

CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

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New Seminarians 2014-2015



The Vocations Team: (left) Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C.

Answering the Call

Hearing and answering God's call is not always an easy thing to do. Yet it is one of the most important things that we can do. This is true, not just because God is God and we should follow His will wherever it may lead; following the Lord is the most important thing that we can do because in doing so, we will find the fulfillment of our longing.

God does not call us to something just because He needs someone to do it. He calls because He knows the great good that we are created for and wishes to call us into it. God sees the full picture. He sees us as we are and as we can be. Over and over God has revealed His desire that we may have life and have it to the full. His call draws all of this together and is extended as an invitation into fullness of life in Him, here and now and into eternity. Hearing that call can be difficult in that there are many distractions in our life and we often struggle to open our hearts to the Lord. Answering the call can also be difficult because we fear where it may take us or we worry that the challenges may be too much.

This fall, 16 men are taking the next step in following the Lord by entering into the Old College and Postulant Programs with the Congregation of Holy Cross. They have taken this step, not because they are certain that the Lord is calling them to full religious life in Holy Cross; rather, their prayer and discernment have pointed them in this direction. They proceed knowing that in doing so, they will be formed to more fully open their lives to the Lord so that they may hear His call and follow as He leads.

If you have ever felt that the Lord might be calling you to enter into religious life as a priest or brother, please feel free to contact us. We would be happy to assist you as you endeavor to hear and answer the Lord's call.

In Christ,
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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.



**CAMERON PHILIP
CORTENS**

Cameron graduated in 2013 from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology. During his four years as a student, Cameron became

familiar with Holy Cross; the priests on campus left a lasting impact, especially in his prayer life and spiritual growth.

Cameron is attracted to the image of a priest as spiritual guide and teacher of the faith – which is part of the charism of Holy Cross. “That is what I want to be for those around me in the world and I have seen that this image of a teacher-priest for the Church is very much at the heart of Holy Cross’ apostolic work as educators, rectors and administrators in its universities.”

He spent a year in Ireland with the House of Brigid, where he served as a parish catechist, music minister and prayer leader for the community. The experience, including the pastoral challenges of the work, has prepared him for life in the seminary. “I cannot take credit for all this as self-preparation; it has principally been God’s grace working through the work and lifestyle expected of me in my intentional community.”

Cameron is also strengthening his prayer life, cultivating a habit of daily, solitary prayer, which he plans to continue at Moreau Seminary.

He’s at peace with the fact that discernment does not necessarily lead to 100 percent certainty and he’s trusting in Divine Providence for the rest. “I

believe that God has guided me this far, pulling me along by this deep desire in my heart, and as long as I continue to stay close to that desire, He will not lead me astray.”

A Thomas Merton prayer guides Cameron as well: “I do believe the desire to please you does in fact please you, and I hope that I never do anything apart from that desire.”

Cameron is the eldest son of four children of Andrew and Caroline Cortens of Boise, Idaho. He served for two summers with Notre Dame’s Vision program and also volunteered for four months in Senegal.



ROBERT JAMES LISOWSKI

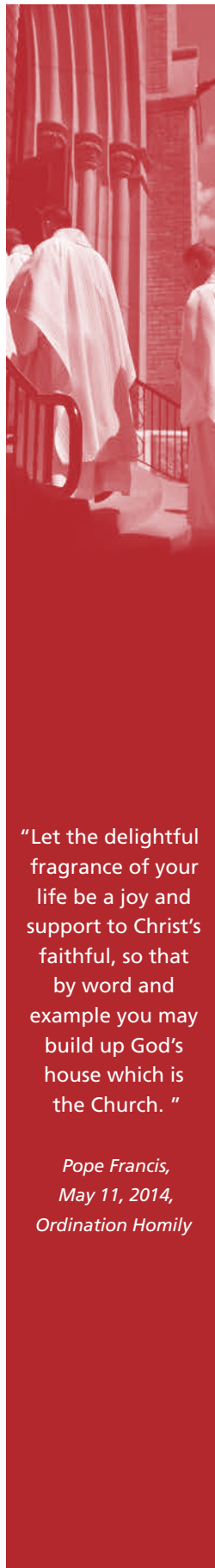
Robert came to know Holy Cross through King’s College, an education apostolate in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., near his home.

