My dear friends in Christ,

Given our work in four colleges and universities, high schools and parishes with schools, many people associate schools as the hallmark of Holy Cross’ ministry. Yet our history reflects a commitment and passion for missionary service. Years before the Congregation of Holy Cross received its Papal Approbation in 1857, Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., was sending members of his religious community around the world to Algeria, Canada, Poland, Italy, Bengal (now Bangladesh) and the United States. With evangelical zeal, still present in every member of Holy Cross, these pioneers selflessly, and in many cases at the cost of their lives, entered foreign soil to proclaim the Gospel and to serve the people where and how most needed.

I deeply value this legacy of Holy Cross — it speaks volumes to our faithfulness, our charism, our gift to the Church — and it’s very close to my heart as I’ve had the opportunity to serve in Bangladesh and in East Africa and have witnessed desperation, poverty, indignity and helplessness. But I’ve also seen the power of hope and the transformation of lives made possible by Holy Cross and the outstanding support we’ve received that empowers our international work.

Today, the missionary spirit of Holy Cross is evident in 17 countries and across five continents. The United States Province serves God’s people in its three international districts: Chile, East Africa and Peru, along with the Region of Mexico. As members of the international family of Holy Cross, we also have special relationships with Bangladesh and Haiti. Each summer a number of our seminarians experience the Holy Cross mission in various countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

It’s difficult to convey the impact of our missions in terms of the lives we inspire through education, or the healing we offer through our clinics, or the souls moved toward greater holiness in our Sacramental ministry. It is possible, however, for each of us to understand hope — hope that Holy Cross brings to all of our ministries and is shared with every life we encounter — hope that you demonstrate through your support of our work.

God bless you and your family this Advent season, and may God continue to bless the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Rev. Thomas J. O’Hara, C.S.C.

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Q: What is Holy Cross’ history in Mission Work?

DeLaney: Holy Cross was founded as a missionary community since the time of Blessed Basil Moreau, and what I think is interesting is that the first mission didn’t work out... they went from France to Algeria which was a French colony at the time. They were there a few years and came back. They were sent to the Bengal region - what’s now Bangladesh - in the mid-1800s. So even though they didn’t feel they had enough personnel, they always responded to the missionary invitation. So much so that even after the boat carrying the first group of religious to Bengal sank, Fr. Moreau decided to send a second group who, luckily, did arrive. From the very beginning, there has always been that sense of mission. It’s in our Constitutions, and it’s always been a part of our life to respond. And I trust it will be a part of our future.

Q: What is the HCMC?

DeLaney: HCMC serves to support our international mission. We can help bring people together — our religious, our young men in formation, our lay...
Q: Why do we care about this work?
DeLaney: We care about them because we’re part of the Church and they are too. It’s about education and responding to a great need. Something unique that a religious community like Holy Cross offers the Church — and this is fundamental — is equality. While the world might have walls or preconceived notions of power, equality or opportunity between people by gender, race, ethnicity, economic opportunities, etc. — by our vowed life as religious, we transcend those walls and see one another as equals. This is a very important sign for the people of God to witness when ever they interact with us. A member of Holy Cross in Uganda, Bangladesh or Mexico shares in the same life. It doesn’t matter what language we speak, where we open the parish, or where we have our school or our ministry — with the marginalized, disadvantaged or exploited children or the homeless — we are all con nected because we’re all created by the same God.

Q: What is your role with the HCMC?
DeLaney: I think there’s a three-part role to it:
To be an ambassador within the Province and to Holy Cross in the United States and abroad — helping envision, plan, and coordinate the integration of people. In one week, I may be in touch with religious in eight countries regarding projects, ideas, and exchange of information.

The second part is being an educator — educating our communities, so that more initiatives might arise out of their own desire. I’ve met with folks who envision a missionary program, and want to know how to get started — what you can do to help people is endless — teach the kids, accompany the students, work with families in parishes, consider the liturgies, the music we play.

The third part is fund raiser. To look for new and creative ways, and continue the many ways, in which our fundraising serves the needs of the many worthy projects in the international missions.

Q: What kind of impact have we made?
DeLaney: One observation that many have made which I believe holds much truth wherever Holy Cross serves in the world, it makes a profound impact on the life of the Church, the society at large and the people it serves. Two brief examples from Latin America (and this could be said of everywhere Holy Cross serves): 1) Canto Grande in Peru is a parish that was founded on a garbage dump outside of Lima. There are 250,000 people there and 19 churches all of which have lay leadership and Sacramental leadership. The Holy Cross Community has a school there, a health clinic, and a ministry called “Vizcana Binao” for poor children who are disabled. When you are living in extreme poverty, you’re even poorer when you have disabilities. To have that care, and a place to go, is a sign of hope in the middle of all that. That they have a clinic where people can come and get health care. Many of the medical staff grew up in Canto Grande and had great educational opportunities open to them!

2) In Chile, we have Fundamor (Fundacion Moras). Most of the 450 children in residence there have been abandoned or abused physically or sexually, and have lost their own dignity, some by the age of three. We bring brothers and sisters together when they’re removed from the homes, or if their parents have gone to jail, or have simply been abandoned. People offer us help with their schooling and housing and their professional staffing — they have social workers, psychologists. These kids can regain, in some sense, their innocence, as well as a future. Most go on to successful lives in their careers and families.

In every place we are, Holy Cross is very often connected with the local Church and in leadership in Dioceses where we serve, and often sought out by others.

Q: What do you think the future of these areas would look like without our help?
DeLaney: Most of the developing world needs our help for a long time. They do not have the resources they need for a long time. They do not have the political stability or economic opportunities to have this internationality. We serve as a bridge between the world might have walls or preconceived notions of power, equality or opportunity between people by gender, race, ethnicity, economic opportunities, etc. — by our vowed life as religious, we transcend those walls and see one another as equals. This is a very important sign for the people of God to witness whenever they interact with us. A member of Holy Cross in Uganda, Bangladesh or Mexico shares in the same life. It doesn’t matter what language we speak, where we open the parish, or where we have our school or our ministry — with the marginalized, disadvantaged or exploited children or the homeless — we are all connected because we’re all created by the same God.

