

# CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2



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Ordinations 2010

## Rejoice, I say it again, Rejoice.



The Holy Cross Vocation Team: Rev. Peter M. McCormick, C.S.C.; Rev. James G. Gallagher, C.S.C.; and Rev. Ralph L. Haag, C.S.C.

The season of Easter is always a time to rejoice in the news that our Lord, Jesus Christ, conquered sin and death in His Passion and Resurrection. We need not fear sin or death, for Christ is triumphant; this is good news and reason for rejoicing.

In the Congregation of Holy Cross we have several other reasons to rejoice at this time. As happens at this time every year, members of our community are ordained to the priesthood. This April 10th, 2010, Fr. Kevin Grove, C.S.C., and Fr. Gerard Olinger, C.S.C., received the Sacrament of Holy Orders at the hands of Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the bishop of Peoria, Illinois.

It is a special moment in the lives of Fr. Kevin and Fr. Gerry. It brings to a culmination many years of prayer, study, preparation and discernment and sets them on the path of many years of ministry to the People of God as priests.

It is a special moment for the Congregation of Holy Cross because it reminds us all of the call we have received and the commitment we have made to serve.

In addition to the Easter Season and these ordinations that give us cause to rejoice, we also celebrate the news that one of our own will be acknowledged as a saint this coming October. Blessed Brother André Bessette, C.S.C., is a Holy Cross Brother from Montreal, Canada, who through his dedication to the Lord and devotion to St. Joseph, led many to health and healing, often through miraculous means. In his canonization, the Church recognizes the virtue of his life and his presence in the Heavenly Kingdom. To have one of our own recognized in such a way brings great joy to the hearts of many, especially to those of us in Holy Cross.

When we place our lives in the hands of the Lord, there is great joy that is brought into our life and into the world. If you are interested in learning more about how you might be called to give your life over to the Lord, please do not hesitate to contact us in the Office of Vocations.

May God bless you in this time of rejoicing,

In Holy Cross,  
Rev. James T. Gallagher, C.S.C.  
Director, Office of Vocations

## Fathers Who Listen, Families Who Learn

Rev. Kevin G. Grove, C.S.C.



The first time he baptized a baby, Deacon Kevin Grove saw that this was the start of something big. This pivotal moment for the infant was summoning family members (and fellow parishioners) into a declaration of commitment.

God's entry into

that moment of shared trust was a blessing for everyone involved, including the presider on his own journey to priesthood.

"At Sunday Mass, in the name of Christ, I blessed the water and asked the people to profess their faith," recalls this man now serving parishioners as *Father* Kevin. "With each question I asked, more than anything else I wanted for them to respond with a resounding and fully intended 'I do!' With three unsteady passes through the water, I was humbled to hold a new life in my hands, and on behalf of the Church and all gathered in her name, bring a little one to a new life in Christ."

"The only response to that much grace is joy," Father Kevin continues. "And that joy is the Lord's in us." A diaconate year filled with vibrant interactions among the families of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Ind., was a "great privilege" that "built up my vocation," he says.

Father Kevin's path for discerning that vocation began within the context of "a close family in rural Montana, with many extended

### *At a glance ...*

**KEVIN G. GROVE, C.S.C**

*Born:* 1982 Lewistown, MT

*College:* Seattle University, Seattle, WA

*Graduate Study:* M. Div. 2006-09,

University of Notre Dame

*Entered Holy Cross:* August 2004

*First Vows:* July 29, 2006

*Diaconate Year:* 2009-10

relatives nearby. I understood family and community as similar terms." After attending college in Seattle and considering careers in government service or academia, a homily and written materials about the Congregation of Holy Cross got him thinking about the priesthood in Holy Cross, and initial visits helped him learn that communities of Holy Cross priests and brothers have a strong sense of family grounded in common prayer.

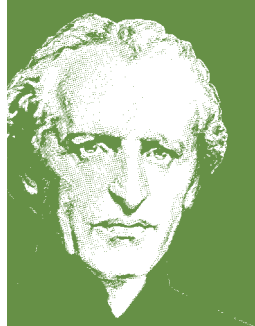
"I have since discovered that that spirit was the charism of the founder of Holy Cross, Father Basil Moreau—an emphasis on family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph," says Father Kevin. He highlights the invitation during his seminary formation to respond to the vocational call "with joy as brothers in a family." He remembers being impressed that this family looked after all its brothers, from young seminarians to the elderly in their own health care community.