Although he first discerned a vocation to the diocesan priesthood, Robert “was drawn to a community life based on prayer and an apostolate that was in education.” He found both in the charism of Holy Cross. “I was very much inspired by the fraternity I observed among the religious, both during my visits to King’s and to Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame. I observed a deep and living commitment to prayer and also a ‘zeal for the apostolate.’ I felt that in Holy Cross, I would be able to respond to the call of the Lord to live my vocation in the context of this community and the mission to educate both the mind and heart.”

Fr. Dan Issing, C.S.C., a King’s professor, introduced Robert to the community and was a “constant support” during the application process. “Being a dedicated professor, Fr. Issing was able to model for me the mission of Holy Cross religious as ‘educators in the faith.’”

Robert has been preparing for the Postulant Program through quiet prayer and reflection, including a silent retreat at Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky. Prayer has also been helpful in dispelling any doubts during his discernment – as has laughter. “It seems necessary to do all things rooted in prayer and also to never take oneself too seriously.”

In May, Robert graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. John’s University in Queens, N.Y., where he received the Golden Key and a gold medal for academic



“Let the delightful fragrance of your life be a joy and support to Christ’s faithful, so that by word and example you may build up God’s house which is the Church. ”

*Pope Francis,
May 11, 2014,
Ordination Homily*

excellence. He is the oldest of three children of Robert and Kathy Lisowski of Old Forge, Pa.



STEPHEN JOHN IUSCH

Stephen began building relationships with Holy Cross priests while converting to Catholicism during his master’s degree studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Progressing through the RCIA program rekindled a childhood fondness for the Catholic liturgy. “I began to realize that God had not only called me to enter into the Catholic Church, but was calling me to enter into discernment of a religious vocation. This is what led me to contact the vocations office at Holy Cross.”

Stephen began his discernment while studying for a Ph.D. in accounting at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Finding a religious order with higher education apostolates was important. “As I began to talk with vocations directors of various orders, it became apparent to me that Holy Cross was a little different than many of the orders I spoke with. In particular, the zeal of Holy Cross to cultivate the mind, but not at the expense of the heart, really stood out to me.”

He also appreciated that Holy Cross colleges and universities – the University of Notre Dame, the University of Portland, King’s College and Stonehill College – are “unapologetically” Catholic.

Within the Holy Cross Community, Stephen connected with Fr. Dan Parrish, C.S.C., in particular, not only as his vocation mentor, but because the two have a lot in common. Fr. Dan was working on his own Ph.D. at the same time as Stephen, “so beyond talking about matters of faith, we were also able to talk when I was hitting roadblocks in my doctoral studies.”

Prayer – listening to God as well as talking to him – has been critical to help dispel any doubts Stephen might have. “The more I let myself listen for God’s call, the more at ease I felt with pushing further and further down the path of discernment.”

One of Stephen’s hobbies is to make knotted rosaries, which he gives to people he believes may benefit. He’s often approached about his craft when he’s working on a rosary while sitting in an airport, park or doctor’s office. “The joy on their faces when I reach into my bag and offer them a rosary that I have made is unforgettable. I really feel like I make a personal connection with these people through just a small act of generosity.”

Stephen has a twin brother and older sister. He is the son of Robert F. Lusch and Virginia N. Lusch of Tucson.



GEOFFREY THOMAS MOONEY

During his undergraduate years at the University of Notre Dame, Geoffrey sang in the Notre Dame Folk Choir.

One of his favorite times of the year was singing at the Ordination Mass on Easter Saturday at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart “and witnessing the pure joy and enthusiasm of the newly ordained priests.”

Those experiences, living among and praying with Holy Cross priests in the dorms and having religious as mentors through Campus Ministry and in the ACE program, helped introduce Geoffrey to the unique charisma of Holy Cross.

He first started to hear God's call to a religious vocation at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville, Ind., as he participated in retreats and volunteered as a liturgical minister. Geoffrey began to think about a religious community once he got to Notre Dame, but put discernment on hold to teach as part of the ACE program after graduation. During five years at Pensacola Catholic High School, Geoffrey realized that his experiences there were leading him back to the idea of religious life. “My last year in the classroom was one of great discovery, prayer and complete openness to where God might be calling me.”

One piece of advice has stuck with Geoffrey and helped him in his discernment: “Someone told me that God's answer for us in life is always ‘yes,’ and it is up to us to discover the right question.”