Q: What are some of the most pressing needs of our missions?
DeLaney: Finding God. Having hope. Being a part of the Church and valued ministries of the Congregation of Holy Cross! In this, education is foremost. Formal education and spiritual formation to young people everywhere but there are other ways in which we respond — we preach and live the Gospel. We are in this to share our faith, and to build up the Church, but do so very much in respect of the cultures where we serve.

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Holy Cross presence in East Africa was first established in 1958 by a group of priests led by Servant of God Vincent McCauley, C.S.C. From these first missionaries, to the most recently professed East African religious, evangelization through the development of parishes and schools in mostly low income areas has been central to the Holy Cross mission in East Africa. Today, Holy Cross is in three East African countries — Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Holy Cross Parish-Dandora Community (Nairobi, Kenya)
Holy Cross Parish-Dandora Community is located in Nairobi’s densely populated Dandora slums. The city houses a massive dumping site, where many scavenge for food, as well as items they can sell to recycling plants. Nairobi has many poor, underemployed and unemployed. Crime is also a challenge to the area. However, these challenges haven’t stopped Holy Cross from cultivating a vibrant community in the area. The Holy Cross Parish sponsors Boma Rescue Center for children and Brother André Dispensary. Additional ministries of the parish include St. James Nursery and Primary School, a tailoring school for women, and a microfinance lending program.

The Boma Rescue Center was established in 1996. Most of the children there come from very poor backgrounds or were abandoned at a very tender age. At the center, sponsors help provide basic things like food, clothing, and education.

Each day, hundreds of people visit the Brother André dispensary to seek medical help for themselves and their children.

Formation is going strong. The McCauley Formation house is the formation house for the Congregation’s professed seminarians and brothers in East Africa. The house is vital to the long term sustainability of Holy Cross and the Church in East Africa.

The construction of a new formation house in Nairobi is proceeding according to schedule and is roughly 35% complete. The plan at present is to move from rented quarters to the new formation house on July 1, 2016. The dedication is scheduled for October 22, 2016. The new formation house will contain 50 rooms, reflective of the fact that our formation houses are full and that aspirants to Holy Cross in East Africa are increasing with each passing year.

The chapel will be dedicated to the Sacred Heart and will feature stained glass windows with the images of Blessed Basil Moreau and Saint Andre Bessette, as well as windows of the Uganda Martyrs and St. Josephine Bakhita.

Five Established Parishes:
• Holy Cross Parish-Dandora Community (Nairobi, Kenya)
• Holy Cross Bugembe (Jinja, Uganda)
• St. Jude Tadeo Parish (Kyarusazi, Fort Portal, Uganda)
• St. Brendan Parish (Kitete, Tanzania)
• Sacred Heart Parish (Sombetini, Tanzania)
Holy Cross Bugembe (Jinja, Uganda)

Located near the source of the Nile River, Bugembe (boor ghem bay) is home to Jinja’s unskilled work force. The parish has become a role model in the Jinja Diocese by advancing ecumenism through social services to all God’s people without discrimination. The parish operates St. Andrew, St. Jude and Holy Cross Primary Schools, Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School, as well as an HIV/AIDS program. There’s also a Formation House in Jinja and Queen of Apostles Philosophy Centre – the educational facility for the first three years of Holy Cross Formation.

St. Andrew’s Holy Cross Primary School (A & B) serves a diverse urban-industrial population of poor children. One of their greatest needs is feeding students.

St. Jude Tadeo Parish (Kyanusso, Fort Portal, Uganda)

St. Jude Tadeo Parish operates Kyanusso (ki-yahn-u-so) Vocational Training School and St. Joseph Hill Secondary School, which draws students from the outlying villages. St. Jude Tadeo Parish includes some thirty sub-parishes that can only be reached by rough clay roads.

Students at the Kyanusso Vocational Training School may choose to learn a variety of trades, such as brick laying, carpentry, knitting, furniture making, and more—all to help them prepare for jobs.

St. Joseph Hill School (C) draws students from the outlying villages of Kyanusso, Kyaembe and Kasaaba. Some of the 400 students who attend classes at the school walk up to five miles every day to get there.

The school is fulfilling Blessed Basil Moreau’s vision of educating the hearts and minds of students through such classes as biology, chemistry, math, physics, Catholic religious education, geography, history, economics and English.

As for Holy Cross Formation, Lake Sanka Nativitate is also in the Fort Portal District. Following their three-year candidacy at Andri House in Bugembe, young men preparing to become Holy Cross brothers and priests spend a year here, learning about and living our common life.

St. Brendan Parish (Kigezi, Uganda)

St. Brendan Parish in Kitefu (ki-tay-tuf), is located in a very remote area, which is also home to the Wairaqw (Y-Iraq) and Maasai (ma-sigh) ethnic communities. The area is isolated with roads almost impassable in the wet season, and is disadvantaged by harsh weather. The Kitefu area also has an acute problem with access to clean, drinkable water. With help, Holy Cross was able to install a gravity-flow water system that serves a portion of the area, but the need for water persists.

The parish operates the Audrey Wolohan Vocational Training Centre (D) and Lostote Health Care Clinic. At the Centre, students who either cannot afford to or did not receive high enough grades to attend secondary school, learn carpentry, masonry, tailoring, sewing, and knitting. Some students attend from as far away as 459 miles.

Lostote Health Care Clinic provides basic medical care to up to 40 nearby villagers per day, as the nearest hospital is approximately 30 miles away.

The Wolohan Family Foundation

Matching Grant for Lakeview School

For more than 15 years, the Wolohan Family Foundation has partnered with the United States Province and the Holy Cross Mission Center in Sacramental, educational, social and economic service to the people of East Africa. In 2014, the Wolohan Family Foundation presented a unique opportunity to Holy Cross by making a three-year matching gift commitment of $600,000 to propel the planning and construction of a new Holy Cross Lake View Secondary School in Jinja, Uganda. Holy Cross Lake View Secondary School is the cornerstone of the Congregation of Holy Cross’ educational mission in East Africa.

