

CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 3



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New Seminarians 2013-2014



The Holy Cross Vocations Team: Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C.

Following God's Call

It should come as no surprise that one of the favorite times of year in the life of a vocation director is the day when all of the incoming seminarians finally arrive, ready to begin the next phase in their discernment. Throughout the course of the year, the Vocations Office has worked with them one-on-one to help them in their discernment and application process. Then comes the day when they are all gathered together as a new class entering into formation. It is the culmination of the first phase of their discernment and the beginning of the next step.

This moment happened again for the Congregation of Holy Cross this past August. Five freshmen arrived ready to begin their formation in the Old College Undergraduate Seminary. Joining them in their arrival on campus were 10 men new to formation who joined two Old College seniors to form the new class of 12 postulants at Moreau Seminary.

They are a fine group of men whom we are pleased to introduce to you through this issue of CHOICES. They come from all over the country and from many different walks of life. They have different skills, gifts and interests. They have followed different paths. Yet they all heard the call from the Lord to take a further step in their life in Christ. They did not come because they had found the answers to all of their questions. They came because they realized that their questions required a step into deeper discernment.

If you feel you are ready to take the next step in your discernment, please do not hesitate to drop us a line. We look forward to the opportunity to help you come to a deeper understanding of God's call and follow Him.

In Holy Cross,
Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C.
Director, Office of Vocations
vocation@holycrossusa.org
(574) 631-6385

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.



**THOMAS WILLIAM
BODART**

Tom had a difficult time understanding the charism of Holy Cross until he attended a Vocational Discernment Retreat in Montreal organized by Fr. Lou DelFra, C.S.C.

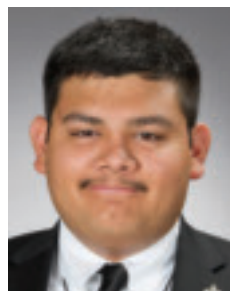
The retreat was for current and former participants in Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education program. It gave Tom the environment and the grace he needed to explore a vocation with Holy Cross. St. Joseph Oratory, the outdoor Stations of the Cross, speakers, spiritual discussions and peer interaction helped Tom sort out his questions.

Coming from Ohio, Tom knew nothing of Holy Cross until he attended Notre Dame, where he graduated from in 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering and in 2012 with a master's in education.

His first serious inkling of a religious vocation came about five years ago. Tom found he loved Mass and was yearning for a deeper relationship with the Church. His first experience as a Eucharistic Minister was powerful. "There was something immensely beautiful in providing the Body of Christ (in the Eucharist) to the Body of Christ (my church community)."

Tom is now inspired by the Holy Cross charism of educating the minds and the hearts of God's people in the Congregation's education, parish and mission settings. As he prepares for the Postulant Program, Tom continues with this spiritual direction, prays daily and is more intentional with others.

Tom worked for three years as an engineer for Rolls-Royce Energy Systems in Mount Vernon, Ohio. The youngest of three children of Ron and Barb Bodart, he enjoys social dancing – especially salsa, swing and the foxtrot – playing piano and guitar, sailing, basketball, cooking, horseback riding and shooting.



FELIPE CAMPOS RESÉNDEZ

Felipe graduated from Notre Dame in May with a bachelor's degree in theology and Italian.

His first theology course at Notre Dame got him thinking seriously about the priesthood.

It wasn't the first time Felipe considered a vocation – he thought about it after working for the Knights of Columbus as a youth counselor – but that first theology class was the turning point. From there, Felipe began to connect this sense of call with the Congregation of Holy Cross, which he grew to know during his time at the University.

Felipe is particularly inspired by Holy Cross' missionary zeal. "The devotion to work with all peoples and zeal for evangelization in communities of those most in need was what I am most attracted to."

Felipe spent a summer in Monterrey, México, living and working in a Holy Cross parish. That was a huge influence on his decision to enter the Postulant Program because he witnessed the passion and devotion of Holy Cross priests, seminarians and sisters in serving the people and the family that exists among the community. This desire to serve was then reinforced as Felipe spent Holy Week 2013 assisting with mission work at the Mexican village of Tequepexpan.

Service is important to anyone discerning a vocation. "Do service for one's brother and sisters. One cannot live only for oneself and needs to be available to others."

