

CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

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New Candidates 2011-12

Following God's Call



The Holy Cross Vocations Team: Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and Fr. Drew Gawrych, C.S.C.

Deciding what to do with the rest of one's life is a daunting task. The difficulty lies in the fact that we do not know what the future will bring.

Often the decision to enter the seminary is perceived as making a lifelong commitment. It is as if, before entering the seminary, one should know for sure that God's calling is to the priesthood or religious life. The reality is that the seminary itself is not a final commitment, but a step along the way in learning more about how God is calling you.

This issue of CHOICES features the men who will be entering into the Old College Undergraduate Seminary and the Candidate Program at Moreau Seminary. They are entering these programs, not because they are positive that they are called to be a priest or brother in Holy Cross, but because they have come to understand that this may be their calling. They realized that this step is not a lifelong commitment, but instead a step into learning more about what the rest of their life might look like.

Taking that bold step forward is not always easy, but it is necessary if you are to find the path to which Christ is calling you. A good number of men have taken this step, and from them have come the many priests and brothers of Holy Cross who have put their lives in God's hands to proclaim the Gospel.

The call to religious life can also include a calling to become a brother. This October, Holy Cross will initiate the "Year of the Brother" on the first anniversary of the canonization of our first saint, André Bessette. It is a year to recognize the important place of the brother's vocation within Holy Cross and within the Church. Learn more about the life of our brothers and whether this could be your calling. More information can be found on the final page of this issue.

Considering how you will commit your life in service to the Gospel is a challenging process, yet it is one of the most important things that you can do. If we can be of service as you discern God's call, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

In Holy Cross,
Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C.
Director, Office of Vocations

Moreau Seminary

ENTERING THE CANDIDATE PROGRAM

The Candidate 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 21-35 who are prepared to immerse themselves in Holy Cross community life while continuing their personal discernment, spiritual development, and growth in knowledge.

The men profiled here 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.



**TIMOTHY WILLIAM
CLEAVER**

When asked how he became familiar with Holy Cross, Tim quickly responded, "Answering that question is a bit amusing because it is like

asking me when I first met my family," he said. "Holy Cross has definitely been an integral part of my life for as long as I remember." A native of Granger, Ind., he grew up in a parish served by the Holy Cross priests and brothers before attending the University of Evansville, where he received a bachelor's degree in sociology.

As the youngest of four and living so close to Notre Dame, he understandably became a fan of the University, but not just a Fighting Irish sports fan; he also came to admire the University as a whole and longed to be a part of Our Lady's community. Through the University and his home parish of Christ the King, Tim was able to witness the Congregation's commitment to ministry and their exemplary pastoral skills, which in turn inspired him to apply to the Candidate Program. As he prepares to enter formation, Tim has spent many hours in prayer, reading religious-themed books, and talking with candidates currently in the program.

Tim shares a valuable insight on combating doubts that a priest once shared with him:

"Doubts are normal; there's no question about that. If you didn't have doubts and thought 100 percent that you wanted to be a priest, especially early in your discernment, I would be a little concerned." Tim adds, "Doubts help you ask important questions introspectively and prayerfully; they become the topic of spiritual direction and formation and help you understand yourself."



**MICHAEL PATRICK
EARDLEY**

The diversity of apostolates in which Holy Cross ministers, including schools, parishes, and global missions, attracted Michael to the Congregation.

Coming to Notre Dame from Grand Rapids, Mich., Michael received a bachelor's degree from the University in spring 2011. During his four years as an undergrad, he developed friendships with Holy Cross priests and saw firsthand the welcoming community that resides at Moreau Seminary. These positive experiences reaffirmed his decision to pursue a vocation with Holy Cross.

"They are models of real men, for whom I have a great deal of respect, who have given their lives to the Church," he says. "I came to realize through their example that a vocation with Holy Cross would not mean surrendering my life. Rather, it would give me the joy that I see in their lives of ministry and service."