The community environment, while supportive of the individual, does not foster self-pre-occupation or distractive busy-ness. Indeed, he cherishes his private time with the Head of the family. "In addition to common prayer with my local community, I like to pray in silence, either before the Blessed Sacrament, or in my room." Making time "for the presence of Christ in my heart" has become "the most sustaining part of my life," and the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience have helped him to discover who he really is. "This is the great paradox in our vows," notes Father Kevin. "By means of what the world might consider stifling or limiting, God grants great freedom."

Now, he is eager to provide moments of God's grace along the way of other people's faith journeys by celebrating the sacraments. He also aspires "to be a priest who teaches," true to the Holy Cross charism as a congregation of educators, knowing that this can be in a parish or missionary setting as well as in an academic environment.

"We call ourselves educators in the faith and men with hope to bring," Father Kevin points out. "It is exciting and energizing to bring zeal, life, and faith to a questioning and broken world." He has drawn inspiration from so many people, young and old, looking for answers on their spiritual journeys. "The Catholic faith provides a real depth to each of those questions and each of those answers."

For those people discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood, he warns against demanding "certainty" and urges an "I do!" stance



**"Follow Jesus Christ, that is to say, imitate him; that is the commitment we made in baptism...."**

Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.



Father Kevin, during his diaconate year at St. Joseph Parish, worked with students in the parish school.

instead—"giving God an opportunity to guide your life." He believes the combination of family spirit, commitment to community, shared prayer, personal devotion, and a vowed journey in the Congregation of Holy Cross is gradually and reliably giving him a joyful abundance of answers.

"Obedience for me is lived in daily conversion. That means recommitting myself to a basic trust: As I complete each day in faithfulness," says Father Kevin, "God is slowly completing me."

### ***In his own words...***

*Father Kevin speaks about his book project, co-editing The Cross, Our Only Hope (Ave Maria Press, 2008) along with Rev. Andrew Gawrych, C.S.C.*

I discovered Basil Moreau for the first time when I was a Holy Cross novice in Colorado. I was quickly drawn to his writings, his prayer, and his thinking. Moreau helped me to identify and understand my own calling as one not only to the priesthood and religious life, but the priesthood and religious life in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

When then-seminarian Drew Gawrych presented the idea of putting together some daily reflections on Moreau, I gave some suggestions for passages and texts by our founder. Ave Maria Press (a Holy Cross apostolate) suggested compiling an entire year of reflections, one for each day. Drew asked if I might take on the project with him. I agreed.

What followed were months of hard work, but also a great deal of discovery. We divided up source texts from Father Moreau and other early Holy Cross leaders, as well as from our Holy Cross Constitutions. We asked priests and brothers from all over the world to illuminate



The feast of St. Blaise gave then-Deacon Kevin an opportunity to bless St. Joseph parishioners.

those spiritual texts with their own experiences of life and ministry in Holy Cross.

To say the least, we received a wealth of inspiration from our brothers in Holy Cross. As a young seminarian, editing these men's stories was a great privilege as well as an eye-opener. A deep sense of the breadth of the God-given mission of Holy Cross emerged for me and solidified my vocation.

Occasionally, I will still receive a thank-you note from a person whom I have never met. In these moments, I give thanks to God that that small book is doing His work—leading people closer to Christ through His Holy Cross.

***A favorite quote from Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., who was beatified by the Catholic Church in 2007:***

“In order to follow Jesus, it is necessary to deny oneself and carry one's cross.

If we follow Jesus and carry our cross, we will have life. Life is to be found in the cross and nowhere else.

It is not only necessary to take up the cross, but also to carry it with courage. If we drag it along or if we leave it after we have once taken it up, and even more if we trample it underfoot, the cross will not save us.

Let us follow the route that Jesus set before us.”

***The Cross, Our Only Hope is one of three books of Holy Cross reflections recently published by Ave Maria Press. The Gift of the Cross, containing insights for Lent, and The Gift of Hope, containing insights for Advent, are edited by Rev. Gawrych, and all three are available at [www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com).***



Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., ordaining bishop, Bishop of Peoria, Ill.