“In discernment, initiate open dialogue with God – he is always waiting and wants you to seek out the ‘yes’ he has in store for your life.”

Education is a key component of the Holy Cross charisma and that commitment to educate young people worldwide inspired Geoffrey to become a Holy Cross seminarian. “Behind that commitment, however, is the fervor of the Gospel message. In all the Holy Cross priests I have met, I see true love for the mission to be Christ for others, exercising great energy for His Word, yet great humility in recognizing that this task is never-ending in our daily lives.”

Geoffrey is the oldest of three children of Thomas and Sharon Mooney.



“Our commitment is an invitation for our fellow Christians to fulfill their vocation, and for ourselves it is a concrete way of working with them for the spread of the gospel and with all for the development of a more just and human society.”

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 7



DAVID WARREN SMITH

The fire to more deeply discern a religious vocation was ignited about two years ago by Holy Cross priests at the University of Notre Dame, where David received his bachelor's degree in history and political science in May 2014.

While the embers may have been burning from time to time in the past, “talking with different Holy Cross priests, visiting the community and spending time with other seminarians validated everything I had been feeling.”

Dorm rectors Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., and newly ordained Fr. Pat Reidy, C.S.C., were also influential and challenged David through their words and examples.

He recognizes the value in learning from the shared experience of others in Holy Cross. “If that seed of discernment is planted in your heart, recognize that there is only so much you can do to nurture it on your own. One of the most profound ways we experience Christ is through interaction with others, so speak with people you trust about your discernment. In my case, the people I spoke with revealed more truths about me than I ever could have grasped on my own.”

To prepare for the Postulant Program, David has been strengthening his prayer life by doing more spiritual reading and reflection, participating in more formal prayers such as Lauds and Vespers and also praying more informally to better recognize Christ's presence in his life.

David is the eldest of three children of Dave and Joanne Smith of Wantage, N.J. He was a member of several Notre Dame bands, the symphony orchestra and the Bandlink Outreach program. Besides music, he enjoys outdoor activities, strategy games and sports.



ROBERT GEORGE YANIK

Rob learned of Holy Cross through priests and brothers at King's College (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and theology in May 2014.

“The Holy Cross men I know are men of integrity, compassion and commitment; I hope to find that which motivates them.”

Fr. Dick Hockman, C.S.C., and Fr. Dan Issing, C.S.C., demonstrated for Rob that religious life is more extraordinary than he first thought. "Community, education and engagement are all things I want in my own life."

In a deeper sense, however, "in trying to recognize Divine Providence, I figure Holy Cross has been laid before me, through no design of my own, so that I might be a part of it." He recognizes his entrance into the Postulant Program as a "moment of conversion. I recognize a desire within myself to have a more meaningful relationship with God and I know of no better way to find it than in the seminary."

To that end, he's learning more about Blessed Basil Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and developing a more substantive and structured prayer life to help in his discernment. "The only thing that could relieve me of doubt is the secure belief that God's will shall be done, despite my own ignorance or errors. Also, that God's generous providence will make available to me the grace I need, whatever might happen."

In the end, Rob said, his discernment is between him and God and although many will help along the way, "it eventually comes down to that unique relationship."

Rob is the eighth of nine children of Glenn and Marianne Yanik of Dallas, Pa. He received the Christ the King Award for Theology and is a member of the Aquinas Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, Theta Alpha Kappa and Delta Epsilon Sigma. Among his interests are hiking, camping, kayaking, rhetoric and baking.

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.



PAUL MARTIN FORTIN

The seeds of Paul's discernment began to sprout at an Emmaus Day retreat hosted by his home diocese of Peoria, Ill., where Most Rev. Daniel Jenky, C.S.C., is bishop.

While talking to diocesan seminarians on staff, they



"The Good Shepherd enters through the door, and the doors of mercy are the wounds of the Lord: if you do not enter into your ministry through the Lord's wounds, you will not be good shepherds."

*Pope Francis,
May 11, 2014,
Ordination Homily*

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 Come and See Weekend is offered for high school seniors in the fall and high school juniors in the spring. The retreats provide an opportunity to spend a weekend at Old College, the undergraduate seminary program at the University of Notre Dame. Participants join the Community for daily Mass and prayer, learn about the Congregation and its mission and tour the Notre Dame and Holy Cross College campuses.