Michael studied psychology as an undergrad, spent a semester in Toledo, Spain, during his junior year, and traveled to Perú for a summer of work in rural communities and the Amazon rainforest.

Enriching his prayer life, participating frequently in the Sacraments, and discussing the process of discernment have proved instrumental in Michael's preparation for the Candidate Program. Hearing personal stories of priests and religious as they wrestled with doubts has also strengthened his own faith and commitment. His participation in a discernment retreat for college students allowed him to meet other men making similar discernment decisions, and was a source of encouragement.



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

Constitutions of
the Congregation
of Holy Cross, 1:1

He adds this advice to those considering a vocation, "It is imperative to work past those doubts and fears, not writing off the possibility of the religious life out of convenience. It is not always easy, but I have learned to trust God more and rely on His work in my life rather than just my own efforts."



**JAMES CHARLES
MASLAR**

Jim did not know about Holy Cross until he met Fr. Ed Obermiller, C.S.C., and Fr. Tom Eckert, C.S.C., early on in his time at Notre Dame. They

shared with him some of the Congregation's long history and relationship to the University. After participating in a Holy Cross vocation pilgrimage to Le Mans, France, where the Congregation was founded, Jim developed a new, deeper respect and admiration for the order. "As I learned more about and experienced more of Holy Cross, I came to know it as a Congregation of well-balanced, genuine, and passionate priests," he says.

Seeing faith lived out in front of him through the active, full lives of the priests at Notre Dame, Jim now hopes that his own life, whether as a priest or layperson, mirrors the faith of these men.

Jim has served as a summer intern at a parish in Ohio, where he attended daily Mass, assisted in various parish activities and projects, observed pastoral work, and saw the Church in action. He explains that exploring a religious vocation is a "process of dispelling doubts by prayerfully searching God's call and exploring those 'what ifs,' which I imagine would otherwise nag me the rest of my life."

LEARN MORE ...

... about all of the Holy Cross seminarians by visiting the "Meet the Seminarians" page on our website, holycrossvocations.org.



**JAMES MARK
MCGIVNEY**

Jim studied in Germany and the United Kingdom while he was an undergraduate business student at the University of Dayton. He furthered

his studies at Notre Dame, receiving a master's degree in accounting in 2010. While pursuing his degree at Notre Dame, he grew in his familiarity of Holy Cross by meeting many of the Holy Cross priests and brothers on campus and reading about the history and charism of Holy Cross in the Congregation's literature.

Jim, a native of Cleveland and the youngest of two children, was first drawn to Holy Cross for its numerous, varied, and global ministry opportunities: be it in a parish, school, or mission setting. He also values the "community aspect that supports accomplishing big tasks together as one."

Increasing his prayer life and talking openly with priests and seminarians about entering the Candidate Program have eliminated much of Jim's anxiety of the transition. He strongly advises those considering a vocation to share those thoughts openly with others, because "the more you talk about it, the more questions you will think of, and the more answers you will have to dispel your doubts."

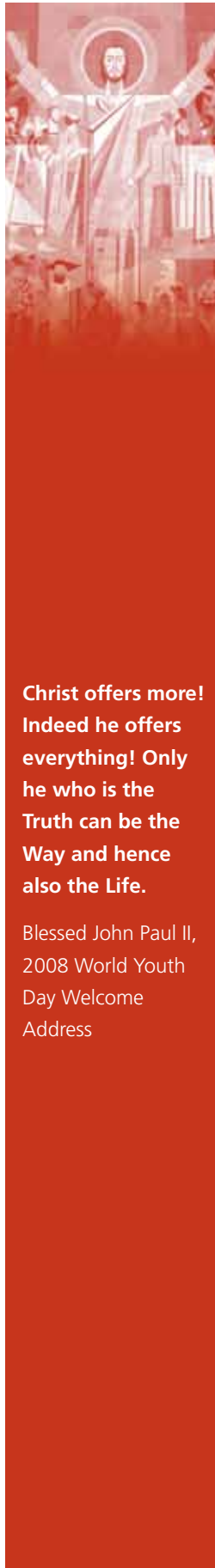


**WALTER CHESTER
PRUCHNIK III**

Walter's musical talent allowed him to be active in several musical groups—marching band, hockey band, concert bands, and

brass ensemble—while he was an undergraduate student.