**“Meditate on the law of God, believe what you read, teach what you believe, and put into practice what you teach.”**

*Rite of Ordination*

## My Peace I Give You, In Community and Cross

*Rev. Gerard J. Olinger Jr., C.S.C.*



At a crucial point in Gerry Olinger's vocational discernment, a friend told him to read 1 Kings 7:8-13 in the Old Testament. There, Elijah was seeking the Lord in an earthquake and a fire but finally heard Him in a “tiny, whispering sound.” Olinger recalls,

“What I realized is

that sometimes God speaks to us in more subtle ways—in that still, small voice in our own life.” He continued seminary formation and served at the University of Portland in 2009-2010 as Deacon Gerry.

That's not to say that his diaconate work, which included campus ministry and directing an undergraduate dorm, surrounded him with “still, small voices.” College life is more typically a setting for adventures and chaos, and Father Gerry now says he is excited about continuing in university ministry in the future.

“I love working with college students at such an important stage of their life,” he says. “I also love the mission of Holy Cross at our Universities,” which tackles the two-pronged pedagogical mission outlined by Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.—educating both the mind and the heart.

### *At a glance ...*

**GERARD J. OLINGER JR., C.S.C.**

*Born:* 1979 Glenolden, PA

*College:* University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

*Graduate Study:* University of Notre Dame Law School 2001-04; M. Div. 2006-09

*Entered Holy Cross:* August 2004

*First Vows:* July 29, 2006

*Diaconate Year:* 2009-10

As a transitional deacon awaiting his April 2010 ordination to the priesthood, Olinger says he felt blessed to be interacting with students at their times of joy over good grades and prestigious internships, as well as in their times of sorrow—at the end of a relationship or the death of a family member.

During his years of priestly formation, Father Gerry went through his own periods of uncertainty. He had worked in a large corporate law firm in Chicago while a student in Notre Dame Law School, but he decided such sound and fury “was not what I was looking for.”

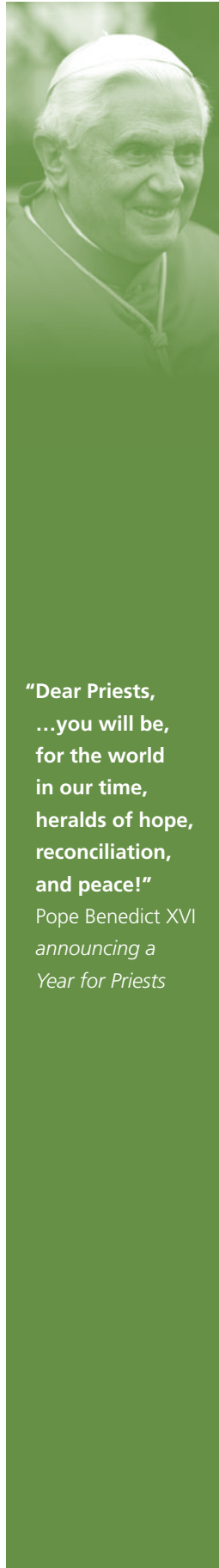
So he found his own path of peace, responding to the Lord’s presence wherever and however it is found, and he wants to help other people find that peace, too. “I look forward to presiding at the Eucharist and to celebrating Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick,” he says. Working in a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program earlier in his formation, he recalls that accompanying six people in their journeys into the Catholic Church crystallized for him the meaning and impact of ministry.

Administering the sacraments goes hand-in-hand with the relationships of authenticity, simplicity, and trust that priests, thanks largely to their vows, can build among the people of God. “While I have close friends both inside and outside the Holy Cross community, the vow of chastity calls me to be open to relationships with all people,” Father Gerry points out. “It has allowed me to trust in my friends and know that they are there for me, even if I am not always with them. It has also helped me to trust that God will continue to be with me—even in the difficult moments of my life.”

Likewise, the vow of poverty “has freed me from concerns about material things,” so as to become more generous and open to helping others, says Father Gerry.

The experience of community, which is central to the way of life for Holy Cross brothers and priests, brings him closer to the Lord but also helps him to reach out to a wider variety of people. “It has been through the occasional conflicts in community that I have really grown,” Father Gerry comments. “I better understand the need to be open to different people—to step outside my friendships and to reach out to those around me. I also realize that my call is not to serve the Lord as an independent individual, but rather as part of a brotherhood.”

