



Cover: "Vision of Saint Bernard" panel by Filippino Lippi (1486) at Church of the Badia in Florence, Italy. Inside Cover: Taken inside the chapel at Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, Ind.

From the Provincial Superior ...

## Spreading the Word by Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C.

My dear friends in Holy Cross,

As a Holy Cross priest, I am privileged to enter the lives of others through the Sacraments and in classrooms, homes, parishes, in foreign lands and even through the printed word such as Pillars. What inspires me is the opportunity, in every encounter, to encourage people to realize their great potential and how God's Will fits perfectly with who they are and all they can become. Said another way, as stated in the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, "Wherever we work we assist others not only to recognize and develop their own gifts but also to discover the deepest longing in their lives." (Constitution 2:16)

On June 15, I was humbled to be elected by my brothers in Holy Cross succeeding Rev. David T. Tyson, C.S.C., as the new Provincial Superior. I, like most of my brothers in Holy Cross, have been blessed to work in all three of the Congregation's service settings: education, parish and mission. But I spent the most time at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. – 24 years, 12 of which as President. This past year I returned to my missionary roots in the U.S. Province's District of East Africa and the Sacred

Heart of Jesus Province of Bangladesh. Because of my higher education background, I was able to serve as a consultant for the Bangladesh Province as it prepares to establish Notre Dame University, an outgrowth of Notre Dame College, which was founded in 1949. In Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, I assisted my brothers (many of whom are former students) as they minister and attend to the community's spiritual and physical needs. I had planned on taking these experiences of the past year back to my students at King's this fall when I returned to teaching. But in God's Divine Providence, I will now draw on these experiences as the new Provincial Superior of the United States Province.

As a Holy Cross Religious and the new Provincial, I feel a personal obligation to steward the resources you have entrusted to us and to show you how your support has had an impact on



our ministries. *Pillars*' accomplishes this; but also through reflections and articles, we are "spreading the Word" by doing what Blessed Basil Moreau charged us to do, "making God known, loved, and served."

Regardless of time, place or circumstance, Holy Cross has been, and continues to be, inspired to utilize the resources of our times to share our love of God. In 1865, Fr. Sorin set out on a new adventure ... magazine publishing! In 1942, another Holy Cross media pioneer, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, used the resources of Hollywood to promote the Rosary. Our trailblazers are actively at work in 2012 fully engaged in e-book publishing, websites, blogs, e-news, Facebook and YouTube.

As you learn more about the history of Holy Cross' "communication ministry" in this issue of *Pillars*, my hope and prayer is that you will be motivated to find your own unique ways to Spread the Word in this modern era of instant communication. *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

May God bless you and your family and may God bless and guide Holy Cross.

## Making God Known, Loved, and Served by Rev. David L. Guffey, C.S.C.

When we believe passionately about something that could improve people's lives, there is an impulse to share it widely. It was thus for the first disciples of Jesus who went in pairs to towns and villages to preach the kingdom to assembled crowds and who would later retell the stories, eventually to write the Gospels. So it has been in every age Christian people have used the best means of their day to reach out to the world using the podium, the theater, the printing press, the airwaves and now the Internet to inspire, educate, inform and even entertain.

The impulse to gather crowds, to write and print, to broadcast and post, flow from the heart of who we are, not only as Christians, but as people of Holy Cross. Specific projects and explicit media ministries have been inspired from our love of God and God's people shown through zeal for mission.

#### Prayer

Our relationship with God in prayer has driven Holy Cross Religious to share wisdom of the Spiritual life. Our love of the Gospels pushes us to look for ways to translate that to every age and culture.

Blessed Basil A. Moreau was first and foremost a man of prayer, called to spiritual leadership. For many years, Fr. Moreau annually published collections of sermons and prayers. Some of these writings were also collected in the books of meditations. Up to the time of his death, he was editing new editions and additions to offer in his books of meditations. Fr. Moreau also wrote popular hymns that were published and used in schools and parishes.