A member of Notre Dame's Class of 2005, Walter received a dual degree in computer science and theology. Since his graduation, he has served as a teacher in Florida as part of the Alliance for Catholic Education, spent some time in formation with Holy Cross, and served as Master of Ceremonies for the Most Rev. Bishop Robert N. Lynch of the Diocese of



**Christ offers more!
Indeed he offers
everything! Only
he who is the
Truth can be the
Way and hence
also the Life.**

Blessed John Paul II,
2008 World Youth
Day Welcome
Address

St. Petersburg, Fla. His ministry there triggered a desire to apply to the Candidate Program and to invest in discerning his vocation with the Congregation of Holy Cross.

As he prepares to enter the program, Walter has simplified his life by donating excess clothing to the diocesan homeless shelter and taking care of financial obligations so they will not be a distraction to him. As he begins formation anew, he looks forward to continuing to grow in his personal and spiritual life.

Walter's advice to others who are considering a vocation to religious life is to allow for doubts and move past fear. "Be open; don't be afraid of failure. The only failure would be to not answer God's call because you thought you weren't good enough or were afraid of something," he says.



**BRENDAN THOMAS
RYAN**

Brendan came to Notre Dame from a large family in Columbus, Ohio, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University.

The priests in his residence hall, especially Fr. Pete Jarret, C.S.C., helped him learn about Holy Cross in a casual, pragmatic manner. Then, during his junior year, Brendan went on a vocation pilgrimage to Rome, which is when he delved more deeply into the mission and purpose of the Congregation.

He considered entering Holy Cross right after college, but chose instead to teach for a couple of years. This time allowed him to resolve some personal doubts and ready him for the Candidate Program. Brendan is drawn to Holy Cross for several reasons, including the strong community life and Congregation's commitment to education. The joy displayed by the Holy Cross community was another factor in Brendan's decision. "The Holy Cross priests live their vocations joyfully, and that is inspiring," he says.

He says that regular prayer, Mass, and putting thoughts on paper have all helped him dispel doubts and concerns about his beginning the Candidate Program. His brother, parents, and close friends have been influential and

supportive by listening and offering advice during the decision-making process.

He tells others considering a vocation to “keep praying about it. Talk to people about your vocation, but also keep doing what you enjoy, and God will continue to work through your joy.”



TIMOTHY ROBERT WEED

A distant relative, Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., was Tim’s first connection with Holy Cross. As the oldest of three who grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich.,

Tim received a bachelor’s degree from Aquinas College in 2007.

A firm believer in Catholic education and how it affirms and supports one’s faith, he was attracted to the Congregation’s commitment to education. “I want to have a part in shaping that education,” he says.

Fr. Drew Gawrych, C.S.C., and Fr. Dan Parrish, C.S.C., have been helpful in his decision to pursue a vocation with Holy Cross. Tim also specifically thanks his father for his counsel; they have conversations about the future and what this initial step to the Candidate Program means. “My dad’s support has been extremely helpful because I don’t think I could have taken this step without it,” he says.

Many of Tim’s doubts were eased when he visited Moreau Seminary. He says, “I felt very welcome and part of the community. Everyone was very interested in how I was doing and what I was thinking. After my visits, I felt comfortable with pursuing my vocation further.”

What advice would he give to others about a call from God? “Pursue your vocation with all of your heart and all of your mind. It requires both an emotional and intellectual investment to discern your vocation properly,” Tim says. “Do not be afraid to ask as many questions as you feel are needed. It is a big step, but in the end remember that God has called you to pursue this path. Put your faith in Him and all will turn out right in the end.”



We were already His, for we bore the name of Christian ... But there seemed to come a time when the Lord was calling us to take some further step.