The current school campus includes several makeshift structures built in response to the school’s rapid growth over the past decade. Classrooms, dining facilities, dormitories and the chapel, accommodating 800 children and 80 staff each day, are in dire need of replacement.

Rebuilding on the current school site is not an option as the buildings sit on a solid layer of stone making proper drainage and sewage waste disposal very difficult and creating a health hazard to students and to the people of the surrounding area.

To date, over $454,000 has been committed toward the match. Just $146,000 from goal, we invite you to join in this special giving opportunity and help complete the match offered by the Wolohan Family Foundation. Your gift does more than meet the visionary challenge made by the Wolohan Family – it will transform the lives of more than 800 students a year, positively impact the future of Uganda and, more importantly, prepare citizens for Heaven.

For more information and to make a gift, visit LakeView.HolyCrossUSA.org, or call the Holy Cross Mission Center at 574-631-5477. Contributions can also be sent using the envelope inserted in this magazine. Thank you for your prayers and support!
Sacred Heart Parish
(Sombetini, Tanzania)

In July 2015, the Congregation of Holy Cross took responsibility for the administration of Sacred Heart Parish, Sombetini, Tanzania, in the Archdiocese of Arusha. The new parish strengthens the Congregation’s presence in Tanzania, which has been a steady source of vocations for Holy Cross. A two and a half hour drive from St. Brendan’s Parish in Kitete, Tanzania, Sacred Heart Parish allows our brothers in Kitete to visit, run errands, and rest. Regional meetings that were once held in Nairobi and required significant travel can be held in Arusha, saving time, distance, and expense. At a meeting between Holy Cross and Divine Word Missionaries (which formerly ran the parish), the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Arusha stated that he always wanted Holy Cross to serve in his diocese, citing a rosary rally he attended at age 13 where he saw Servant of God Patrick Peyton. “At long last, it is happening.”

Rev. Prosper Tesha, C.S.C., pastor of Sacred Heart, sent a letter detailing the location of the parish, the people it serves, and his hopes for the future:

“Located in the North East of Arusha, Sombetini is a steadily growing suburb of the city. As a growing slum, it poses both blessings and challenges for ministry. Most of its residents are low income earners, some of them working as casual laborers in small business enterprises.

The parish has 27 Small Christian Communities (i.e. groups of families which gather for prayer and scripture sharing at least once a week.) The parish has over 5,000 Christians, giving it a fertile ground for ministry and evangelization.

We are grateful to the Divine Word Missionaries for the structures laid so far in the running of the Parish. As Holy Cross, we even hope that these structures will be strengthened and improved for better performance and self-reliance. Our aim is to have a healthy parish. The parish has three major projects which need completion: health centre, church structure, and improving the parish environment and compound.

Due to the nature and location of Sombetini, we have seen it as an important and urgent necessity of having a perimeter wall protecting parish properties and our lives as men who serve here.

As Holy Cross men, we continue putting our efforts, skills and talents to make God known, loved and served. It is my hope and wish that since the mantle is in our hands now, even greater things will happen as we continue being men with hope to bring.”

Holy Cross men serving at the new parish.
Seminarians Karl Romkema Jr., C.S.C., and Brogan Ryan, C.S.C., meet with the Sisters of the Holy Cross during their summer formation experience in East Africa.

A Place at the Table

By Brogan Ryan, C.S.C.

Through the kindness and generosity of benefactors Joe and Barbara Mendelson, the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers is able to send seminarians out on summer placements throughout the world. Holy Cross Seminar-ian, Brogan Ryan, C.S.C., was placed in East Africa for his summer formation experience. What follows is a detailed account of his impactful visit.

“Over the course of the 2 months we were in East Africa, we were able to visit every single apostolate in the District, except for the new parish in Arusha because it opened the day that we were leaving Tanzania. One of the things I think all of us recognized is that Holy Cross is Holy Cross wherever you are.

We went to the Novitiate at Saaka for Profession of Vows which was a really neat experience – a highlight for all of us. Then, we were able to renew our vows in the presence of the André House community back in Jinja.

We, of course, did different kinds of ministry while we were there: we taught Holy Cross history and spirituality and interacted with the students of Holy Cross Primary School – where there are about 850 students – and the other Holy Cross schools in the area. When we would see our students on the street – because there are a lot of schools in Jinja – we would shout to them ‘Ave Crux!’ They would turn around and give us a big, ‘Spes Unica!’ That was really neat. Twice a week, we went to a school for children with special needs – about a 40-minute walk away. There are about 60 students there with needs of all kinds. Then there was the parish in Kitete … imagine driving eight hours into what seemed like the middle of nowhere, turning left onto a dirt road and then continuing on that path for another 45 minutes in the only kind of car that will make it on this type of road. You end up at St. Brendan’s Parish – and it was one of the most beautiful places I’ve ever been.

Everywhere we went – with the brothers, priests and sisters – we were welcomed into the community like family. One of the first nights we were at André House [formation house in Jinja], and we were sitting at a full table when another member of the house showed up. ‘There’s always room at the African table’ one of the local Holy Cross guys said as we made room for the newcomer. There was always a place at the table for me and the other American seminarians who spent our summer in East Africa – at the dinner table and at the Eucharistic table. We were welcomed as family in community, prayer and mission the entire summer and really came to feel at home with the community in East Africa.”

Seminarian Brogan Ryan, C.S.C, takes a “selfie” with school children in front of Holy Cross Parish Church in Bugembe.
Parroquia el Señor de la Esperanza (Lord of Hope Parish), in Canto Grande, Lima, Peru, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1977, a year after the District of Peru was established. It is the hub of the Holy Cross missionary efforts in the South American country.

The parish, which numbers about 250,000 people, is located in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of Lima. Larger than many dioceses, the parish is organized around 19 Chapel Communities, each with its own house of worship and each with its own pastoral council as well as programs for faith formation, catechesis, sacramental preparation and celebrations.