Felipe is interested in reading, languages and soccer. He is the oldest of three children of Felipe and Nancy Campos and is from Laredo, Texas.



JOSHUA LEE GENTINE

Joshua will never forget the experience that has become the driving force in his discernment process: "While praying in bed one night, I was saying my usual nightly prayers when I felt an incredibly strong presence of



*"Come. Follow me."
It was the Lord
Jesus calling us."*

*Constitutions of the
Congregation of
Holy Cross, 1:1*

God in my bedroom. I will never forget that feeling – it was terrifying, yet beyond peaceful."

Joshua ignored what he calls "being tapped on the shoulder by God" for a long time, even as he worked as a fundraiser in Washington, D.C., and Milwaukee, and during the six years he worked as an entrepreneur with his own soda and chocolate companies. "Every time I got serious about the potential of entering (the seminary), I found a distraction. However, the tapping never ceased." Joshua worked with his spiritual director and decided to put the question to rest and enter the seminary.

Joshua grew up coming to Notre Dame every fall for a football game. It was a family tradition. Naturally, he dreamed of attending ND and playing football for the Irish. "Both came true when I ran through the tunnel for my first game against Michigan State as a freshman walk-on punter."

It was while he was living out his dreams at Notre Dame that a possible vocation to the priesthood first came on the radar. Josh credits Fr. Gary Chamberland, C.S.C., his dorm rector at ND, for helping him to see the impact he could have on people as a priest. "Before Notre Dame, the idea of the priesthood was foreign – something I could not imagine for myself. However, his outgoing personality resonated with me ... and helped bring the notion of priesthood into focus."

The son of Lee Gentine and Debra Gentine-Ebert, Joshua is an identical twin. His undergraduate degree from Notre Dame is in finance (2003); and he also has an MBA in management consulting from UNC Kenan-Flagler in Chapel Hill, N.C. (2013). He was the recipient of the UNC Kenan-Flagler Class of 2013 Integrity Core Value Award.



ANDREW THOMAS HIGDON

Andrew shares something in common with Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., Holy Cross' director of vocations: Both majored in aerospace engineering in college.

While Fr. Jim graduated from Notre Dame, Andrew earned his bachelor of science at the University of Texas, Austin, in May. The two struck up a conversation about their shared degree at a Knights of Columbus College Conference.

Andrew had been feeling a "pull" toward religious vocation since he was confirmed, and Fr. Jim introduced him to Holy Cross. Andrew visited Moreau Seminary twice and felt the "strong sense of

community between the seminarians and the priests. Everyone was friendly and respectful. The environment was one that I could see myself living in.”

He said discerning his vocation wasn't a matter of not wanting to work in aerospace engineering anymore, but rather a desire to finish his degree and enter the seminary. The decision was a long time in the making, he explained.

Andrew is drawn to Holy Cross because of its ministries, and “the men of Holy Cross appear to be good, holy men that I felt comfortable around.” He's also hopeful that Holy Cross can make use of his engineering degree somehow.

Andrew is specifically interested in Holy Cross' education apostolates. “Education has been something I've been interested in for a while and I would like to participate in it. The ministry is so important to the future.”

One of two children of Daniel and Sandra Higdon of The Woodlands, Texas, Andrew is an Eagle Scout and enjoys chess and rock climbing.



KYLE ROBERT KINCAID

Serving in the Peace Corps in the South Pacific island of Samoa for 26 months after graduation gave Kyle time for intentional discernment and prayer, allowing him to hear God's call for his life's work much clearer and giving him the confidence to apply to the Postulant Program.

Kyle first became interested in international issues and development after taking a Holy Cross College-sponsored trip to Ghana in 2007. During the three-week trip, Kyle lived with Holy Cross brothers. A 2008 graduate of Holy Cross College, Kyle was a member of the Notre Dame Band. He enjoyed the overseas travel and learning new languages and cultures.

A keen interest in Holy Cross' international ministries and the Holy Cross hospitality and community brotherhood that he experienced while in Ghana motivated Kyle to take his discernment to the next step.