In 1865, Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., with the help of Mother Angela (Eliza) Gillespie, C.S.C., began publishing *Ave Maria* magazine. While he hoped to showcase great Catholic writing in the United States, the greater impulse was to serve families in a country torn by the Civil War. In a letter to a friend, a Visitation Sister in Le Mans, France, Fr. Sorin wrote:

"I am expecting this little magazine to reap an abundant harvest for our Holy Mother Mary and we pray every day that she will bless the work and the workers."

The periodical rose as a work of pastoral



Fr. Guffey on the set of Family Theater Productions' movie "You Will See" in 2011.

ministry, which became in its heyday one of the most popular Catholic family publications in the United States.

Servant of God Patrick Peyton is one of the great people, not only of Holy Cross but also of the whole Church, who understood the spiritual role of media. He believed deeply that the family was at the heart of the spiritual life of the world and Church and secondly, that prayer, especially the Rosary, would strengthen families. Fr. Peyton recognized that the way to get this message to the most people was through mass media. So as a young priest, just a few years ordained, he successfully began a Family Rosary Campaign and Family Theater Productions. The tagline for his popular radio show (1948 to 1968, recently re-mastered and re-released for syndication) was "The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together." His ministry continues through Holy Cross Family Ministries' events, printed materials, billboards, radio, television and websites.

#### Pastoral, Educational Ministries

From our beginning, Holy Cross has conducted schools to educate the minds, hearts, bodies and souls of our students. Fr. Moreau wrote books on spirituality, catechism and pedagogy. He supported and befriended scholars of his day seeking to rediscover the core truths of Christianity in order to teach them in parishes and schools.

Publishing books was a way to share knowledge but also to share methods of teaching. Father Moreau encouraged through his writings a pedagogy that included serious study of science and arts. Mother Angela Gillespie, on behalf of Fr. Sorin, edited one of the first U.S.-based elementary school catechetical series. Because of this, Fr. Sorin late in his life was one of the only non-bishops signing the document at the Council of Baltimore that gave us the Baltimore Catechism. Ave Maria Press continues publishing a



Servant of God Patrick Peyton with Jack Benny and Lucille Ball in 1951.

highly regarded and widely used high school textbook series and resources for pastoral ministry.

In time, scholars arose from among the membership of Holy Cross and from among the women and men with whom we collaborate. Holy Cross Scholars such as science pioneers Rev. John Zahm, C.S.C., and Rev. Julius Nieuwland, C.S.C., are star examples of a long line of Holy Cross scholars whose writing contributed to the intellectual development of their respective fields.

#### Longing for Community

The media has been used in Holy Cross to build unity among members of the Congregation and with the people among whom we live and serve. Fostering unity was a special concern of Fr. Moreau. Remember that his world had been decimated by the French Revolution. Even after the worst of the Revolution ceased, there were tensions arising from about the role of Church and state, the role of the universal versus the local church, emerging voices of radical modernity contrasted with reactionary responses to the lack of order and need for stability.

It is not surprising then that Fr. Moreau devoted so much of his energy trying to unite people by focusing on shared connections in the Gospels and by encouraging mutual charity. He wrote Circular Letters, documents whose primary audience was members of the Congregation and at times essays or commentary for local publications. These writings communicated news from around the Congregation to its growing membership and invited people to unity through theological reflection, naming experience in light of Providence and the Cross.

Fr. Sorin, when he became the third Superior General of Holy Cross, would continue these communications within Holy Cross, but he also understood the possibilities of using media to attract positive attention for our ministries looking to make friends among wider audiences. In short, he understood the value of publicity. The first marching band at Notre Dame was formed, not just as an art elective for students, but because Fr. Sorin was aware of the publicity that would accrue when the University's band marched in parades. When Notre Dame was the first college in the United States to have electric lights in a student residence hall, it was news across the country. The attention served the ministry and helped build a sense of good will toward it.

One of the most exciting developments in communication during the last 20 years has been in the area of community building. Not only can we communicate a

message to an audience, we invite them to communicate with each other through new media. In recent decades, our institutions have been on the forefront of using the Internet to communicate mission and to offer spiritual and educational resources. In the United States, the Internet is often the first place people go to explore more deeply a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. The relationship building that occurs face to face or at events is augmented by the exchanges on Internet. Fr. Moreau always loved when members of his Congregation gathered. He kept personal correspondence with hundreds of people from many walks of life. Imagine how many "friends" Fr. Moreau would have on Facebook.