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 1:2

CONTINUING FORMATION

The men profiled here are advancing in the structured formation program that is available to University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College students who enter the Old College Undergraduate Seminary Program. They move to the Candidate Program at Moreau Seminary during their senior year or upon completing their undergraduate degree and share in the above-mentioned immersion in Holy Cross community life.



CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM BRENNAN

The intentional community life of Holy Cross is what first attracted this Granger, Ind., native to the Congregation and what has kept

him on the journey to the Candidate Program. The disciplined routines at Old College have provided Chris with the opportunity to “grow in holiness and serve Christ and His Church” with others of similar faith and zeal.

Now entering his senior year at Notre Dame seeking a degree in philosophy and theology, Chris experienced firsthand the strong familial bonds of the Congregation’s priests and brothers this past semester when he studied abroad in Belgium. While away, he realized that he missed the family atmosphere that was present at Old College. Then during a brief visit with the Holy Cross community in Le Mans, France, he realized the scope of these community bonds. After only a one-day visit with priests and brothers whom he had not previously met, Chris recalls feeling as though he had been with family. He remarks that the priests and seminarians “really do become your closest neighbors, trustworthy friends, brothers” as described in the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 4:42.

He is deeply grateful for the support and encouragement he has received from the priests on the Notre Dame campus during his years of formation. In and out of the classroom, their example and their availability for honest discussions on the discernment process have proved invaluable to Chris.

Prayer has been most helpful to him to dispel any doubts about his formation; he suggests placing everything in God's hands and letting Him be the guide. Christopher advises anyone considering a similar spiritual path not to be afraid to make a mistake or make a wrong decision, and to stay close to Christ to discover one's true vocation. "Ask God daily for clarity of His will; trust God because He knows what He is doing—even when we do not," he says.



BRAYDN ROBERT HARSHA

A visit to Old College as a high school student put Braydn on the path to a vocation with the Congregation of Holy Cross. Fr. Ed Obermiller, C.S.C., the

vocation director at that time, invited Braydn for an informal visit. Braydn appreciated the "warm welcome and hospitality" extended to him, which led him to later return to formally apply to the program.

While in high school, Braydn spent several weeks in South America serving the poor, which led him to consider becoming a missionary. At the same time, though, he was interested in teaching as a profession. He found these combined desires—service and teaching—addressed in the mission of Holy Cross to be "men with hope to bring" ministering in education, parish, and mission.

His time studying abroad in Belgium helped prepare him to enter Moreau Seminary by placing the Congregation in a global context. "I have been inspired by the Holy Cross community in France, with their great devotion to Blessed Basil Moreau and their dedication to continuing the mission of Holy Cross in that country," he says.

Braydn, the youngest of four children who hails from Montana, finds prayer as the way to dispel any doubts about his vocation. Specifically, he participates in Eucharistic adoration, daily Mass, and regular confession. He advises, "Don't think that you need to have every single question answered or fear dispelled before you can begin talking to a vocation director."



In what does this imitation of Jesus Christ consist? He himself told us that it is reduced to three things: renouncing ourselves, taking up our cross, and walking in his footsteps.

Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.,
1833 Sermon



BRIAN DAVID KENNEDY

A history major who enjoys the outdoors, Brian is entering his senior year at the University of Notre Dame. He is from Pequot Lakes, Minn.

His entire family, especially his grandfather, has been supportive of his decision to pursue a vocation with Holy Cross. It was his grandfather who prayed for Brian and introduced him to Holy Cross. After his initial visit to Old College, Brian was very impressed with the community life, the formation staff, and the mission of the formation program.

Brian says his time at Old College and year of study in Belgium have "helped me mature in all areas of my life." True for all Christians, not just seminarians, he sees the benefit of a balanced life: the importance of exercise, sleep, leisure, prayer, and study.

His doubts are dispelled by time and prayer. Brian says, "While it was good and necessary to think out my concerns, I only found this really possible after a time of experience followed by prayerful reflection and then spiritual direction."