The parish carries out the mission of the United States Province through numerous pastoral activities, such as Colegio Fe y Alegría school which serves about 2,000 students, including pre-kindergarten, technical job training students and special education; the District also began the “Yancana Huasy” project more than 30 years ago to assist the families of children with physical and mental challenges, especially Down’s Syndrome and cerebral palsy. Yancana Huasy offers daily medical and therapeutic care, basic life and independent living skills and educational and vocational training to about 1,300 students. The District of Peru also has two houses of formation. Rev. Arthur “Bud” Colgan, C.S.C., the first District Superior of Peru, and also recently named Bishop-Elect of Chosica, shared some of his knowledge and experiences in the reflection on the next page.

The number of parishioners of Lord of Hope Parish, in Canto Grande, Lima, Peru, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1977, a year after the District of Peru was established. It is the hub of the Holy Cross missionary efforts in the South American country.

The number of students the Colegio Fe y Alegría School in Lima serves.

Thousands of Peruvians per month receive complete medical care at the Brother André Clinic in Canto Grande, Lima.

A. Youth from Lord of Hope Parish arrive in Canto Grande to lead a procession.
B. A family in Peru leads a Procesión de Cristo Rey (Procession of Christ the King). Catholic processions are a form of pilgrimage that remind us that the Christian life is a constant movement toward God and our eternal home.
If you would like to assist us in completing this project, please visit PeruPavilion.HolyCrossusa.org or call the Holy Cross Mission Center at (317) 631-5477. Contributions can be sent in using the envelope inserted in this magazine. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Father David E. Farrell, C.S.C., Pavilion

The Pavilion’s First Stone is placed in the ground and then covered with sheaves of cement by students, teachers, and parents of the Fe y Alegria School.

An ongoing story of Holy Cross in Perú: parish, mission and education as the distinguishing characteristics. A history, like the story of Holy Cross from its beginnings, marked by God’s providential presence.

Fr. Arthur J. Colgan, C.S.C., served for nine years as the Provincial of the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers, which later became part of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers. As a member of the District of Perú, he served as Vicar General of the Diocese of Chosica. Fr. Colgan was recently appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Chosica.

In 1976, after thirteen years of presence in Perú, the Holy Cross mission became a District. This meant that the presence of Holy Cross religious had stabilized and the group of expatriate priests and brothers was ready to receive local vocations and begin a program for religious and priestly formation. As the first District Superior, it was my task to speak with the Archbishop of Lima, Cardinal Landázuri, to request permission to open a formation house in Lima.

The Cardinal received me cordially and said that the condition for allowing us to open the formation house would be to accept the responsibility for a parish. I told the Cardinal that we would like a parish in one of the poorer areas of Lima. In what I consider to be a clear sign of God’s providence, the Cardinal told me about a new area on the outskirts of the city where 400 families that had squatted on land in the city had been relocated.

The next day, I was able to visit what is now called Canto Grande and see for myself this new neighborhood filled with huts made of straw mats – a neighborhood without electricity or running water. Families there had arrived from the Andean mountain villages, seeking a better life for themselves and their children in Lima.

The parish was appropriately called “Señor de la Esperanza” (Lord of Hope). It was the start of a thirty-nine year presence of the Congregation of Holy Cross, accompanying a migrant people as they struggled to establish themselves in this neighborhood on the outskirts of the city of Lima; achieve a life more in accord with their innate human dignity; and discover and celebrate the presence of the Lord of Hope in their lives.

Shortly after the start of the parish in Canto Grande, another event took place – painful for the Holy Cross Congregation in Chile, but one that also mysteriously revealed the providential hand of God in human history: several Holy Cross priests had to flee Chile after the 1973 coup because of their outspoken defense of human rights. They were reassigned to Perú. One, Father Bob Plasker, C.S.C., became the first pastor of the Canto Grande parish. Another, Father Phil Devlin, C.S.C., a priest with years of experience as an educator, was asked by the District to begin a school in Canto Grande.

Fr. Colgan was recently ordained as Bishop of the Prelature of Chiquiamba.
Many have said that to read the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Chile, is to read the history of the country! Holy Cross has been intimately connected with the historical, political, social, cultural and Church life in Chile for almost seventy-five years. Its first mission was Saint George’s College, serving the elite and upper middle class in education, quickly followed by San Roque parish, a poor and working class parish from the edge of Santiago to — at that time — the border with Argentina.

Although subdivided many times into other parishes, San Roque is still a vibrant ministry of Holy Cross today, serving the Peñalolén section of Santiago.

These initial ministries serve a cross section of Chilean society and are anchors of the apostolic mission. Along with these ministries which have evolved, there are two other parish communities — Nuestra Señora de la Merced in Calle Larga (San Felipe Diocese) and Nuestra Señora de Andacollo, in the center of Old Santiago. The latter parish shares the same property as Colegio Nuestra Señora de Andacollo, another school with students from K-12, serving a working class and poor sector of the city, where the Congregation has been since 1976.

Finally, Fundación Moreau (Fundamor) continues to serve 40 young children who have been abused or abandoned, in family-style residences, and another 180 and their families in innovative prevention programs. Family Rosary International also serves in its mission accompanying families in the parishes and schools across various Dioceses in Chile, to live the fullness of what life offers as a family growing in its faith.

Holy Cross has always been involved in every sector of society in the Chile, and continues to be so, and in that is one of the few true bridges that cross the boundaries that are often imposed on society due to socio-economic differences. God’s hand has guided Holy Cross, its ministries, and the religious and lay colleagues over the years in many ways!

Here are just a few, of the many, many additional examples:

- Many of the national political leaders — from the center, the left, and the right — are Saint George’s graduates. In the last presidential election, three of the top candidates were Saint George’s graduates.
- San Roque Parish continues to seek out the most vulnerable of its parish — serving the homebound, special sacramental preparation for those with disabilities, and food programs for poor families and children — each week!
- Today, both in Colegio Andacollo and the parish of Andacollo, the new immigrant population arriving in Santiago are served by the school and parish. As the society transforms in Chile, Holy Cross is serving in its mission to a diverse immigrant population.

Today in Chile, Holy Cross looks ahead. With the new challenges to the Catholic Church and its ministry to young people and families, the Community continues to do what it has done — discern how best to serve this complex, diverse society, for the betterment of all, and for the inclusion of all, so that together, they may be a part of the Church of the future in this Andean and beautiful nation!
Holy Cross has served the México region for more than 25 YEARS.