Kyle is the youngest of two children of Les Kincaid and Karen Blonde. He enjoys traveling, jogging, tennis and playing cards. You could say Kyle has grown up with Holy Cross. His home parish is St. Joseph's in White Pigeon, Mich. For 20 years, Fr. Rob Moss, C.S.C., has assisted with Masses at the parish, and Kyle also remembers visits of other Holy Cross religious, including Fr. Jim Ferguson, C.S.C.



“Therefore, carry out the ministry of Christ the priest with constant joy and genuine love, attending not to your own concerns, but to those of Jesus Christ.”

Pope Francis during the Ordination of 10 men to the Priesthood, April 21, 2013

There were signs of Kyle's religious vocation dating back to his childhood. While most young boys his age were playing cops and robbers, Kyle was pretending he was a priest. As he got older, he served as an acolyte. His vocation grew stronger during his four years at Holy Cross College; Kyle attended daily Mass and went to Eucharistic Adoration often, something he's still doing as he prepares for the Postulant Program.

Kyle has taken the advice he offers to other young men discerning a vocation: “Find a way to slow your life down and limit some of the background noise that is part of our busy, everyday routine. When we learn to do this, God's voice can more easily be heard. I have found that God is always speaking to us, but we're not always listening to what He is saying. If we can find more time to be with Him in prayer, I think we can more easily understand what His will for us truly is.”



JOHN THOMAS KYLER

John encourages others considering a vocation to remain open to instances of God acting in their lives. “I am always grateful and inspired by ‘God is alive!’ moments.”

The oldest of three children of John and Dr. Kathleen

Gorman-Kyler of Evergreen Park, Ill., John graduated from Brother Rice High School in Chicago in 2006. He first learned about Holy Cross during high school, when he attended ND Vision.

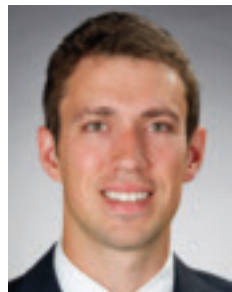
John learned more about the men and work of Holy Cross after he became a student at ND. The interaction with Holy Cross religious on campus helped him begin to seriously listen to God's call. He graduated from the University in 2010 with a degree in English and theology and went on to earn a master's of education from ND this spring. He participated in the Alliance for Catholic Education program, serving as a high school English and religion teacher in Jacksonville, Fla. Prior to participating in ACE, John worked as an intern in the Office of Campus Ministry at ND.

John loves the Holy Cross motto – *Ave Crux, Spes Unica*, Hail the Cross, our only Hope. “This has been hugely influential for me as I try to live the Paschal Mystery in the joy of the Resurrection.”

Trusting in God's Providence helps John know that as he deepens his relationship with God, he can grow in his understanding of how he is being called to live as God for others. John credits Fr. Joe Carey, C.S.C., Fr. Joe Corpora, C.S.C., and Fr. Lou DelFra, C.S.C. – who all serve the ACE program – and Fr. Paul Kollman, C.S.C., associate professor of theology and

executive director of the Center for Social Concerns, for assisting his discernment.

In his spare time, John likes to play the piano, write music and coach volleyball, tennis and debate.



M. JOSEPH PEDERSEN

Joe easily connected with Holy Cross because of the Congregation's charism: "educators in the faith" who work to educate both the mind and the heart in education, parish and mission settings. These

are the pillars upon which Blessed Basil Moreau founded the Congregation.

Joe has already experienced all three of these areas of service. He did mission work in Haiti and Central America. He worked in a parish in Indianapolis through the Echo program, a two-year, service-learning program at Notre Dame that prepares students to be leaders in faith formation. And for the past two years, Joe also taught religion at a Catholic school.

He has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a minor in theology from Notre Dame (2009), where he also earned his master's of theology (2011). Being a student at ND brought him in contact with many Holy Cross priests: in his dorm, classrooms and other places around campus.

That wasn't the first time Joe had considered a vocation to the priesthood, however. When he began getting more involved in his faith through a high school youth group at St. Edward's Parish in Dubuque, Iowa, through retreats and by meeting other young Catholics, Joe realized that a religious vocation might be a possibility.

"I realize now how important it is to simply be open to taking the next step. The journey doesn't need to be done today; I just need to take a step today."