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.

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



“sparked my discernment of the priesthood. Spending a few years with Holy Cross, I also began to grow in appreciation of religious life.”

The experience also taught him a prayer he continues to say today: “Lord, help me to want to be what you want me to be.”

Paul is studying computer science and philosophy at the University of Notre Dame and expects to graduate in May 2015. By the time he was accepted to the University, Paul had already been thinking about the seminary, and finding out that he could do both encouraged him to find out more about Holy Cross. “After visiting my first time, I knew that it was the right place for me.”

He entered formation through the Old College Undergraduate Seminary and credits Fr. Steve Lacroix, C.S.C., Br. Ed Luther, C.S.C., and his fellow Old Collegians for being big influences during his discernment.

Paul was further attracted to Holy Cross because he could be both a priest and an educator – or as Blessed Basil Moreau envisioned the members of his Congregation, “an educator in the faith.”

“I also liked the family atmosphere that surrounds the Holy Cross religious communities and getting to know the people in formation was helpful.”

Finding out about the interests and personalities of other men in formation eased Paul’s mind. “Once you know that you can be yourself and still grow in holiness and be part of the formation process, the decision becomes a lot easier.”

Paul is the oldest of the four children of Victor and Natalie Fortin. His interests include running, playing games and robotics.



JOSEPH ROBERT KRIVOS

Joseph knows the invitation to consider a religious vocation comes from Jesus.

It makes sense, then, that prayer before the Blessed Sacrament calmed Joseph’s anxiety throughout his application to the Old College Undergraduate Seminary, and again to the Postulant Program. “Our God is so good to us, if we follow Him faithfully, there is nothing to fear.”

Talking to other seminarians and religious helps in the discernment process as well. Joseph first met Holy



“Wherever we work we assist others not only to recognize and develop their own gifts but also to discover the deepest longing in their lives.”

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 16

Cross religious, including Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., through the Notre Dame Vision program between his junior and senior years of high school. He was able to interact with priests and brothers in sacramental and informal settings and found them to be joyful and inspiring. “I went to a vocations talk that week and thought the Old College program sounded like a perfect fit. When I visited later that year, it felt like a place that I could have fun, grow in my relationship with God and discern my calling in life.”

Fr. McCormick also demonstrated the witness to great holiness and the ability to be authentic to yourself in the service of the Lord.

Seeing the interaction among Holy Cross priests, brothers and seminarians and experiencing how they build each other up in Christ made an impact on Joseph. The “fun, community dynamic” reminded him of his own family. “I also love the diversity that the Congregation has taken on, but always rooted in our call to be “educators in the faith.”

Joseph was a summer counselor for Camp Wojtyla, a Catholic summer camp in Colorado, for two summers and also studied in Rome in the spring of 2014.

Joseph expects to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and honors theology in May 2015. He is the only son of Bob and Annette Krivos of North Olmsted, Ohio. An Eagle Scout, he enjoys camping, hiking and cooking.



MICHAEL JOHN MARSHALL

“Discernment is not about finding an answer. It is about coming to know God and myself well enough to see where I am called to live out life to the fullest.”

Accepting that entering the seminary was one step in the journey helped Michael feel more comfortable with the idea of applying to the Old College program. Before that, he was always trying to figure out that elusive “answer.”

Relying on spiritual direction and talking with Holy Cross priests and seminarians inspired Michael to be more open to the priesthood. “They valued community life and education in a special way and I felt like I could fit into this family of men.”

Especially after his interaction with the Office of Vocations, Michael felt a sense of peace and confidence that he was being called to Holy Cross. “I fell in love with the community of men who devoted themselves to being ‘men with hope to bring.’”

It's the Holy Cross community, living a life of service to others, that has helped him continue to hear his call to religious life. "Their witness has shown me that the vows can free one to love in an authentic, wholehearted way."

Michael is the middle child of three of Jane and John Marshall of Jamison, Pa. He enjoys "anything outdoorsy," including rock climbing and backpacking. He is a certified wilderness first responder and served as a camp counselor at Camp Wojtyla in Colorado. He will graduate in May 2015 from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor of science degree in honors mathematics and philosophy.



CHARLES EDWARD SKINNER

Charlie spent part of his summer vacation preparing for the Postulant Program in a unique way – walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain.