The search for the tiny, whispering sound persists. “The center of my prayer life is daily Mass and the Divine Office,” but the Rosary,



**“Dear Priests,  
...you will be,  
for the world  
in our time,  
heralds of hope,  
reconciliation,  
and peace!”**

Pope Benedict XVI  
announcing a  
*Year for Priests*



Father Gerry talks with members of the residence hall where he served as hall director during his diaconate year.

spiritual journaling, and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament are also important parts of his routine.

Father Gerry looks back and offers this advice for exploring a vocation in the Congregation of Holy Cross. “I would say that a person needs to be open to the different ways that God speaks to him—not just in those dramatic ways, but also in the more subtle ways.” He goes on, “Perhaps God is speaking to you in that still, small voice. Perhaps that tug inside of you, that occasional thought about the priesthood, is really God calling you.”

### ***In his own words...***

*Father Gerry speaks of life as hall director for an undergraduate dorm during his diaconate year. He was on the campus of the University of Portland, Oregon’s Catholic university, administered by the Congregation of Holy Cross.*

Being a hall director is work I really enjoy. Before my assignment to the University of Portland, I had worked in dorm administration at the University of Notre Dame—during my undergraduate years, my law school years, and an earlier part of my seminary formation.

College-age students have reached a point where they’re suddenly on their own, they’re starting to discover who they are, or who they want to be, or who they feel they might be called to be. Part of the hall director work is walking with them on that journey. Also, this age group respects and responds to people they judge to be authentic, so simply being the person that you are, you can have some really good conversations with students.

Inevitably, around 11 or 11:30 at night, I might be reading in my room (in the residence hall),

and someone will stop by. Once, I had a freshman come in; he was far away from home, struggling a little bit with classes, roommates, his relationship with God. I mostly listened. Then I said that, sometimes, when you find yourself in the midst of all this, it can be overwhelming—unless you take a step back from it and gain a little perspective.

The next night, I got a knock on the door and it was the same student. He presented me with a picture of a young man hovering over a landscape, and the caption said, “Sometimes we have to view things from a different perspective in order to understand them.” That picture is now on my desk. It was a confirmation that our conversation had been helpful. You don’t always get that thank-you, that knowledge that something you say gets through and helps.

Those interactions reaffirm to me the importance of what we do for the students. Blessed Basil Moreau, our founder, understood the importance of our becoming a part of a place. He named the Congregation after the French town where they were located. Still today, in Holy Cross, we become very much a part of the place where we serve. Our students know us as part of their communities.

At Portland, I’m also part of the Campus Ministry office. I was asked to take over as chaplain for a group of Catholic students who asked for more explicitly Catholic programs, including Eucharistic adoration. Our student attendance at adoration has gone up, and we include praise and worship music, preaching, and Benediction.

Students also wanted to do something on Friday nights. They created programs for reflection, talks, Q&A sessions, or just playing games. Now they want to go to World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011. I’ve been happy I could help respond to the student excitement about their faith. The fact that I was there to help respond when the group of students appeared is just more evidence that there is providence in this world.



Gerry Olinger, C.S.C., (left) and Kevin Grove, C.S.C., on the day of their profession of final vows



**“This gift of God does not cancel human freedom. Instead, it gives rise to freedom, develops freedom, and demands freedom.”**

Pope John Paul II  
*Pastores Dabo Vobis*



Carlos Augusto Jacobo, C.S.C., on the day he professed final vows

## Vows Beyond Borders

*Carlos Augusto Jacobo de los Santos, C.S.C.*

The path to priesthood and brotherhood in Holy Cross is drawing men’s hearts all over the world. Carlos Augusto Jacobo de los Santos, C.S.C., made his profession of perpetual vows on February 14, 2010.

He is the first young man coming from the Holy Cross parish in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, Mexico, to make final vows on his way to priestly ordination. His father, mother, and three brothers live near the parish chapel, Santa Cruz, located in their neighborhood.

The example and witness of Rev. John Keefe, C.S.C.; Rev. Dan Kayajan, C.S.C.; and Rev. Pete Logsdon, C.S.C., influenced Carlos to join Holy Cross.