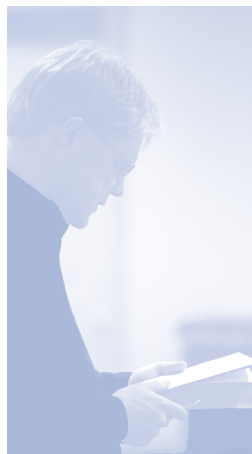
The fifth of Michael and Mary Pederson's six children, Joe likes hiking, running, reading and playing music.



PABLO J.F. QUAN

Pablo, the youngest of three children of Pablo Vinicio Quan Reynoso and Ana Madeline López de Quan, comes to Holy Cross from Guatemala City, Guatemala.

He graduated from Notre Dame with a B.S. in biological



"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, 5:43

Holy Cross Vocations On Youtube

Have you ever seen someone make their Final Vows, committing their life to Christ through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience? Or have you seen an Ordination, where a man receives the Sacrament of Holy Orders, conforming him to Christ, the head and shepherd of the Church?

These can be moments to help inspire you in your own efforts to seek out and follow after the Lord; yet they can sometimes be hard to attend. This is why we have posted several videos from past liturgies of Final Vows and Ordinations on our YouTube channel, so that you can witness, even if you were not able to attend.

You can see Fr. Matt Kuczora, C.S.C., make his Final Profession of Vows on Aug. 27, 2011.

You can also witness the great joy as Fr. Brian Ching, C.S.C., Fr. Mark DeMott, C.S.C., and Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C., received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, on April 6, 2013.

Find these videos and many more on the Holy Cross Vocations channel on YouTube: youtube.com/cscvocations.



Visit vocation.nd.edu/blog to read firsthand accounts of life as a religious or seminarian.

sciences and a minor in theology in May 2013. As he interacted with Holy Cross priests as an undergraduate, he began to hear God's call. Pablo said he was inspired by their dedication, joy and willingness to help.

Pablo also witnessed the hard work, strong faith, service to the poor and life in the community when he spent the summer before his senior year working alongside priests as a missionary with Holy Cross in Lima, Perú. Pablo credits Fr. George Lucas, C.S.C., and Fr. Donald Feters, C.S.C., for showing him the exemplification of Holy Cross' mission through their dedication of service to the poor in Perú. "I admire them for their strong faith, unwavering hope and profound love to others."

Service reinforced Pablo's call to the religious life, and he encourages others considering discernment to get involved in community service projects as well. "Get involved in community service projects; volunteer to be a minister in your parish; or take some theology classes if you can. Pay attention to those things that bring joy to your life. God will reveal the answer to you through these experiences and prayer."

It worked for Pablo: "The joy I experience when helping and serving the poor and the deep sense of gratitude for what God has given me, reinforce my desire to surrender my life to God's service as a religious."



ZACHARY WADE RATHKE

Zach's discernment has been like a garden.

The seeds of a religious vocation were planted during his high school years. Parish priests at the U.S. Air Force bases where he lived growing up encouraged him to think

about whether he might be called to the priesthood.

Zach graduated from Bossier High School in Bossier, La., in 2004. He majored in philosophy and communications at Texas A&M University, where he graduated *summa cum laude* in 2008. He continued to cultivate the seeds of his discernment at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., where he earned an MTS in the philosophy of religion this year. In between, he taught for two years as a fifth-grade math teacher with Teach for America in Port Houston and then math and English for a year at a girl's school in Nairobi, Kenya, while living with Capuchin friars.

The seeds continued to grow, albeit slowly. Zach discerned with two other religious orders, but didn't find what he was looking for. Holy Cross caught Zach's



"Meditating on the law of the Lord, see that you believe what you read, that you teach what you believe and that you practice what you teach."

Pope Francis during the Ordination of 10 men to the Priesthood, April 21, 2013

eye online because of its emphasis on community and apostolic ministry, particularly education.

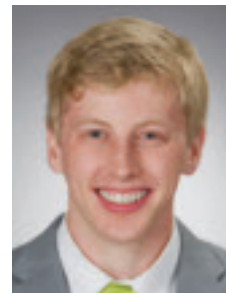
Zach was inspired by Blessed Basil Moreau's emphasis on the Holy Family as a model for Holy Cross, "I think it is a perfect exemplar for religious communities: They live together, pray together, eat together and share together as members of a family, united together under a common purpose and common ways of serving God."