He did it as a way to remain attentive to God's calling. "These days are filled with prayer and talking with other pilgrims along the way. It is a great time for reflecting on the year ahead."

Similar to walking the pilgrimage, Charlie looks at vocation as following Christ each step of the way – just like the Virgin Mary, who as Our Lady of Sorrows is the patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In a class Charlie took for Notre Dame Vision mentors, Professor Tim O'Malley discussed the ease with which we forget Mary had to discern God's call. That made an impression on Charlie: "Because we have the advantage of opening up the Scriptures and see how her life unfolded, I often forget that she may have experienced doubts or was faced with difficult decisions in her own life.

"This understanding of the life of Mary has defeated many doubts in my own discernment."

He first began to realize God's call at the beginning of high school, when he accompanied one of his mother's friends to deliver the Eucharist to the sick and elderly. "I was amazed at these persons' desire to receive the Eucharist and over time, it transformed my understanding of the Mass. Although I have always been open to a vocation to the priesthood, these visits played a big role in moving me to begin talking with others about entering the seminary."

Charlie was exposed to religious life through the Servite priests in high school. The priests invited the wider school community to participate in common



"Our mission is the Lord's and so is the strength for it."

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 20

prayer. "Their openness was a great introduction to religious life and certainly played a large part in leading me to Holy Cross."

He learned about Holy Cross and Old College from a fellow student in a discernment group. The education charism appealed to Charlie. "Through teaching, Holy Cross priests and brothers can be a great witness for the Church and can lead young people to holiness through the way that they teach and live out their vows."

Charlie spent two-and-a-half years in the Old College program and then studied in Rome for a semester before entering the Postulant Program.

Charlie is the oldest of four children of Rick and Amy Skinner of Anaheim, Calif. He will graduate from the University of Notre Dame in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

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.



ERICK GERARDO CRUZ

When Erick was about 8 years old, his family moved to a new parish, St. Helena of the True Cross of Jesus. The pastor, Fr. James Farfagila, inspired Erick with the way he celebrated Mass and opened the child's eyes to the possibility of a religious vocation.

When it came time to take the next step in discernment, Holy Cross drew Erick's attention because of its charism of education, parish and mission. Prayer has been integral in helping him prepare for the Old College program.

He had some advice for others discerning their vocation: "Be open to God's call for your life. Do not

Final Vows

It is with great joy and excitement that the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrates the final vows of six men.

Matthew Fase, C.S.C., David Halm, C.S.C., Timothy Mouton, C.S.C., Chase Pepper, C.S.C., Daniel Ponisciak, C.S.C., and Christopher Rehagan, C.S.C., made their final profession of vows on Sept. 13, 2014, 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 Sept. 14, 2014. Their ordination to the priesthood is planned for the spring of 2015.

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



"By our vows we are committed to single-hearted intimacy with God, to trusting dependence upon God and to willing surrender to God."

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 43B

be afraid to accept the call. Remember, God does not call the equipped, but he equips the called.

Erick is the eldest of four children of Rosie Cruz and Gregorio Cruz of San Antonio, Texas. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School in San Antonio in June 2014. Erick was a member of the orchestra, student council, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society. He received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

He enjoys reading and photography. Erick is a freshman at Holy Cross College and plans to major in history and theology.



DAVID JAMES FLOURNOY

In high school, Matthew Kelly's book "Rediscover Catholicism" inspired David to invest more time in Scripture and he began to look at the priesthood in a new way.

"What I thought was a life of solitude and monotony was actually a life of joy!"

David found that joy in the men of Holy Cross after he attended a Corby Night information session at the University of Notre Dame, where he is a sophomore in the Program of Liberal Studies. The presence of God in Holy Cross priests and brothers on campus, especially the elder Old Collegians, inspired him to apply to the Old College program. "Just by their presence, the men of Holy Cross and Old College brought me to realize constructively what I hoped to achieve but had not yet accomplished in my life. I saw that men had trod the path ahead of me with purpose and were waiting to help me along."

The bishop at his home parish, St. Joseph the Worker in the Diocese of Manchester (N.H.), reassured David that the mere awareness of the question, "Might I be called to a religious vocation?" distinguished him from other men who never heard the question. "It taught me that I did not need to wait until I was absolutely certain of my calling before applying to the seminary."