#### The Spirit's Call

Holy Cross men and women have used low- and high-tech means to augment their pastoral, educational and community building roles. We believe, we love, we serve and we work among amazing people who also do. There are stories to tell, lessons to teach and gifts to give. Media continues to evolve, but the impulse is the same. The Holy Spirit says, "Share this Good News however you are able." ■

Fr. David Guffey, C.S.C., is the Director of the Film, Television and Video Department with Family Theater Productions (a division of Holy Cross Family Ministries) in Hollywood, Calif.

Learn more about Holy Cross Family Ministries online at **www.hcfm.org.** Follow and "like" them at:



# Ave Maria Press

by Tom Grady

The casual visitor to the offices of Ave Maria Press, located across from Moreau Seminary at the University of Notre Dame, might not notice the framed portrait of Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., that hangs in our bookstore. Fr. Sorin is best remembered, of course, as the founder of the University of Notre Dame in 1842. What many may not know is that 23 years later, under his watchful and visionary eyes, the first issue of a Catholic magazine known as the Ave Maria rolled off the presses on May I, 1865, thus launching the publishing house that still bears that name. I like to think that nearly 150 years later, Fr. Sorin and those who succeeded him would be proud of what we continue to do to make God known, loved, and served.

It's not that we do it exactly the same way, of course. The story goes that Fr. Sorin borrowed a few hundred dollars from a priest in Fort Wayne and bought a printing press that he had hauled to South Bend from Chicago. Members of the Congregation of Holy Cross – priests, brothers and sisters – edited articles and stories, set type, ran the presses and sold subscriptions, and for more than 100 years the *Ave Maria* appeared faithfully every week until it ceased publication in 1970.

Today, with the last Holy Cross employee long since retired, Ave Maria Press operates as a lay apostolate of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers and is principally the publisher of pastoral, catechetical and spiritual books for the Catholic market. And while we still operate our own presses, I announced in 2011 that we would close our printing business at the end of 2012 for reasons that, in the end, were overwhelmingly compelling: Most of our equipment is relatively old and inefficient, the cost of modernization is high and the market for conventional offset printing has changed (and will continue to change) dramatically in an increasingly digital world.

It is no secret that we are in the midst of what's being called a "second Gutenberg revolution," a sea change that is rocking publishers of every shape and size. How information is created and delivered has begun to change radically. And while printed books are not going away – at least not in my lifetime – this digital revolution is definitely affecting the way we publish



and promote books for the Catholic parishes, high schools and individuals that form the core of our market.

#### **Parish Ministry Resources**

It was providential that in 1970, the same year that the *Ave Maria* ceased publication, we published the first edition of the late Fr. Joseph Champlin's "Together for Life." Fr. Champlin had the idea of gathering all of the authorized Scripture readings for a Catholic wedding into a booklet that also provided commentaries on those readings that could assist priests and parishes as they prepared engaged couples for marriage. This simple but original idea caught on, and – more than 40 years later – "Together for Life" has now sold more than 9 million copies, making it our most successful publication ever.

When we prepared to revise the book with the help of Rev. Peter Jarret, C.S.C., we knew we had to do more than simply update the commentaries and make the changes to the text that were dictated by the revision of the Roman Missal. For the fifth edition of "Together for Life," which was released in January, we developed a tool that allows couples to select their readings online and then email them to their wedding minister. We also created a special, dedicated website (togetherforlifeonline.com) that we hope will grow into an online community where engaged couples, newlyweds and married couples can share information and experience and build life-long marriages with God.

#### High School Textbooks

During the last decade, Ave Maria Press has achieved a position of prominence in the Catholic high school religion market. We lead all other Catholic publishers in having 15 textbooks judged to be in conformity with the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," and we have successfully prepared new texts – on Jesus, Scripture, church history, the Sacraments, morality and



Publisher Tom Grady stands in the lobby bookstore of Ave Maria Press, which is still under the watchful eyes of founder Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C.

social justice – to fulfill the requirements of the U.S. Bishops' Curriculum Framework, which is currently being implemented in Catholic high schools across the country.

