring in political science and theology with a minor in philosophy, first found out about Holy Cross during his junior year of high school, when he attended a Come and See Weekend at Old College on the campus of Notre Dame.

Come and See Weekends offer high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to spend a weekend at Old College Undergraduate Seminary at the University of Notre Dame, so they might get to know the seminarians, their daily routines and their experiences of formation. Weekends for high school seniors take place in the fall, and in the spring for high school juniors. Participants join the seminary community for daily Mass and prayer, learn about the Congregation of Holy Cross and its mission, and tour both the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College campuses. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend these weekend visits, and they have ample opportunities to ask questions so they can better accompany their sons in hearing God's call.

Between Ethan's fruitful Come and See Weekend and beginning the Postulant Program, a lot of prayer and spiritual direction guided him, followed by even more prayer, and taking time to listen to what God has to say. "The sense of joy and grace that I feel when I'm living and interacting with the Community, and knowing that this peace is a gift from God, is the most helpful thing to dispel doubt. Always allow God to speak. Never presume that you know what He will say, and pray constantly. If you open yourself up to God, He will guide you, and reward you."

The zeal and commitment Ethan witnessed in every priest and brother he's met also inspired him to



"May the grace of our Lord, the blessing of His mother conceived without sin, and the protection of St. Joseph be ever with you."

Blessed Basil Moreau

apply. "Fr. Bob Loughery, C.S.C., my spiritual director, helped me explore and discern my place in the Congregation, and has helped me draw closer to the Congregation's spirituality. Fr. Steve Lacroix, C.S.C., my formator in Old College, also provided wisdom, clarity and guidance. I'm also drawn to the Congregation's educational apostolates and the strong sense of community found within the Congregation."

Ethan is the only child of Lauren and Wesley Lott of Greeneville, Tennessee, and a member of Notre Dame Catholic Church in the Diocese of Knoxville. Prior to his attendance at the University of Notre Dame, he graduated from Morristown West High School in Morristown, Tennessee, in May 2012. He is an Eagle Scout, former Boy Scout Camp chaplain, as well as a member of the Knights of Columbus and Notre Dame Right to Life. Ethan also taught a Confirmation preparation class at St. Joseph's Parish and Holy Cross College in South Bend and Notre Dame, Indiana.

Old College

INCOMING OLD COLLEGIANS

The Old College Undergraduate Seminary is housed in the University of Notre Dame's original building, which was constructed in 1843. It is more than a residential community; it provides a well-rounded life that includes prayer, recreation, conversation and shared meals.

Old Collegians pursue their academic interests as students at Notre Dame or Holy Cross College, while at the same time, being introduced to religious life in Holy Cross through a process of spiritual formation in the context of community living.



HUNTER DANIEL OSTAPOWICZ

Hunter developed a very unique and early introduction to God's call. "Ever since I was a little child, I have always been attracted to big, old churches. My parents would take me around Grand Rapids to visit them

and take pictures. I started to compile these pictures into a book, and since I was a little kid I was very proud of my creation so I showed it to everyone."

"One day I brought it [the book] to my optometrist, who was so inspired by me that he called his friend from the *Grand Rapids Press* to write a story about me. Soon the columnist interviewed me and I was on the front cover of the Sunday edition. I have continued my hobby of church seeking, but when I was in the 8th grade my mother had a nursing conference in Washington, D.C., that I ended up going to as well. We dedicated a Saturday to visiting the local churches, but it was at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where I felt like I needed to look into the priesthood more. I took the call seriously and went through high school without it leaving my mind. It was the end of my sophomore year when I started to look into religious orders."

Hunter came to know of the Congregation of Holy Cross through Internet research. "I was looking into many religious orders who were all unique to themselves for many different reasons, but one stood out from the rest. The charism and devotions of Holy Cross are very different from other orders. The devotion to understanding the Passion of Jesus Christ and His Holy Cross as a 'Great Band of Men' was very appealing to me."

Hunter graduated from Grand Rapids West Catholic High School on May 20, 2015, and enters Old College with a myriad of interests, which include church seeking, running, playing trombone and singing bass. He is the second of two children of Melissa and Mark Ostapowicz of Grand Rapids, Michigan. His older sister, Riley, and parents have been behind him 100 percent.

"My family has been behind me in all of the decisions I have made regarding my vocation. They are excited to see me enter the seminary. My parish priests and parish family (at the Basilica of Saint Adalbert) have been extremely encouraging for me to explore my vocation and anywhere that leads me. I also see Blessed Basil Moreau as a very inspiring person. He used the Holy Family as a model for the Congregation, so it is reassuring to know the sense of community is going to be strong."

Even after hearing God's call early on, Hunter found prayer and meditation helpful when he became lost at times, and learned how valuable communication can be when discerning a vocation. "In this confusing and busy world, I like to center myself and look to the saints for guidance. Meditation was the best way for me to clear my mind ... talk to someone about it! Whether it is a priest, parent or friend, going to



"Teach us what a lovely thing it is to be truly free, to be detached from everything, to cling to nothing that will pass with time."