Because Mexico is a country where more than 50 percent of its population under 16 years of age, La Luz Parish, a parish of the Congregation of Holy Cross in the Archdiocese of Monterey, has many activities for children and young people. DC

The presence of Holy Cross in Mexico is relatively new, having only been established formally in 1987. But in a relatively short time, the United States Province has had a profound impact in the area and developed a thriving formation program.

Under the leadership of Rev. Jack Keefe, C.S.C., the parish of Santo Tomás Moro flourished, and in 1996, was divided by the Archdiocese of Monterey. Holy Cross assumed the poorer half, which became Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz. Today, La Luz continues to be the center of Holy Cross in México.

In 2010, Holy Cross accepted responsibility for a second parish, Parroquia San José, in Taman, located in Yucatan region of Central México. Upon the profession of his perpetual vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 2011, Fr. Matthew Kuczora, C.S.C., began an assignment as Director of Postulant Seminarians and as a Vocation Director for his religious community in Monterrey, México. Fr. Matt also served at Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz parish. Fr. Matt shares a reflection on his time in Monterrey on the next page.
Mymensingh, which Notre Dame College, founded in 1987, was opened to college in the Diocese of Dhaka, 1949 (then known as St. Gregory College). It was the leading educational institution in Bangladesh, which at that time was called East Bengal. The mission at the time was called, “unquestionably the most destitute in East Asia and perhaps in any other part of the world.” The United States Province continues to support work in Bangladesh because of its special need for education and health care in this poverty-stricken country. One of the oldest-surviving mission efforts in Bangladesh since the 1850s, Holy Cross has been instrumental in building up the education sector of the new nation of Bangladesh – including 10 tribal parishes located in remote regions of Bangladesh. Holy Cross has been an excellent namesake for this place.

Holy Cross maintains its commitment to the full potential of all. It is a place where all work together to achieve the best results. The mission is to educate and to care for the children of the community. The education provided by Holy Cross is designed to help students to reach their full potential. The education is designed to be relevant to the needs of the children in the community. The goal is to provide a quality education that will prepare the students for success in life.

Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters work side-by-side with the people we serve to bring hope to a world that often lives in the darkness of despair. Wherever we serve, we in Holy Cross are inspired by the words of Christ: “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Where there was once death, shame, and hunger, Holy Cross works to bring life, dignity and hope.

Holy Cross in Bangladesh

With lodging, food, school uniform, books, paper and pencils. The families that can afford to pay contribute rice at harvest time, and money. Most families have no farm land and are very poor.

Family Rosary International is also present in the area. Through rallies in several parishes in the Dioceses of Dhaka and Rajshahi, the Family Rosary team has shared a devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, the Family Rosary team has shared a devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, the Family Rosary team has shared a devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, the Family Rosary team has shared a devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary, the Family Rosary team has shared a devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Rev. Matthew Kuziora, C.S.C., is the Rector of Carroll Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. He graduated from Notre Dame in 2005 with a degree in Accounting and in 2011 with a Master of Divinity. Prior to Carroll Hall, Fr. Matt was a guest scholar at the Kekulé Institute and priest-in-residence at St. Edward’s Hall at Notre Dame.

One of the leading educational institutions in Notre Dame College, founded in Dhaka, 1949 (then known as St. Gregory College). It was established by the Congregation of Holy Cross because of the crisis in the education sector of the new born East Pakistan. In 2014, Notre Dame College, Mymensingh, opened to students. The college’s opening fulfilled a long-held dream for a Catholic college in the Diocese of Mymensingh, which was founded in 1967.

Dinner Room

The only thing left was to name this place.

What do you do when an elderly couple dies with no other family members, leaving you their home? You gather the community to mourn them, celebrate their lives and then ask, “What would they want us to do with this gift?”

That was our situation a few years ago at La Luz parish in Mexico. La Luz is home to over 30,000 parishioners in a working-class neighborhood. It takes 16 Masses every weekend to accommodate all those souls thirsting for an encounter with God, not to mention the countless catechists, youth groups, choir and outreach efforts.

La Luz has a free clinic, a food pantry, a physical therapy center and an incredible social worker on staff. These efforts meet many of the physical needs of those who also come here to satisfy their spiritual needs. After talking with many people in the parish, it was plain that despite the great ministries already available, a place to serve food and hope for elderly residents was still desperately needed. A soup kitchen, run by volunteer cooks and supplied through local donations, could provide food and sustenance for hungry stomachs as well as a place to gather, pray, and laugh; a place that offered perhaps even more important necessities of dignity, hope, and love. And all this to vulnerable elderly people often living in shame or neglect.

Under the hot Mexican sun, few things move quickly. That’s especially true of construction and bureaucracy. Still, the community was inspired and joined together to make this wonderful idea a reality. The municipal government approved the zoning and even contributed funds for part of the new construction. Local workers poured cement, rehabilited the old house and installed additional cooking appliances. A women’s group in the area heard about the project and offered to buy tables and chairs. Families from the parish organized themselves into cooking and serving crews. Donations of food poured in.

It was overwhelming to see what people who are inspired and motivated can do. In the end, the building was built, meals were being warmed and elderly parishioners were lining up to celebrate a neighborhood “comedor” or “dining room” where they could share food and fellowship. The only thing left was to name this place.

“Why not St. Andrés?” someone asked. St. Andrés Briceño was a simple man. He didn’t have much formal education, yet he inspired those he met with his unshakable confidence in the Cross of Christ and hope in the power of prayer. He lived to be an old man, over 90 years old when he died, yet a fighter even then. He prayed with people and encouraged them to confide in St. Joseph’s prayers. St. Joseph, the adopted father of Christ, would be these people’s protector and advocate as well. St. Andrés, a religious brother in Holy Cross, would be their constant companion, tireless advocates and inspiration to hope when hope was hard to find. Yes, St. Andrés would be an excellent namesake for this place.