From the outset of this process, we were challenged by high school teachers to provide digital online resources in the form of study guides, handouts, quizzes and tests, maps, crossword puzzles and so on, all of which can be downloaded by teachers and students for use in the classroom or for private study (**avemariapress.com/resources**). We even maintain an online blog for teachers called "Engaging Faith" (**avemariapress.com/engagingfaith**), where we share teaching strategies, lesson plans and activities.

In the past several years, we have taken a step further with our textbooks. All of our texts are now available as PDF files for schools that wish to purchase a site license (avemariapress.com/etextbooks). By the start of the 2012-2013 school year, some of our textbooks will be released through a third-party digital textbook distributor and in the new iPad-compatible, e-Textbook format developed by Apple. The next step will be to enhance these e-Texts with video clips, animated maps and other features that fully exploit the capabilities of laptops and tablets. What an exciting opportunity – not to mention a daunting challenge – to make our textbooks come alive in new ways!

#### Books

Through the years, Ave Maria Press has published books by such popular Catholic authors as Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Joyce Rupp, Thomas Green, William Barry, Macrina Wiederkehr and Robert Wicks, while at the same time developing and nurturing such new authors as Lisa M. Hendey, Christine Valters Paintner, Paula Huston, Dawn Eden, James Kubicki, Marilyn Lacey and Stephen Rossetti, to name just a few. We are developing a line of books for young Catholics that deal faithfully with such issues as infertility, pregnancy and parenthood from an authentically Catholic point of view. We are releasing a series of books that explore



spiritual and devotional practices that have recently undergone resurgence (such as fasting, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Eucharistic Adoration). And we continue to publish books that celebrate and explore our Holy Cross, including "The Cross, Our Only Hope;" "Praying from the Heart of Holy Cross Spirituality;" "You Have Redeemed the World;" "Living the Rosary" (published in conjunction with Holy Cross Family Ministries); "The Notre Dame Book of Prayer" (published in partnership with Campus Ministries); and "5 Minutes with Christ" (developed with the Alliance for Catholic Education).

Several years ago, many of our books slowly began appearing through Amazon in the Kindle format. Now almost 130 of our active titles are available on that device and by the end of this year, much of our backlist will be readable on all devices, including the Nook and the iPad. How we promote these books – whether in printed or digital form – represents possibly the most profound transformation in the way we do business, however. While we still mail catalogs, take out space ads and send out review copies, we increasingly rely on digital means to spread the word about our books. And our authors' involvement in this activity is critical. It is rare for us these days to publish an author who does not have a personal website and what we call a "social media presence" an active and ongoing relationship with his or her readers through a blog, Facebook and Twitter. We have even tapped into an author's online community to help choose a cover design for her book!

All of these tools and possibilities were unheard of when I entered the publishing business more than 30 years ago – and some of them emerged only within the past few years. These are challenging and uncertain times in publishing, but publishing has always been challenging and uncertain, hasn't it? When I look at the photograph of Fr. Sorin in our bookstore, I remember that three weeks prior to the publication of the first issue of the Ave Maria, Lee had surrendered to Grant at a courthouse at Appomattox. Two weeks earlier, John Wilkes Booth had assassinated President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in Washington. Prospects for the success of a new publication must have seemed as uncertain as the times, but it is clear from Fr. Sorin's letters that his faith and confidence in the enterprise never wavered. And that faith was fully justified and realized. Fr. Sorin might be mystified by the way we create and distribute our work these days (as am I frequently!), but I hope he would not fail to recognize that we have remained faithful to our mission: to proclaim the Gospel, to serve the spiritual needs of Catholic individuals and families and to join the Congregation of Holy Cross as "educators in the faith."

Tom Grady is the Publisher of Ave Maria Press in Notre Dame, Ind.