He noted that he shares Fr. Moreau's passion and commitment to educating the minds and hearts of students. Zach lists education reform as among his interests, along with hiking, swimming, running, acoustic folk music and reading Christian philosophy.

"Finally, I also sensed a deep commitment to spirituality among Holy Cross religious, which I think must be a driving force behind both the community and the apostolic ministry of a religious order."

Many people fertilized Zach's discernment, he said, some intentionally by discussing religious vocations with him; and others unintentionally by helping him to develop his talents or by offering spiritual support.

Zach is the youngest of three children of Anne and Charles Rathke of College Station, Texas.



GILBRIAN FITZGERALD STOY

Two of Gilly's friends actually helped him recognize God's call.

Gilly and his roommate at Notre Dame talked a lot about vocations. While his roommate persuaded him to listen more closely, another

friend was going through a difficult time, and Gilly encouraged that person to receive the Sacraments.

God's call became much clearer after that.

It turns out that once Gilly began to tell his friends he was considering the priesthood, many said they had been thinking that might be his vocation, but hadn't wanted to say anything to him about it. Their support and encouragement have been very helpful to Gilly.

Being at ND allowed Gilly to learn about the charism and mission of Holy Cross. Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., was instrumental in Gilly's discernment because he was available to answer questions and checked in on him frequently. Spiritual direction also helped Gilly to find deeper ways that he might be called to Holy Cross.

Gilly is particularly inspired by Holy Cross' focus on community and education.

He is the youngest of three children of Tom and Brigid Stoy of Little Falls, Minn. Gilly is interested in golf, kayaking, chess and reading. While at Notre Dame, he received the Zahm House Hall Spirit Award and also worked as a lab assistant in the Physiology Research Lab. He graduated with a bachelor of science in May, majoring in pre-professional studies and minoring in theology.

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 Program.

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.



JOSHUA PAUL BATHON

Josh loves peanut butter. He recalled a story involving Old College and his favorite food. He studied in London last semester as part of the Old College study abroad program. British peanut butter is gritty, and oil separates to

the top. English seminarians couldn't understand why Americans love peanut butter. "Near the end of the semester, the guys from Old College sent me a care package and asked me what I wanted," he said. "You better believe that I opened the box a few weeks later to find a huge container of JIF sitting on the top. I made all the guys in London try it."

Being part of a community of confreres in Old College and studying abroad are two of the many unique opportunities Josh has experienced as a Holy Cross seminarian.

Josh considered a vocation for quite a while. When he was younger, he lived in South Bend and met Holy Cross priests through Notre Dame and at Holy Cross Parish. Fr. Mike Mathews, C.S.C., invited him to a vocations dinner and arranged for Josh to shadow an Old Collegian for a day, since at the time Josh was too young for a Come and See Weekend. But he remembered that experience years later when he was considering whether to enter the seminary.

His family moved to Greer, S.C., and he graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville in 2010. Josh said his call to the priesthood became more tangible at the end of high school. "No other option outside of entering the seminary made sense to me; the decision



"We asked how we might follow, and we found many footprints on the road."

*Constitutions of the
Congregation of
Holy Cross, 1:5*

was inescapable," so Josh spent three years in the Old College program at Notre Dame, where he will graduate with a degree in philosophy and history in May 2014.

Josh spent this past summer interning at St. Mary's Parish in Charleston, S.C., his home parish. He is the son of Charles and Barbara Bathon and the third of five children.



VINCENT HIEN NGUYEN

God's call first came to Vincent as stirrings within.

He believes that Divine Providence was at work when he received a letter from the Holy Cross Office of Vocations just a day after he spoke to his parents, Hoa and Kelly

Nguyen, about wanting to become a priest. "When I received the letter, I took it as a sign from God, and I explored Holy Cross further," Vincent said.

The letter invited the Georgia resident to travel to Notre Dame for a Come and See Weekend, a chance for high school juniors and seniors to learn more about discernment and Holy Cross by spending time at Old College.

That weekend ended up leading Vincent to spend three years at Old College; time he spent deepening his prayer life and living in community. Living with other Old Collegians and having the guidance of Holy Cross formators helped prepare Vincent for the Postulant Program and strengthened his confidence to continue his journey on the road to priesthood in Holy Cross.