Blessed Basil Moreau

someone to talk is always helpful. We are all social beings, so communicating with others brings more peace than keeping it in. The Holy Spirit works through everyone, all we need to do is be open and ask for help."



**STEPHEN
ANTHONY
JAKUBOWSKI**

This may blow your mind, but it is entirely possible that you may feel called to a life in Holy Cross and yet not be certain you will be a priest. And that is okay. Just ask Stephen. "Recognizing that moving to Old College

is not the same thing as being ordained a priest was crucial for me. I've come to realize that the question of whether I have a religious vocation must be addressed, and for me Old College is the best place to do that. I'm going to Old College in order to continue my discernment, in a way I could not by myself, not because I know with perfect certainty that I will be a priest."

Stephen is the third of five children of Michael and Susan Jakubowski from Grand Rapids, Michigan. A 2013 graduate of Catholic Central High School in Grand Rapids, and returning junior at the University of Notre Dame (majoring in mathematics and minoring in philosophy), Stephen says he would have to be "living under a rock" to not become aware of the Holy Cross community.

"I was impressed by the sense of family that permeated the Community. I felt very much at home on both of my visits to Old College and decided that the 'click' between Holy Cross and me was strong enough that I needed to check it out further. To prepare myself for the Old College Program, I attend daily Mass and pray as often as possible. My 'preparations' are not explicitly about beginning the Old College Program; I am more working to continue developing spiritually, as we are all called to do."

Stephen gives some very sage advice to others who may be discerning. "Take it one step at a time. My discernment consisted of a series of steps, from making the first contact with a priest to talk about my vocation to going on a visit to Old College to actually applying. And there are still quite a few steps left for me. But it's much easier to answer a small question like, 'Should I reach out and send an email to the

vocations director?" than a big one like, "Do I have a religious vocation?"

Stephen also stressed the importance of seeking help on your way: "My parents and my family have been tremendously influential in providing me with the basis and the grounding of faith which has served as a foundation for me in my discernment. Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., has also been very influential in the process of my discernment as well. His guidance has been invaluable; helping me to ask the right questions about what is the right path for me."



EDWARD CHRISTOPHER LOVETT II

The eldest of three of parents Edward and Francesca Lovett of Avondale, Arizona, Chris is a recent Westview High School graduate (Litchfield Park, Arizona). Chris was a youth ministry leader at St. John

Vianney's, and a member of his school's Teen Court, vocal ensemble and varsity baseball team.

Sometimes, the answers we seek are right in front of us the whole time - we just need our eyes to be open and to be receptive to it. Such was the case with Chris. Despite the fact that St. John Vianney's is a Holy Cross parish, Chris didn't know that the church belonged to a religious order; instead, he assumed that there's only one type of priest. "I always thought that being a priest was something that somebody personally wanted to do, I didn't know that it was a calling until Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., gave a lecture on vocations at a Come and See Weekend I attended."

Come and See Weekends for high school juniors and seniors, college students and college graduates help men discerning a call to religious life and priesthood. They offer the opportunity to step out of the daily routine in order to spend focused time in prayer and reflection with Our Lord - and offer the chance to experience communal life and prayer in Holy Cross, as well as learn more about our seminary programs, unique mission and charism.

"That weekend allowed me to listen for God's call and after exploring a little bit and tons of prayer, I knew for sure that I was called to the seminary. ... I was inspired by how on fire these men are for God and the strong brotherhood they have."



"Our mutual respect ... should be a hopeful sign of the Kingdom, and they are when others can behold how we love one another."

*Holy Cross
Constitution
(2:11)*

The road leading to Old College wasn't without some additional exploration, careful consideration and conversations however. "Fr. David Halm, C.S.C., Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and other various peers gave me their testimonies and personal experiences on what to expect in the seminary, what it's like, and walked me through my discernment and the application process." Also helpful in setting aside his reservations, was trusting in God. "Christ never said it would be easy, He said it will be worth it. Trust God and His perfect will."

Final Vows

The Congregation of Holy Cross joyfully celebrates the Final Vows of two men.

Rev. Mr. Matthew Hovde, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Dennis Strach II, C.S.C., made their final profession of vows on Aug. 29, 2015, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

During Final Vows, a Holy Cross religious professes the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience forever according to the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In this, they make the final and complete commitment of their lives to the communal work, prayer and life of Holy Cross.

After becoming finally professed members of Holy Cross, they received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in their Ordination as transitional deacons on Aug. 30, 2015. Their Ordination to the priesthood is planned for the spring of 2016.

You can learn more about Final Vows and view pictures, videos and other materials at vows.holycrossvocations.org.