KARLO MAGNO LEONOR

Karlo, a member of Notre Dame's Class of 2011, comes from Federal Way, Wash. Majoring in philosophy and theology, he

graduated with honors.

He learned about Holy Cross as an undergrad at the University and says, "In the dorm ... and all across campus, I was in contact with men who were living the religious life. Their example gave me pause and invited me to imagine myself in their place."

The lives of Saint Joseph and Saint André Bessette have inspired Karlo and provided powerful examples of religious service. Living in community at Old College has fostered "the needed strength and support to continue discerning the priesthood and life in the Congregation," he says.

Karlo thinks that doubts about one's vocation never go away completely. This state, he says, "is a result of our human condition. However, I have found that when I strive for uniformity with God's will, the more at peace I become with regard to my path in life."

He advises anyone considering a vocation to trust God with the process and to commit to responding to the call. "He does not deceive, nor can He be deceived. Know that He will lead you on the right path if you but trust in Him," Karlo says.



**BRENDAN JOSEPH
MCALEER**

Fifth in a family of 10 children, Brendan came to Old College from Arlington Heights, Ill., and graduated from Holy Cross College this past

May with a degree in theology. He then spent this summer working as a counselor for Notre Dame Vision, a weeklong summer camp that helps high school students begin to discover their calling from God.

In terms of his own calling, the guidance he received from his parents supported his decision to explore a vocation with Holy Cross. He never felt pressure from them to enter the seminary, "but there was always an atmosphere of respect for the Church and the Sacraments, which had a profound impact on me," he says. In addition, the professors and Holy Cross priests Brendan has gotten to know and trust during his undergraduate years have inspired his thinking during his formation.

The vocations staff listened and answered Brendan's questions and pointed him in the direction he needed as he addressed doubts and concerns about his formation. Brendan says, "The Congregation is very good at helping us understand our relationship with God, our gifts, and where we might be called."

He suggests anyone considering a vocation to pray about the idea and talk to someone who understands the discernment process.



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 Deacon



Carlos Augusto Jacobo de los Santos

"I feel completely fulfilled."

In late September 2011, Carlos Augusto Jacobo de los Santos will be ordained a deacon in the Congregation of Holy Cross. As a member of Parróquia Nuestra Madre de la Luz, a Holy Cross parish in Guadalupe, Mexico, Carlos was attracted to life as a Holy Cross religious by the simplicity with which its members live their ministry. "They gave me the feeling of being men who cared for you, and not just as a member of the Church, but as someone important to them."

During his time in the seminary, one of the things that most helped Carlos discern his vocation was the sense of community shared by Holy Cross religious. He speaks fondly of the companionship and camaraderie he experienced in the seminary; but more than that, he speaks of the faith that unites members of the Congregation. "You feel part of a group of men searching for the will of God," he says.

Reflecting on his profession of perpetual vows and diaconate ordination, Carlos says, "I have come to be what I was called to be, and yet there is still more for me to become, through, for, and in God. I ask for the grace to live this ministry in such a way as to reflect the presence of God in the lives of other people."

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, as well as for college students discerning religious life as either a priest or a brother, Holy Cross offers two retreats—the Come and See Weekend Retreat and the College Discernment Retreat.

The Come and See Weekend is offered for high school seniors in the fall and high school juniors in the spring. This retreat offers 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 College Retreat is designed for men in their sophomore, junior, or senior year of college. This weekend retreat teaches 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 holycrossvocations.org.

The mystery of the cross does not simply confront us; rather, it draws us in and gives a new value to our life.

Pope Benedict XVI,
Jesus of Nazareth:
Holy Week

NEW OLD COLLEGIANS

The Old College Undergraduate Seminary is housed in the original building, constructed in 1843 on Notre Dame's campus. It is more than a residential community; it provides a well-rounded life which 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.