And so, if you visit La Luz parish, go to the Comedor San Andrés – the St. Andrés Dining Room. Come early and help warm fresh tortillas and heat hearty beans and spicy carne molida. But then stay to sing a prayer of thanks-giving and enjoy the stories and smiles of the people you serve, learn and love.

Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters work side-by-side with the people we serve to bring hope to a world that often lives in the darkness of despair. Wherever we serve, we in Holy Cross are inspired by the words to Christ: “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Where there was once death, shame, and hunger, Holy Cross works to bring life, dignity and hope.

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Holy Cross in Haiti

In 1944, the Congregation of Holy Cross sent religious from French Canada to Haiti to begin a new mission. The first missionaries took over responsibility for the College Notre-Dame-du-Perpétuel Secours and went on to support two parishes – St. Rose of Lima in Pilate (1949) and St. Charles Borromeo in Borgou (1952). The Congregation’s schools continued to improve the quality of education while providing access to poor and underprivileged. This attracted vacations to the Congregation and fed the growth in Holy Cross in Haiti.

Like the rest of Haiti, the Congregation suffered tremendous loss in the 2010 earthquake. One seminarian lost his life, but one school, Ensemble Scolaire Père Basile Moreau, was completely destroyed. Several alumni of the Congregation’s schools were damaged, as were the Congregation’s secondary and administrative offices in Port-au-Prince, which were at the epicenter of the earthquake. Through the generosity of other sectors and apostolates of the Congregation and the zealous work of Holy Cross Religious in Haiti, Holy Cross has been able to build hope for the future.

In 2012, the Congregation opened the Institut Supérieur Marcel Bédard in Cap-Haïtien, which is a teacher’s training Institute in partnership with the University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education. The work of the Congregation in Haiti spans the country’s 10 Dioceses, and two Holy Cross priests now serve in the liturgy as bishops. The Congregation administers 14 primary and secondary schools. Altogether, Holy Cross educates more than 5,000 Haitian children each year.

The Congregation also associates in eight parishes, and its outreach to the people, who are counted among the poorest in the Western Hemisphere, includes pioneering work in the area public health. The work of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Haiti is conducted by the Province of Our Lady of Perpetual Help/Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Questions for Fr. Herb?

Q: How can those who have worked in the missions help the people in this country?

A: The one thing that has always amazed me about Holy Cross missionaries on home or medical leave is how deeply they want to return to their mission overseas. I asked Fr. Ed Godert, C.S.C., how he dealt with that about one time, and his response amazed me. He pointed to the people served by the missionaries as being the reason for the “homesickness.” “Their lives are simple, they care and they share, and are extremely grateful for every blessing.” That was back in the 90s. So much has changed in American culture since then. American missionaries truly suffer a culture shock when they return to this country. Non-U.S. Holy Cross men who come home for studies are often perplexed by how much we take for granted. There are so many choices in things such as food, housing, leisure time, mobility, and so on.

I often put myself in the shoes of a native Holy Cross religious here in this country for the first time. In Holy Cross houses where I’ve lived, a staple topic at house meetings is food. The same goes for the community meetings at St. Paul’s retirement community where I now live. I keep thinking how a missionary would feel hearing those complaints, knowing that his people back home are deeply grateful just for something to eat. Folks hit the roof when the water is shut off or the toilet doesn’t flush right, not knowing that hundreds of millions of people do not have access to clean water and access to adequate sanitation.

And heaven forbid the electric goes out! A quarter of the world’s population has no access to electricity, concentrated mostly in Africa and southern Asia, where Holy Cross religious live and work. Many people do not have access to oil-based fuel, or propane and natural gas. Their only source of fuel and light is wood, even that may not be readily available.

So what can a missionary do for us?

Simple. Remind us by word and example that there is a wider world out there that does not have the choices we do. Because there are fewer choices, people learn to depend on each other and help each other. Because basic necessities are often hard to come by, villagers share. And above all, they are grateful for what they have. These are lessons we in the United States are so many choices in things such as food, housing, leisure time, mobility, and so on.

If you want to read Fr. Herb’s weekly Gospel reading reflections, please visit us online at reflections.holycrossusa.org.
Holy Cross Ministries
An International Mission to Support Families

By Rev. Wilfred J. (“Father Willy”) Raymond, C.S.C.

Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM), a special ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, serves Jesus Christ and His church by promoting and supporting the spiritual well-being of the family—and has done so, worldwide, for more than 70 years. Our emphasis on family prayer is to build up the family as the basic building block of, not just the Church, but also of society. With mission offices in 17 countries and 5 continents, HCFM reaches out through prayer events and media for families to fulfill founder Servant of God Patrick Peyton’s vision that, “the family that prays together stays together.”

A candidate for sainthood, Father Peyton was one of the most influential American Catholic priests of the 20th century. Known as the “Rosary Priest,” he encouraged millions of people to pray the Rosary daily. HCFM’s emphasis on family Rosary and family prayer is very much the product of Fr. Peyton’s family and the family of Holy Cross, and a lot of the elements of Holy Cross Spirituality are found in his work, too—the emphasis on unity, passion, zeal for spreading the faith, also modeling everything on the Holy Family.

Faithful to Mary, the Mother of God, Family Rosary (www.FamilyRosary.org), founded in 1942 by Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., now Servant of God, encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary. Family Theater Productions (www.FamilyTheater.org), founded by Fr. Peyton in 1957, uses media to entertain, inspire and educate families. Everything we produce in Hollywood is meant to build up the work that we’re doing in HCFM around the world. We have one Board of Directors, and as the president of HCFM, I supervise Family Rosary as well as all of those various ministry offices throughout the world.

After Fr. Peyton’s death in 1992—also Family Rosary’s 50th anniversary—Family Rosary and Family Theater Productions were combined into one organization: Holy Cross Family Ministries while still maintaining their uniqueness.

In HCFM, we see ourselves as very much in support of the local Church wherever we are. We think that we can bring a special quality and emphasis on going deeper into the spirituality of the family, and dealing with some of the critical issues that families face today. The 21st century family in the United States is very different from the post-WWII family that Fr. Peyton was dealing with initially.