Vincent, the oldest of four children, was drawn to Holy Cross by the sense of community, especially among the men in formation. He recognizes Holy Cross is a family, not unlike his own. The men live together, eat together, and pray together, and recreational time includes "friendly" games of basketball – all while walking the same path of discernment. It's a journey they all walk together, experiencing the same struggles and supporting each other like true brothers: "There was something underneath everything that drew me in, some feeling of brotherhood that was divinely inspired."

Vincent is inspired by Holy Cross religious, especially the younger priests "... because while they have jobs that range from parish priest, to being a formator in México, to being a dorm rector, they have a joy that is common in Holy Cross. Seeing that joy in them makes me want to share that joy."

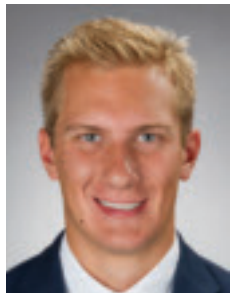
Vincent is expected to graduate in May 2014 from Notre Dame with a degree in economics and a minor in philosophy.

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.



ROBERT WILLIAM ACKERMAN

Robert started thinking about his call to religious life more deeply after his Confirmation. While thoughts of the seminary and priesthood had always been in the back of Robert's mind, in

his homily that day, Boston's Auxiliary Bishop Robert Hennessey talked about how the Holy Spirit guides each person to his own vocation.

That's when things started to become clearer.

Robert's cousin went to Holy Cross College and introduced him to the Congregation of Holy Cross. One of the things that appeals to Robert about Holy Cross is the opportunity to work for one of the Congregation's many education apostolates. But he feels a strong connection to Holy Cross on a number of different levels. Robert likes the sense of brotherhood among the community. Robert also shares the Holy Cross devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Family. Founder Blessed Basil Moreau modeled the entire Congregation after the Holy Family, with the priests being dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"Jesus died for us on the Cross because of the love the Sacred Heart held inside and was key to the sacrifice at Calvary," Robert said. "The Holy Family is important to me because it helps me see the true values each of us should live by and how we should interact with one another."

Spending time in the presence of the Lord during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is one way Robert has been spiritually preparing to enter Old College. For Robert, the Exposition is a beautiful way to pray and being in the presence of Jesus through the Eucharist helps him to pray more thoroughly and thoughtfully.



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

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 2:20

The eldest of three children of Bill and Elaine Ackerman of Burlington, Mass., Robert enjoys fly fishing, reading, running and playing soccer. He graduated from Burlington High School in Burlington, Mass., in June and is attending Holy Cross College with a yet-undecided major.



DANIEL LUIS BERLING

Dan's advice to other young men discerning a vocation is pretty straightforward: "Simply trust in the Lord. Take the step; take that leap of faith, and our Lord will show you the way."

Dan first began discerning missionary life after being introduced to Maryknoll missionaries when he was in eighth grade in Centerville, Ohio. He's always wanted to serve God and was inspired by the missionaries he met ... "what struck me was the joy that each missionary had and how passionately they wrote about their stories."

Dan's brother was supposed to attend Notre Dame Vision, a summer program for high school students that helps them recognize God's call in their lives. But he couldn't go, so Dan went in his place. Dan believes it was Divine Providence: "This was clearly God's hand in my life at that moment, and due to His continual guidance, I begin to prepare to enter Old College."

As part of ND Vision, Dan was invited to lunch at Old College. That visit helped him to begin to discern a call to the priesthood with Holy Cross. The sense of community among the priests and brothers and the story of St. André inspired him. Dan recognized that St. André served others with great zeal and patience.

Blessed Basil Moreau called on his community of priests and brothers to spread God's Word with zeal and invoke inspiration to Christ's Cross everywhere they serve: schools, parishes or missions. "When I started talking to and reading more about the clergy of Holy Cross, I found that zeal was a common thread in everything they do from being missionaries to being teachers. It is a congregation of service and that is what drew me in."

Dan, the youngest of two children of Dave and Ana Berling, is a runner who also loves soccer and reading. A May graduate of Centerville High School, he was a delegate to Buckeye Boys' State.