STEPHEN CARL BARANY

Stephen, the younger of two children, grew up in the shadow of the Golden Dome in South Bend, Ind. Consequently, he has been acquainted with

the Congregation of Holy Cross for much of his life. Thus, it is no surprise that he turned to Holy Cross halfway through his studies in engineering at the University of Illinois, when he realized that he could no longer ignore the pull to the priesthood that was growing in his heart. Inspired by the Congregation's encouragement to exercise fully the gifts God has given, he applied to transfer into Old College and is now enrolled at Notre Dame pursuing a degree in philosophy and industrial design.

"A great number of people have encouraged me to pursue the discernment of my vocation," Stephen says. He is specifically grateful for the examples of two priests who taught at his high school during his senior year. Their joyful witness helped Stephen recognize the value of living a life wholly oriented toward Christ and the sacrificial mission of the Church.

As he anticipates the period of years he will spend in formation, he said, "Seminary is a time in a man's life during which he can devote himself to a deeper relationship with Christ and ultimately discern whether or not he is called to the priesthood. Joining the seminary is not a commitment to become a priest; it is a commitment to prayerful, dedicated discernment and personal growth as a man of God."

Stephen reminds other young people in his position not to “sit on your hands and assume God will show you your path. You must ask Him honestly, openly, earnestly.”



**PRINZ JEREMY
LLANES DELA CRUZ**

A member of Holy Cross College's Class of 2015, Jeremy comes to Old College from Stockton, Calif. This middle child of three studied languages, maintained a reli-

gious blog, and worked with developmentally delayed children, all while in high school.

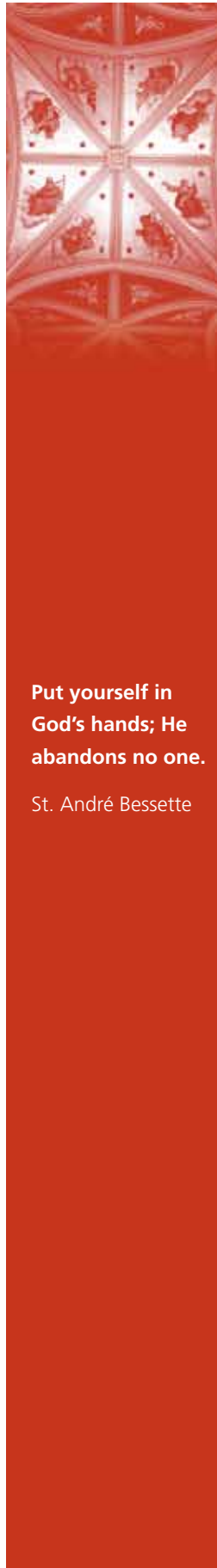
Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., was the connection that led Jeremy to the Old College Undergraduate Seminary. He answered Jeremy's questions and assisted him in orchestrating a comfortable, smooth transition to Old College.

Disciplined prayer, specifically the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the intercession of several saints, has helped Jeremy dispel doubts about his decision to explore a vocation with the Congregation. “I was a bit surprised that after a time of prayer, I started feeling at peace with the idea of attending Old College,” he says. “It was this wave of reassurance that I took to be God's way of pushing me to Holy Cross.”

Jeremy shares this message of support with anyone considering a vocation: “You are not alone. There are hundreds of teens in your place. Don't be afraid to pursue a vocation to the priesthood since God doesn't give anyone anything he cannot handle.”

LEARN MORE ...

... about how Holy Cross is spreading the Gospel across *all* borders by “liking” our Facebook fan page at [facebook.com/holycrossvocations](https://www.facebook.com/holycrossvocations).



**Put yourself in
God's hands; He
abandons no one.**

St. André Bessette



**PAUL MARTIN
FORTIN**

Growing up in Peoria, Ill., Paul benefited from the ministry of his diocesan bishop and Holy Cross priest, The Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.,

DD. Bishop Jenky's example, along with the ministry of Fr. Drew Gawrych, C.S.C., helped Paul decide to come to Notre Dame and Old College.