In HCFM, we see ourselves as very much in support of the local Church wherever we are. We think that we can bring a special quality and emphasis on going deeper into the spirituality of the family, and dealing with some of the critical issues that families face today. The 21st century family in the United States is very different from the post-WWII family that Fr. Peyton was dealing with initially.

We commissioned a study with the Center for Applied Research (CARA) in the apostolate at Georgetown University of young Catholic families in the United States. We looked at adult Catholics, ages 25 to 45 who are parents of a minor child to measure the practice of faith and use of media in families and to determine the ethnic makeup of this subgroup. All four reports are available for download at www.HCFM.org/FamilyResearch. We discovered some very interesting details, as you’ll see below.

To me, these are major areas of opportunity. We continue to see a more individualized approach toward faith and prayer for young Catholic parents and families, and the findings of this survey indicate less focus on formal religious community yet a strong desire for more prayer.

We are using this data in our strategic planning work and shared the reports with all U.S. Bishops and other collaborators in ministry. We also disseminated this information to the press.

The 21st century family in the United States is not our only focus, of course. Holy Cross Family Ministries is a global mission. We are in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania in East Africa, as is the U.S. Province’s Holy Cross Mission Center. And we’ve had very effective leadership the last several years, like Fr. Fulgens Kizinde, C.S.C., Fr. Fred Jenny, C.S.C., and Fr. Christopher Letirkirch, C.S.C., and now Fr. Leonard Olabo, C.S.C. They’ve developed a unique way of reaching out to families through children. They put together bands, music, and songs and go to schools introducing prayer and the rosary to them in dynamic ways.

continued on next page
Around the Province

NOTABLE MENTIONS
On Friday, September 25, 2015, Fr. Chase Pepper, C.S.C., appeared on the local television show “PA Live” to discuss the activities of Pope Francis’ U.S. visit. “That was when the reality of how beautiful and historic a moment this actually is kind of hit me,” said Fr. Chase Pepper. “I was a little emotional and I don’t get emotional easily.” Fr. Chase was interviewed along with two King’s College students. Fr. Charlie Gordon, C.S.C., and Karen Eifler, co-directors of the Guarantia Center for Catholic Intellectual Life and American Culture, published a guest editorial in the Oregonian newspaper on September 24, 2015, during the visit of Pope Francis, under the title, “A pope with joy to bring.”

Fr. Jeff Cooper, C.S.C., assis- tant professor of theology at the University of Portland, presented his paper, “Quasi Lepsinos: Re-Reading the Conversion of St. Francis through a Gitakid Alexander lens” at the World of St. Francis of Assisi Conference, July 16-20, 2015, in Siena, Italy. Earlier in the summer, he presented, “I am His Descent into Hell: Merton, Metaphor and the Descent to Trier Soil” at the International Thomas Merton Society 2015 Conference in Louisville, KY.

EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
On May 22-30, 2015, Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C. took 20 Notre Dame Administrators on a Holy Cross Heritage Pilgrimage. The group traveled from Notre Dame to Le Mans, France to visit the birthplace of Blessed Basil Moreau. Fr. John DeRosa, C.S.C., the Rector of the International Shrine of Basile Moreau, led the pilgrimage which included Mass in Notre-Dame de Sainte Croix and a visit to the grave of Blessed Moreau.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND
The University of Portland Beauchamp Recreation and Wellness Center officially opened August 24, 2015. Designed to be a center of campus life, the 72,000-square foot facility includes a cardio training space, a strength and weight training area, three studios for exercise/spin classes, three gymnasia, a rock wall, a suspended track, and an outdoor pursuits area/bike rental. Designed to be a center of campus life, the 72,000-square foot facility includes a cardio training space, a strength and weight training area, three studios for exercise/spin classes, three gymnasia, a rock wall, a suspended track, and an outdoor pursuits area/bike rental.

We tend to be just about everywhere where Holy Cross is and even in a couple of countries where there is no Holy Cross presence, such as Uruguay and Ireland. After the University of Notre Dame and perhaps the University of Portland, we are the biggest employ- er of Holy Cross Religious.

Notably you are seeing through mountains, obstacles of borders. Your dress reminds the layers of what we are, or wanted, or lost. You filter objects through your dual strands, reshaping our deities into your pangs.

The Susquehanna

In Bangladesh we have a priest who is very active, and he has a representative in all seven of the Dioceses in Bangladesh. They have implemented a lot of traditional programs, paying the rosary with lay groups in parishes, going to Marian shrines, and doing candle-light processions at night. There is very little access in Bangladesh to broadband Internet, so there’s less emphasis on social media in that area, but that will come. They also have a retreat center where they do a lot of family ministry.

We’ve been in the Philippines for over 50 years, and we’re on national television there. We have what we call “FRCs,” or Family Rosary Crusade Units, in many of the parishes in the Philippines. Those units have combined the devotion of family prayer with some of the elements from the basic Christian communities of Latin America.

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King’s college
Fr. Tony Grasso, C.S.C., Professor of English, read his poem, selected to this year’s “Poetry In Transit” (PIT) Series, at the project launch at the Barnes & Noble College Store, downtown Wilkes Barre, on August 31. PIT highlights the work of local writers, both amateur and professional, and places poems on the Luzerne County Transportation Author- ity (LCTA) buses. This year’s theme was “The River.” Below is Fr. Grasso’s poem, “Ode to the Susquehanna.”

Ode to the Susquehanna

Newspaper on September 24, 2015, during the visit of Pope Francis, under the title, “A pope with joy to bring.”

Prior to his current role, Fr. Willy Raymond, C.S.C., was the National Director of Family Theater Productions. Before coming to Family Theater Productions, Father Willy served most of his years as a priest as a vocation director and then as Campus Minister, Director of Resi- dence Life and Administrator at Stonehill College. He was ordained in 1971.
Pillars

INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT OF CHILE

Fr. Jose B. Alfonsi, C.S.C., superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Chile, blessed and inaugurated a new foster home, House San Jose, located in the commune of Peñalolén in Santiago, Chile. This new home replaces a rented house and is the third Fundamor home to open. The Holy Father’s visit to the Vatican and meeting the Pope. The mantilla she wore was borrowed from a parishioner. Mayor Hales was one of 685 from around the world invited by the Pope to discuss key issues facing large cities.