JAMES ANTHONY CORCORAN

When James was young, he wanted to be a priest/ astronaut, a priest/president and then a priest/explorer. As he grew older and became a little more realistic, he wanted to be a priest/teacher.

There's only one constant in all those life choices, the priesthood: "I think I've wanted to be a priest my entire life."

Even when James was too young to understand what was going on, he loved going to Mass. He knew that family and neighbors kneeling down and being quiet meant there was something special going on. And he wanted to be a part of it, "My faith defines me as a person."

With most of his activities being centered around his church – Our Lady of Consolation in Philadelphia – and a desire to help people, James realized he should discern a call to the priesthood.

In addition, James participated in Notre Dame's Summer Scholars, a program where academically gifted students explore an academic field and experience residential life at the University. At Mass the first day, he listened to a Holy Cross priest talk about Holy Cross religious as "men with hope to bring." It was then that something clicked. "On an impulse, I sent an email to the Vocations Office and asked if I could get some more information while I was at Notre Dame." James did more than that – he met with Fr. Drew Gawrych, C.S.C., associate director of vocations at the time. "I loved everything I heard."

After keeping in touch with Fr. Drew and Fr. Jim Gallagher, director of vocations, he came to see what the seminary was all about.

James loves the spirituality, especially the hope, that Holy Cross brings. But it was the familial spirit of Holy Cross that swayed his decision to apply. "I felt welcomed immediately."

At dinner with the Holy Cross community, James found that priests and other seminarians were including him as part of that family. "That meant so much to me. I felt like I had known these men all my life," he said. "It was like sitting down to dinner with my family at home."

James is the only child of Laurence and Michelina Corcoran. Just living with someone else is going to



"Our community life refreshes the faith that makes our work a ministry and not just an employment; it fortifies us by the example and encouragement of our confreres; and it protects us from being overwhelmed or discouraged by our work."

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 4:33

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.



be an adjustment. "I have to pray to adjust to that!" But James knows his parents, friends and extended family wholeheartedly support his decision to enter discernment. And prayer, especially the Rosary, is a calming force for him.



JULIAN CHARLES DRUFFNER

Without grace, we're just chasing our tails.

So Julian's advice to other young men discerning a vocation is to create a relationship with God and He will forever bless you with

His grace. "Offer yourself unstrained by selfishness and supported by an environment that will draw you toward God."

And he has, since eighth grade: "I was saying my ordinary bedtime prayers and instead of speaking over God with memorized prayers, I decided to just clear my thoughts and listen. His voice was beyond silent."

There was no question what the voice was telling him to do: "He said, plain and simple: 'I want you to be a priest.'"

Julian knew that voice was God asking him to serve. Eventually God led him to Holy Cross.

Julian learned about Holy Cross from a friend at Trinity School at River Ridge in Eagan, Minn., who was considering Notre Dame. When Julian researched Old College, he said he was "hooked." A short visit to Old College showed Julian that someone would be there to support and guide him on God's path. He also appreciated the enthusiasm of the Old Collegians, as well as their camaraderie and confidence in God's will.

Holy Cross' "well-rounded, small, missionary oriented community" also appealed to Julian.

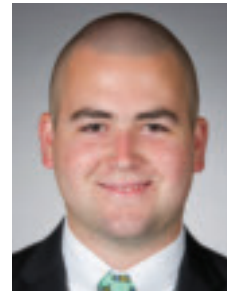
Julian is one of seven children of Mark and Molly Druffner of Hudson, Wis.

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.



"We pronounce our vows in a moment, but living them for the sake of the kingdom is the work of a lifetime."

*Constitutions of the
Congregation of
Holy Cross, 6:57*



J. OWEN WILLIAMS

Owen has been listening to God's call for a while now. He's active in service and ministry at both church and high school near his Avon, Ohio, home.

At Holy Trinity Parish in Cleveland, Owen serves as a

Eucharistic Minister. His parish also awarded him the Sisters of Notre Dame Award for living out Catholic and Gospel values in his daily life. At St. Edward High School in Lakewood, which was founded and still is run by the Midwest Province Brothers of Holy Cross, Owen was a Moreau Mentor and participated in a mission trip to El Salvador in 2012.