The oldest child in his family, Paul was attracted to Holy Cross because of their focus on education and teaching, and the priests' “inherent happiness.” After meeting some of the seminarians at Old College, he realized that he would fit in with the men there, and that he could “easily make friends with them.” Devoting more time to prayer for himself and others has defused many of his doubts. His attendance at Mass and conversations with friends about his plans are encouragements for Paul as he anticipates the process of formation.

He advises anyone considering a vocation to “talk with other people about your possible vocation. Also, prayer is always necessary when discerning your vocation.”



**JOSEPH ROBERT
KRIVOS**

The enthusiasm displayed by Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., at a Notre Dame Vision event in the summer of 2010 proved instrumental

in Joe's decision to come to Notre Dame and Old College. Raised in Cleveland, Joe is an only child whose interests in high school included earning the rank of Eagle Scout, serving the homeless, and being involved in his parish.

He was attracted to Holy Cross for several reasons, including the “joy and hope” that resonates in the Congregation's Constitutions and the definition of zeal as articulated by the order's founder. Blessed Basil Moreau stated that “Zeal is that flame of burning desire which one feels to make God known, loved, and served, and thus saves souls.” Joe felt accepted and

comfortable during a visit to Old College because of the warm welcome and hospitality he received.

Joe thanks his spiritual director for supporting him during his junior and senior years of high school, as he first considered pursuing a religious vocation.

He is praying, especially through the intercession of Our Lady, while he prepares for the formation process to begin. He asks the Lord regularly for His will to be done, and is strengthened through Eucharistic Adoration.

“Seek the Lord in any way you can. If you are discerning a vocation, it is coming from Jesus, the one who formed you and knit you together in your mother’s womb. His love for you is beyond all understanding, so pray and listen to Him,” Joe says.



MICHAEL JOHN MARSHALL

A young man who describes himself as one who loves to learn, Mike was initially attracted to the Holy Cross charism of being “educators

in the faith.”

Mike chose to apply to the program after he attended a Come and See Weekend at Old College. Meeting the men and community of Holy Cross “really made me feel at peace with my decision to apply,” he says.

He has prepared for the formation program by praying and staying close to Jesus through participating in the Sacraments, praying the Rosary, and learning about Marian devotion.

He credits his mother with helping him dispel any fears about his decision to enter Old College. “She has been fantastic because she always seems to know what I am thinking,” he says. Along with support from his family, Fr. Drew Gawrych, C.S.C., also provided spiritual guidance and information about Holy Cross.

Mike advises any young person considering a vocation to talk with the staff at Holy Cross, and if possible, experience a Come and See Weekend. He added, “Do not forget that discernment, on every level, is about coming closer to God, and it is only when we become closer to Him that our vocation is truly



The cross was constantly before the eyes of Basil Moreau, whose motto for his congregation was Spes Unica. The cross was to be “Our Only Hope.”

Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 8:113

revealed. Enjoy this time of growing in Christ, and as Blessed John Paul II said, ‘Be not afraid!’”



CHARLES EDWARD SKINNER

A friend from his high school in Anaheim, Calif., suggested Charlie look at Holy Cross when he spoke about his interest in the priesthood. The oldest of four children,

Charlie did “a lot of research” before he applied to the Old College Undergraduate Seminary, discovering three defining elements: Holy Cross’ devotion to Our Lady; the importance of community life; and the simple, holy lives of Blessed Basil Moreau and Saint André Bessette.

Charlie has prepared himself for Old College and Notre Dame by praying for strength and staying active in parish life in California where he has participated as altar server and been involved with fellow parishioners and priests.

He gratefully acknowledges his parents and several priests in Holy Cross for their support as he pursues his calling. He feels especially blessed to have been able to visit Old College twice, which helped dispel doubts about his decision. The Old Collegians were “real, welcoming, and fun,” recalled Charlie. “They answered my questions and addressed any concerns and hesitations that I may have felt at the time.”

He advises those discerning a vocation, “not to worry about what others think. Rather, answer the call and be filled with the graces of doing so. Remain open to God’s will, and He will take care of you.”