ST. IGNIATIUS MARTYR PARISH, AUSTIN

St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Austin, Texas celebrated its 75th anniversary. The anniversary Mass was celebrated by Bishop Joe Vásquez on August 9, 2015. Fr. William Wack, C.S.C., pastor, has events planned throughout the academic year to punctuate the parish milestone.

MISSION HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRIES

The Holy Father’s visit to the Vatican and meeting the Pope. The mantilla she wore was borrowed from a parishioner. Mayor Hales was one of 685 from around the world invited by the Pope to discuss key issues facing large cities.

PARISH HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH, PORTLAND, ORE.

Portland’s First Lady Nancy Hales spoke at the conclusion of a recent Holy Redeemer Spanish Mass about her recent trip to the Vatican and meeting the Pope. The mantilla she wore was borrowed from a parishioner. Mayor Hales was one of 685 from around the world invited by the Pope to discuss key issues facing large cities.

DISTRCT OF EAST AFRICA

On Saturday, August 1, Rev. Mr. Arnold Jaiwansi, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Linus Nviiri, C.S.C. were ordained to the order of priesthood at St. Augustine’s Institute, Kampala, Uganda, by Rt. Fr. Robert Mulinya, the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Portal. Fr. Jaiwansi has been assigned to St. Brendan’s Parish in Kita, Tanzania, in the Diocese of Mbale, and Fr. Nviiri has been assigned to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Mbulu, Tanzania, in the Archdiocese of Mbulu. The District of East Africa Welcomes the new Postulants at Andre House! 4 new first year candidates were officially welcomed to Andre House of Formation on Sunday, August 6. After completing a nine week orientation, the new candidates received their own copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Liturgy of the Hours breviary.

Construction of the new McCoskey House of Formation in Nairobi, Kenya, is proceeding according to schedule and is roughly 95% complete. The men in formation as well as their staff look forward to moving from their rented quarters to the new house on July 1, 2016. The date of the Dedication Ceremony is set for Saturday, October 22, 2016.

The celebration of Final Vows in Nairobi will take place at Dandora Parish on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The site for the celebration of diaconate ordinations on May 22, 2016 is still to be determined.
DISTRICT OF PERÚ
On May 11, 2015, Pope Francis appointed Fr. Jorge Izaguirre, C.S.C., Bishop Prelate of the Territorial Prelature of Chuquibamba, Perú. Many dignitaries and local authorities attended the ordination along with a large crowd of the Catholic faithful of Perú. On October 13, 2015, Pope Francis appointed Fr. Arthur J. Colgan, C.S.C., as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Chosica in Perú. Chosica is the diocese in which the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Perú is currently centered. Among other apostolates, Holy Cross administers the sprawling Lord of Hope Parish in Canto Grande, which is divided into 19 churches and chapels, serves more than 250,000 people.

FORMATION
Br. Joseph DeAgostino, C.S.C., entered the Old College Undergraduate Seminary Program in the fall of 2009. He completed his undergraduate studies, and entered the Holy Cross Novitiate in the summer of 2013. On April 14, 2015, Br. Joe petitioned to change from the Priests society to the Brothers society within the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province, and was joyfully accepted by the community.

BANGLADESH
Fr. Frank Quinlivan, C.S.C., from the mission in Bangladesh, made a presentation to Fr. James Banas, C.S.C., at Holy Cross House in July. Fr. Banas was given, in absentia, a Bangladesh Educator award at a convocation in Dhaka organized by the Education Commission of the Bangladesh Bishop’s Conference and the Dhaka Archdiocesan Education Committee. Other Holy Cross members were honored at the same convocation, including Fr. Dick Timm, C.S.C.; Fr. Ben Costa, C.S.C.; Fr. Joe Pizzetto, C.S.C.; and Bishop Theotonius Gomes.

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Tribute to Father Ted
In honor of Rev. Theodore “Ted” Hesburgh, C.S.C., Jay and Mary Flaherty have established a $500,000 matching gift challenge. Every gift up to this amount made to the Tribute to Father Ted Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar. This endowment fund will be vital to supporting the education and formation of Holy Cross seminarians and in turn the future of our Church.

For more information, or to make a gift to the Tribute to Father Ted fund, visit TributetoFrTed.holycrossusa.org, or call the Office of Development at 574-631-6731. Contributions can also be made using the envelope inserted in this magazine. Thank you for your prayers and support!

FINAL VOWS
On Saturday, August 29, 2015, Holy Cross celebrated the final profession of vows of Matthew E. Hyde, C.S.C. and Dennis A. Strach II, C.S.C. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame. Rev. Thomas J. O’Hara, C.S.C., provincial superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers, provided the Mass and received their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience according to the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross. They were ordained to the Order of the Deacon on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2015, in the Moreau Seminary Chapel by Most Rev. Daniel J. Jenky, Bishop of the Peoria Diocese. Matthew will serve his diaconate year as assistant rector of Sorin College, University of Notre Dame and in Campus Ministry, University of Notre Dame. Dennis will serve as a deacon at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church in Austin, Texas.

In honor of Rev. Theodore “Ted” Hesburgh, C.S.C., Jay and Mary Flaherty have established a $500,000 matching gift challenge. Every gift up to this amount made to the Tribute to Father Ted Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar. This endowment fund will be vital to supporting the education and formation of Holy Cross seminarians and in turn the future of our Church.

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“Lord, along whatever road you want me to follow you in your footsteps, you will always find me ready and willing to walk.” ~Blessed Basil Moreau

Accompanied by Ugandan Postulant Emmanuel Isabirye; Notre Dame students Kelsey Longe and Patrick Couch; and host and traveling companion, Fr. Michael Matthews, C.S.C., Holy Cross Seminarians Christopher Brennan, C.S.C., Karl Romkema Jr., C.S.C., and Brogan Ryan, C.S.C., hike back to St. Brendan’s parish in Kitete, Tanzania after a 45-minute trek to the hill above the parish where they could cast an eye over the entire region.