Carlos is in his second year of Theology. He enjoys his studies and hopes to be ordained to the priesthood in about two years.

Father Logsdon, in his homily at the Mass for final vows, noted that the Beatitudes are promises of blessings and happiness for those who accept the call to serve God’s people. “Carlos, with these perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, you are choosing to follow completely the teachings of Jesus Christ and to serve his people with all your strength,” Father Logsdon said. He added that vowed membership in Holy Cross is to be cherished despite its challenges “because we have the opportunity to help so many people. For that very reason, we can live blessed and happy lives.”

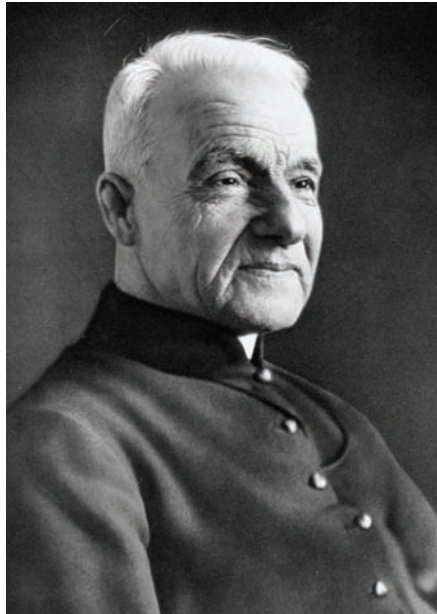
# “I Am Sending You a Saint” Blessed Brother André to Be Canonized

A great cause for joy within the Congregation of Holy Cross and throughout the Church is coming up on Oct. 17, 2010, when Brother André Bessette, C.S.C., will be canonized a saint.

He will be the first saint in the history of the Congregation. Given the title “Blessed” in 1982, this “miracle man of Montreal” has already inspired millions by offering hope, hospitality, and healing during his lifetime (1845-1937) and by his profound faith and humble service, enlivened by a special devotion to Saint Joseph.

The decision to canonize Blessed Brother André was announced by Pope Benedict XVI in February. It was a moving reminder of the early steps of discernment for a young Quebec native who had lost both his parents by the age of 12. This young man, born Alfred Bessette, expressed an interest in a religious vocation, and his local parish priest sent him to a nearby community of Holy Cross brothers with a letter telling its superior, “I am sending you a saint.”

Brother André, who was largely illiterate, served primarily as a porter, or doorman, at Montreal’s College of Notre Dame for the next 40 years. He received visitors, most of them



poor and sick, with great kindness, moral advice, and spiritual assistance. Many visitors attributed miraculous cures to him, but he would insist that any such cures were attributable to prayer and the intercession of Saint Joseph.

His affection for Saint Joseph, whom Congregation of Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., set forth as the patron for the Holy Cross brothers, made Brother André instrumental in the founding of Saint Joseph’s Oratory on Mount Royal in Montreal, a construction job first undertaken with funds from many small donations. Today’s massive basilica attracts 2 million pilgrims every year. Blessed André is entombed there.

“We are honored and moved beyond words at Brother André’s formal recognition as a saint,” said Rev. David Tyson,

C.S.C., Provincial Superior of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross. He continued in a February statement, “It seems wonderfully apt and instructive that the first Holy Cross saint was a man who insisted, sometimes testily, that ‘to serve is sweeter than to be served.’”

For Father Tyson’s full statement and more details on the life of Brother André, go to [holycrossvocations.org](http://holycrossvocations.org).

## WHAT IS A BROTHER?

From the earliest days of the Church, men and women have consecrated their lives to Christ through the vows of poverty, celibacy, 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 life 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 St. Joseph. Just as St. Joseph was an integral part of the Holy Family, so, too, Holy Cross brothers have an essential presence in the Holy Cross family. Holy Cross brothers commit themselves to a life of prayer so that they might grow in holiness and 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 brothers and priests of Holy Cross share a common life, common prayer, and participate equally in common works.



*I will give you shepherds  
after my own heart.*

JER. 3:15



CONGREGATION OF  
**HOLY CROSS**  
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If you have ever had the feeling that God may be calling you  
to the religious life or the priesthood please visit us at

[holycrossvocations.org](http://holycrossvocations.org)