LEARN MORE ...

... about Holy Cross by visiting [youtube.com/cscvocations](https://www.youtube.com/cscvocations), where you can watch everything from historical videos on the Congregation to interviews with our religious to Ordination Masses.

YEAR OF THE BROTHER—Lives Given to God, Love Given to All



Brothers are called by God, committed to a life consecrated to God, and characterized by a public profession of vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. The vocation of a brother is best understood through the witness of his life and ministry. Brothers of Holy Cross serve in 16 countries on

five continents. By their commitment, courage, and conviction, these brothers, along with the Congregation's priests, strive for lives given to God through love given to all.

On October 17, 2010, the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated the canonization of Brother André Bessette, C.S.C., by Pope Benedict XVI.

Commencing on the one-year anniversary of St. André's canonization, Holy Cross invites all people to celebrate both the Congregation's first saint and the "Year of the Brother."

Called for by the 2010 Holy Cross General Chapter, the "Year of the Brother" honors the important services given to the Church and the world through the brothers' vocation. It is also a recognition of the important work still to be done, an invitation to others to consider offering their lives in service through a vocation as a brother, and an opportunity for the faithful to pray for vocations to Holy Cross.

In their religious consecration, brothers give their lives over to the Lord in service to all of God's people. During the "Year of the Brother," let us give thanks for their service, compassion, and the prayer they share with the world and with one another in community.

WHAT IS A BROTHER?

From the earliest days of the Church, men and women have consecrated their lives to Christ through the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. These consecrated religious have made their entire lives a sign to the world of the Kingdom of God—the Kingdom that is among us now and the Kingdom that is to come.

For all consecrated religious, the culmination of their "yes" is their profession of vows, committing their lives to Christ in their religious institute forever. There are some professed religious who are called by God and their community to serve as priests and thus, in addition to their consecration as religious, are ordained to the priesthood by the Church. There are also men religious called to the vocation of a brother. The vocation of a religious brother is complete in and of itself, professed in and lived through his vows and his dedication to prayer, community, and service.

Within the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Basil Moreau dedicated the religious brothers to the patronage of Saint Joseph. Just as Saint

Joseph was an integral part of the Holy Family, so, too, Holy Cross brothers have an essential presence in the Holy Cross family. They commit themselves to a life of prayer so that they might grow in holiness and, in turn, draw the world into deeper holiness. Their participation in the common life unites our community and provides support and encouragement for their confreres. In service to the Church, the brothers of Holy Cross answer Christ's call to go out to all the nations and make the Gospel known. They do this primarily as teachers, administrators, or directors in the schools, parishes, and missions of Holy Cross around the world. In their "yes" to Christ's invitation to follow Him, they make themselves radically open to serving the needs of the Church and the world.

Together, the priests and brothers of Holy Cross share a common life, common prayer, and participate equally in common works. Together, they become a sign to the world of the Kingdom that is to come.

“Come and follow me.”

IT IS THE LORD JESUS CALLING.

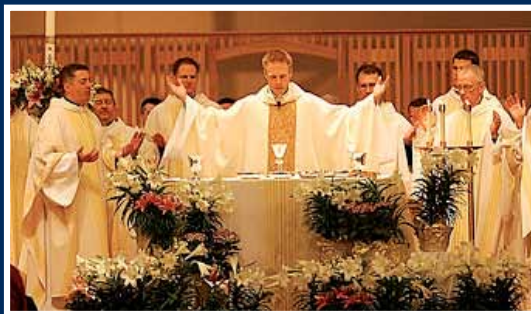
We heard the call to give our life over in a more explicit way.

We responded by joining with a great band of men who had placed their hope in the Cross of Christ and serve as educators, pastors, and missionaries. In this we have become men with hope to bring to an alienated world in need of the Gospel.

Have you heard the call to be more explicit in your discipleship? Are you tired of hesitating and holding back? It is the Lord who gives the invitation. We can help you answer.

The priests and brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Men with hope to bring.



holycrossvocations.org



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