Not being afraid to listen to God is important in discernment. "The only way to discern our vocation is by growing closer to God, closer to Him who is speaking, but whose words our ears cannot yet understand. Prayer familiarizes our ears with His voice."

David spent the summer serving as a Totus Tuus teacher with the Diocese of Burlington, Vt. He prepared for Old College by “diving into a life of regular prayer with the Church,” including praying the Liturgy of the Hours with his team of five fellow college students in the program.

He is the middle child of three of Lori and Doug Flournoy of Pepperell, Mass. He was the principal bassoonist in the All-Eastern Honors Orchestra and toured Argentina in 2013 with the New England Conservatory of Music Youth Orchestras. An Eagle Scout, David’s interests include outdoor sports and adventures.



NICHOLAS HENRY GUINEY

St. Mary’s Parish in the Diocese of Cleveland is a vibrant faith community with “unbelievable priests” and nine men in the seminary – seven for the diocese and two in religious orders.

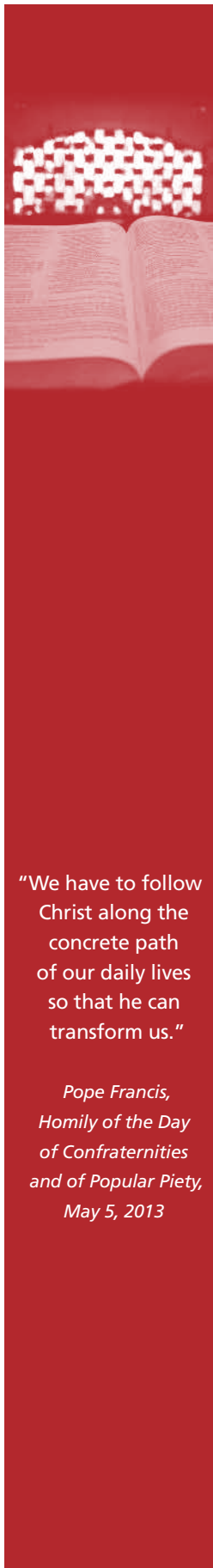
Nik is inspired by his priests. “I wanted to be like them: happy, joyous, kind and caring men.”

Participating in the church’s large youth group, especially its retreats, enabled Nik to slowly begin hearing God’s call to discern the priesthood with Holy Cross. He became familiar with the Congregation because of a visit to Archbishop Hoban High School, where he struck up a friendship with Br. Ken Haders, C.S.C. He also met Fr. John Blazek, C.S.C., campus minister at Gilmour Academy, during a Life Teen Leadership Conference in Kansas. “I was struck by both of these men’s joy.”

Nik immediately felt at peace after an informal visit to Old College, where he spent time with Old Collegians and members of Holy Cross. He attended Notre Dame Vision in the summer of 2013 “and again felt a calling to apply to Holy Cross. I loved the apostolates of Holy Cross: mission, parish and education.”

He has received much support in his decision to apply to Holy Cross from friends and family. “I am so blessed. After I told people I had been accepted into the Old College program, everyone was so excited for me; not one person was surprised by my decision. I often heard, ‘I always thought you would go to the seminary.’”

To prepare for Old College, Nik has spent a lot of time in prayer, especially in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



“We have to follow Christ along the concrete path of our daily lives so that he can transform us.”

*Pope Francis,
Homily of the Day
of Confraternities
and of Popular Piety,
May 5, 2013*

He is the only child of Alice and Liam Guiney of Hudson, Ohio. He enjoys singing, reading, swimming and watching movies. He is a student at Holy Cross College.



JAMES ROBERT HENKE

“God overrode my plans.”

Jimmy has been seriously discerning a call to the priesthood since his senior year of high school in Indianapolis. He anticipated graduating from the

University of Notre Dame in 2016 before attending a seminary. That was the plan, but God came knocking a little sooner than Jimmy expected.

When Jimmy came to Notre Dame, he learned about the Holy Cross connection to its founding and realized that the priests whose Masses he attended regularly were from Holy Cross. He started to consider that the Congregation could be what he was looking for in religious life.

“I found the community aspect of Holy Cross to be the deciding factor in pushing me to apply. However, the biggest draw overall to Holy Cross was the men I interacted with. I saw that they were good friends who worked together in bringing God’s love to His people. These priests showed a zeal in their apostolate that I thought fit my personality well and I wanted to be a part of it.”