The eldest of four boys of Marc and Mary Williams, Owen credits Br. James Everett, C.S.C., with introducing him to Holy Cross as a freshman in high school. Owen meets with Br. James regularly to learn more about religious life in Holy Cross. Before his freshman theology class, however, Owen had already begun to hear God's call. He talked to Br. James, his parents and his pastor about a possible vocation and began praying for God to give him a sign. By the end of his junior year, Owen was convinced that the priesthood was part of God's plan for him. The welcoming atmosphere of a Come and See Weekend also helped strengthen Owen's faith in his vocation.

What he learned about the Holy Cross charism during that weekend inspired him to apply – strong community life, the dedication to being an "educator in the faith" and the commitment to bringing the redeeming hope of Christ's Cross to the world.

As he enters Old College, Owen turns to prayer for strength and for God's guidance. "When I start to feel doubtful, I just pray asking God to let me do His will, whatever that may be. I feel Holy Cross is God's will for me!" he said. He also relies on the support of his parents, brother Adam and other family and friends.

Owen graduated from high school in June and plans to attend Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind., to study history and theology.

Holy Cross' First Saint: Br. André Bessette, C.S.C.

St. André Bessette was an unlikely "educator in the faith."

Born Alfred Bessette in Quebec in 1845, he was orphaned by age 12. He received little formal education and suffered illness most of his life, but in 1870 he entered the Holy Cross Novitiate. He took the name André in honor of his childhood priest, Fr. André Provençal, who presented him to Holy Cross for discernment with a prophetic letter telling the superior, "I am sending you a saint."

In 1871, he was assigned as the doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, a post he held until 1909. In his interaction with many of the students and parents coming and going, St. André shared his special devotion to St. Joseph. In particular, he shared his confidence in St. Joseph's healing with the sick and disabled by presenting them with medals of St. Joseph and anointing them with oil that came from a lamp burning in the College's chapel next to a St. Joseph statue. From these simple interactions, many people experienced miraculous healings. Just as miraculous, a small dream of a shrine that started with St. André collecting nickels from haircuts became the St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, which is the world's largest shrine dedicated to St. Joseph. St. André always insisted that the miraculous work that seemed to come from him was not his work, but that of God through the intercession of St. Joseph.

Yet even with all of this, it might seem that St. André did not fit in with the typical picture of a C.S.C.: he didn't teach in a classroom; he wasn't a preacher; he didn't go off to the foreign missions. What he did was to live the virtues set by Blessed Basil Moreau, the founder of Holy Cross, throughout his life and in doing so, serve as a great witness to the charism of Holy Cross.

St. André believed in the Cross as his only hope. He encountered the Cross in his own life, being orphaned at an early age and enduring frail health for most of his life. He also encountered the Cross in his daily ministry through the people who lined up outside of St. Joseph's Oratory to see him. Not everyone who saw him experienced physical healing, but all of them felt his love of Christ. Because St. André was a man with hope to bring, he enabled the sick and the suffering to experience that same hope in their own crosses.

St. André witnessed to a great trust in Divine Providence. He urged others to pray with confidence and perseverance, while remaining open to God's will. He admonished people to begin their path to healing through commitments to faith and humility, through Confession and a return to



the Sacraments, while also encouraging the sick to seek a doctor's care. Also during the construction of St. Joseph Oratory, he knew God would provide what was needed to build the shrine. And He did.

Blessed Moreau's instruction for his religious to live with zeal to "make God known, loved, and served" was most definitely shown in the efforts of St. André. Between his dedication to prayer and the demands of his ministry, St. André maintained an exhausting schedule. In the last decades of his life, he spent long days receiving sick people at the Oratory, only to spend his evenings visiting even more sick in homes or hospitals. His exhaustive labors were always dedicated to leading others to God.

Again, while he was an unlikely one, this humble and largely illiterate man was a true "educator in the faith." He spent time talking with people about St. Joseph – the patron saint of the brothers of Holy Cross – and about the Lord's Passion. Not only did St. André teach people how to pray, he also showed them by praying with them.

St. André died on Jan. 6, 1937. He was beatified by Blessed John Paul II on May 23, 1982, and was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 17, 2010. His feast day is Jan. 7.

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