MATTHEW JAMES REHAGEN

Matthew graduated from Helias Catholic High School in 2014 and is attending the University of Notre Dame, majoring in theology with a minor in mathematics. Matthew is the youngest of four boys of Mark and

Susan Rehagen of Jefferson City, Missouri. He is also the youngest brother of the recently ordained Rev. Christopher Rehagen, C.S.C.

"My brother, Christopher, who was ordained in the spring of 2015, has been the biggest influence in my discernment. His willingness to embrace God's call has helped me to see the joy which comes from following God's will. Other members of the Holy Cross Congregation such as Rev. Bill Miscamble, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Dennis Strach, C.S.C., have also had a big impact in my exploration of my discernment."



Matthew Rehagen (far left) pictured with his family, including his recently ordained brother, Rev. Christopher Rehagen, C.S.C.

That's not to say Matthew was without doubts at first, but found that he was able to dispel them in his discernment process, which included prayer and visits to Old College. Hearing God's call and interpreting it can take a lot of prayer and reflection - and that's after you become tuned in and receptive to hearing it.

"I have always been encouraged by my family to be willing to listen to God's call," said Matthew. "My discernment process has been a long one, but I began to think about it much more seriously during my senior year of high school and my freshman year at Notre Dame. I have talked with my family, friends



"Perhaps ... someone has the will to become a missionary: go ahead! This is beautiful, to spread the Gospel of Jesus. Be brave, young people!"

Pope Francis

and members of the Office of Vocations in order to further my discernment. Visits to Old College have helped me to see what the typical experience in the program is like and helped me to develop close relationships with the seminarians. The Community has welcomed me with open arms, and I could not be happier about it. The family-like atmosphere the Congregation provides is very appealing and inspired me to apply."

Discernment looks different for everyone, and while some may know right away and others may take years to discern, Matthew encourages everyone to take time to pray and not rush a decision either way, but also know when to take further action.

"Eventually there will come a time when just thinking about joining the seminary will no longer help your discernment; you must be willing to jump in and make a visit."



Old College Undergraduate Seminary



Moreau Seminary

To learn more about all of our seminarians and take a photo tour of Old College and Moreau Seminary, check out our web page at seminarians.holycrossvocations.org.



Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE)



"This work is so important because the Church owes its best energy to the poor ... and because the Church in the United States is becoming more and more Latino every day. I am grateful to God to be doing this work." —Fr. Joseph Corpora, C.S.C.

The Brothers of St. Joseph, the forerunners of the brothers of Holy Cross, were founded to meet the educational needs of post-revolutionary France. Rev. Basil Anthony Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, then sent out brothers and priests to Africa, North America and Asia, in part, to meet the educational needs of families in the missions. Holy Cross has observed education needs not only abroad – but here at home as well, and has responded to these needs of the Church in bold and creative ways ever since.

One such response is through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) at the University of Notre Dame – a Congregation of Holy Cross apostolate. Holy Cross priests, Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., and Rev. Sean McGraw, C.S.C., co-founded ACE in 1993. That same decade, the University of Portland also began a similar partnership called PACE.

Now in its 18th year, ACE invites young people to work alongside Holy Cross religious, serving the Church. Those working with ACE are responding to the call for talented, well-trained educators to teach and/or become administrators in Catholic elementary and primary schools nationwide –

especially those with the most pressing needs, which often includes schools that teach English as a New Language (ENL).

"I am very grateful for the work that has been entrusted to me in ACE," said Fr. Joe Corpora, C.S.C., director of University-School Partnerships for ACE. "I work closely with bishops and pastors, superintendents and principals to make Catholic schools more accessible to the Latino community."

Applicants selected to the ACE program live in community houses and represent a diverse set of backgrounds and undergraduate academic disciplines. They regularly come together for Mass and meals, as well as other forms of prayer and fellowship.

ACE students experience excellent academics preparation, community-building and spiritual growth through a first-rate graduate program, retreat opportunities and a number of conferences on key topics in Catholic education, such as attracting to campus diverse groups of leaders who serve children, and how they might share ACE's mission of sustaining, strengthening and transforming Catholic schools.

Participants in ACE programs transform countless lives – giving disadvantaged children the opportunities they need and deserve.

"This work is so important because the Church owes its best energy to the poor ... and because the Church in the United States is becoming more and more Latino every day. I am grateful to God to be doing this work," said Fr. Corpora.



For more information about ACE, visit ace.nd.edu.

For more information about PACE, visit education.up.edu/pace/.

Discerning God's will is not something to do on your own. You can pray and research on your own, but finding the right next step often only comes by reaching out to a vocations director. Our role is not to convince you to join our community; it is to help you hear and answer God's call. In hearing and answering God's call you will find something greater than what you might uncover on your own. Drop us a line and we will help you to discover how God's call is leading to the fulfillment of your deepest longing.



United States Province of Priests
and Brothers

Office of Vocations
574-631-6385

holycrossvocations.org