Fr. Terry Ehrman, C.S.C., has been influential in Jimmy’s discernment, offering him spiritual guidance and pastoral support, as well as discussing the spirituality of Holy Cross. “Having him openly discuss with me his experiences and thoughts on the Holy Cross Community greatly encouraged me to look at Holy Cross seriously.”

Jimmy has also done a lot of praying. Eucharistic Adoration and daily Mass are inseparable for Jimmy as he prepares for the Old College program. “They are the key to listening to God’s will for me.” And he’s found a sense of peace during prayer that helps to dispel any doubts he may have.

That sense of peace confirmed a valuable piece of advice he received: When you find you are totally at peace with yourself and free from strings pulling you in many directions, where does your heart rest? That’s God’s plan.

Jimmy, who is studying philosophy and theology at Notre Dame, is the oldest of the three children of Rob

and Ellen Henke of Greenwood, Ind. His interests include camping, climbing and rock climbing.



WILLIAM EDWARD MAHER

Liam grew up in a Holy Cross parish – St. Joseph in South Bend, Ind. – and he and his family had a close relationship with the Holy Cross religious serving at the church over the years.

He considered a religious vocation from an early age, so when he discerned his calling on a deeper level as a senior in high school, there was no question he would apply to Holy Cross. “Having been exposed to the Congregation’s work my whole life, I knew that if I wanted to be a priest, it would be with Holy Cross. The incredible spirituality and depth I have seen in all the Holy Cross religious I meet inspires me to strive for that same level of holiness.”

When Liam decided to apply to the Old College program, he immediately felt a sense of peace and clarity in his life. “Every doubt and worry I had about my future either vanished or resolved itself. St. Ignatius of Loyola often emphasized that God’s plan tends to have such an effect on one’s life. With this in mind, I felt that I was indeed following God’s plan for me and this conclusion gave me great peace and confidence.”

Liam integrates spirituality in every aspect of his life. “I seek to live out my faith in everything I do.” Since he made his formal visit to Holy Cross, he’s tried to “mimic the simple and meaningful lives of the Old Collegians in my own way – involving myself with spiritual activities, consistently practicing charity and humility and seeking more time in prayer and reflection with Our Lord.”

Liam is the third of six children of Tim and Trish Maher. He graduated in May from Saint Joseph High School and was concertmaster for the South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestra, for which he played the violin. He plans to major in political science and violin performance at the University of Notre Dame.

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.



“How sweet it is to abandon ourselves to the love of our Father who is in heaven and to seek his holy will.”

Blessed Basil Moreau, Circular Letters, 165



JAMES ANDREW WALTERS

James has natural zeal for education because his mother is a long-time teacher, so the education mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross was a natural appeal.

He is also drawn to community life. “I love the close-knit community aspect of Holy Cross priests and religious. That sense of community does not exist as profoundly in the other orders I have looked into.”

James began discerning his call to the priesthood early in high school when he developed a passion for serving the Church and God’s people. He started receiving spiritual direction from his priest, who was director of vocations for the Northern Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He learned about the Congregation of Holy Cross from one of his parish priests who attended Notre Dame.

He learned about Old College, but decided to complete a year of what he calls “traditional college” before applying. Now he can’t wait to start his formation program. James has been meeting with his spiritual director, Fr. Jim King, C.S.C., for several months and talking with the Holy Cross Office of Vocations. That helped him fully embrace his call to formation. In addition, he’s developed a heightened prayer life, studied the Congregation and has begun reading the works of great theologians to prepare for Old College.

James is the only child of Rodney and Lisa Walters of DeGraff, Ohio. He graduated with honors from Riverside High School in 2013 and is studying theology and history at Holy Cross College.





Fr. Patrick Peyton: The Rosary Priest

Servant of God Patrick J. Peyton may be best known for coining the phrase “The family that prays together stays together.”

He dedicated his life to spreading the power of hope and prayer, especially the Rosary, throughout the world. He also believed that “a world at prayer is a world at peace.”

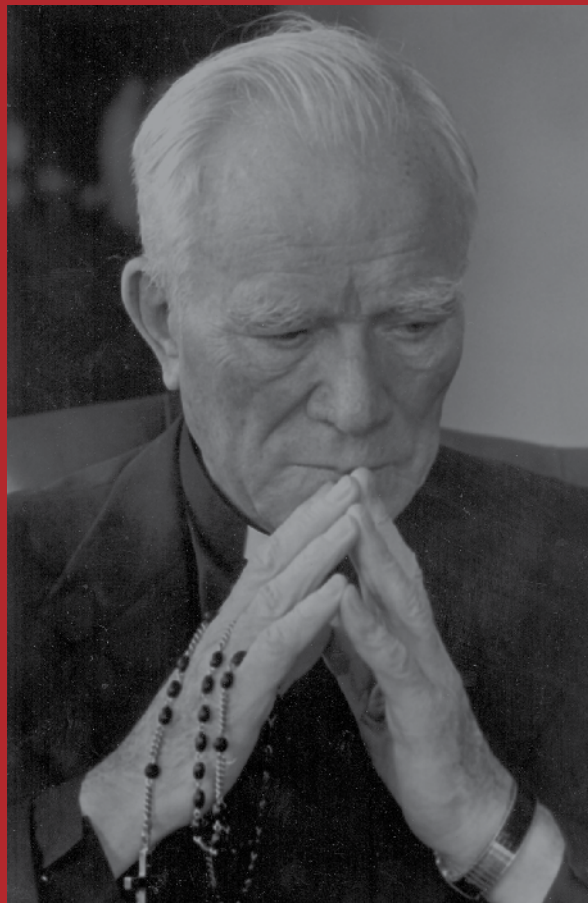
Fr. Peyton was born on Jan. 9, 1909, in County Mayo, Ireland, the sixth of nine children of John and Mary (Gillard) Peyton. His family was poor, but devout, and they prayed the Rosary each evening. Patrick had little schooling, as he helped his family by working.

In 1928, Patrick and his brother, Tom, came to the United States to live with their sisters in Scranton, Pa. Fr. Peyton worked as a sexton at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, where he met Holy Cross priests preaching at a parish retreat. After that encounter, Fr. Peyton and his brother both entered the Holy Cross Seminary in Notre Dame, Ind.

When the two were in their second year of theology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., Patrick was stricken with tuberculosis. He languished for a year, having been transferred to Notre Dame’s infirmary. During that time, Rev. Con Haggerty, C.S.C., told Patrick that he needed to pray to Mary the way the Irish always prayed — with great zeal and faith. Patrick promised he would commit his priestly vocation to spreading devotion to Her and the Rosary and at the end of a novena, declared himself cured by Mary’s intercession. The doctors eventually confirmed his cure. Both Peytons were ordained on June 15, 1941.

Fr. Peyton’s first assignment was chaplain to the Holy Cross Brothers in Albany, N.Y., where he began his Family Rosary Crusade with the help of volunteer students and religious by writing letters to bishops to help organize a Rosary campaign. He had a goal to reach 5 million people with his message of the importance of the family Rosary. Fr. Peyton far exceeded his goal, personally reaching 28 million people in 40 countries, and many more through radio and TV.

Fr. Peyton was a pioneer in harnessing the power of technology and media for service to the Gospel. He began a program on the Mutual Broadcast Network and Fr. Peyton convinced celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Lucille Ball and James Cagney to lend their fame to the promotion of the Rosary through radio, and eventually, television and film. Family Theater Productions was born in 1947 and continues Fr. Peyton’s mission by evangelizing and inspiring the world through media and internet, reaching people of all ages.



Servant of God Patrick J. Peyton

Fr. Peyton didn’t stop with media. After the birth of Family Theater, he organized large Rosary rallies around the world.

He understood what it meant to be a man with hope to bring. He labored with the rich and the poor, the famous and the forgotten, to promote the power of prayer. His work continues today through Holy Cross Family Ministries, which includes Family Rosary, Family Theater Productions and The Father Peyton Family Institute. The ministries offer face-to-face mission events and produce award-winning radio, television, film and internet content to continue Fr. Peyton’s legacy.

Fr. Peyton died on June 3, 1992. His Cause for Beatification was opened by Bishop Sean O’Malley of Fall River, Mass. Fr. Peyton received the title “Servant of God” in June 2001. Two possible medical miracles attributed to the intercession of Fr. Peyton are now being reviewed.

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