## AMP Timeline

1865	First issue of the Ave Maria
	published on May 1.
1963	Spiritual Book Associates
	(a book club) acquired.
1966	Publication of
	"The Perplexed Catholic."
1970	The Ave Maria ceases
	publication; first edition of
	"Together for Life" published.
1972	Publication of "With Open
	Hands," Henri Nouwen's
	first Ave Maria Press book.
1976	Publication of "Christian
	Morality & You" launches
	textbook publishing program.
1980	Publication of "Fresh Bread,"
	Joyce Rupp's first book.
1994	Separate incorporation of
	Ave Maria Press as a not-
	for-profit.
1998	Dedication of new building
	on Douglas Road.
1999	Launch of the Sorin Books
	imprint.
-	Acquisition of the Christian
2004	Classics and Forest of Peace
	imprints.
2011	Announcement that Ave's
	printing facility would
	close at the end of 2012.

Access all of Ave Maria Press' publications online at **www.avemariapress.com**. Follow and "like" them at:







# @ C.S.C. Vocations

by Rev. Andrew Gawrych, C.S.C.

While I was driving one of our vocation prospects from the South Bend airport to Moreau Seminary this spring, he asked, "How is Fr. Charlie McCoy?"

In my two years in the Office of Vocations, I have gotten used to being asked questions – lots of them. Most of them are of the existential variety: "How do I know if God is calling me to be a priest or brother?" "What makes Holy Cross unique?" "Why did you join Holy Cross?" "How did you know it was the right time to enter the seminary?"

And so, as far as questions go, the one that this prospect asked me on our way back from the airport might seem pretty unremarkable. And it would be pretty unremarkable except for the fact that this young man had never met Fr. Charlie – at least in person. He had gotten to "know" Fr. Charlie through reading his monthly posts on our vocations blog "Spes Unica."

Among religious communities, when it comes to vocations ministry, we in Holy Cross have been one of the pioneers in terms of venturing into social media. For several years now, the Office of Vocations has run a blog, had friends on Facebook and posted videos on YouTube. This past year, we even started tweeting on Twitter and sending out a monthly e-newsletter,



Fr. Drew shows off the Office of Vocations' Facebook page.

"Duc in Altum."

As new as all this social media may be – and trust me, it is still pretty new to Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and me – our approach to it is, at its core, quite traditional. Our fundamental and guiding belief in all our social media is that as much as the means of promoting vocations may have changed since the time of Jesus, one thing has not changed – the importance of personal relationships. Study after study of young people entering religious life and priesthood has proved that the Lord continues to call people to follow Him precisely through personal relationships.

All the Facebook posts, YouTube videos, tweets, e-newsletters and blog posts in the world can never take the place of our vocations prospects developing a personal connection with Holy Cross. And yet, at the same time, we can utilize our social media outlets to broaden and deepen their personal connection with us.

Between all of our Facebook posts, You-Tube videos, tweets, e-newsletters and blog posts, as well as more traditional "snail mail," we are in contact with our vocation prospects over 300 days out of the year. It goes without saying that such a level of contact and connection with our prospects was simply impossible before the advent of social media.

This increased contact allows us to broaden our vocation prospects' experience of Holy Cross. For example, whereas before it was harder to share with a student at one of our colleges or universities the work of Holy Cross in our parishes or our foreign missions, we can now easily share that work with them through blog posts and videos from our Religious in those ministries. For some of our prospects, seeing this broader face of Holy Cross becomes pivotal in their discernment because while they may have gotten to know us in an educational setting, they may feel more called to work as a parish priest or a foreign missionary.

While we work through social media to broaden our prospects' experience of Holy Cross, we also are conscious of seeking to deepen their connection to us as well. With our vocations blog, for example, we purposefully include a diversity of Religious and apostolates in the posts, but we also intentionally feature several regular contributors, like Fr. Charlie, who post once a month so our prospects can come to know them and their ministry more deeply. The question that young man asked about Fr. Charlie on the ride from the airport is a clear sign of how his connection to Holy Cross had deepened through our social media. And it was that deepening connection that was leading him to believe evermore that God could be calling him to join us in Holy Cross.

That, at the end of the day, is why we write our blog, send out our e-newsletter, post on Facebook, upload videos on You-Tube and tweet on Twitter. We want the young men we are working with to hear the voice of the Lord – just as the first disciples did, just as we did. Perhaps the means through which they will hear His voice have changed, but the invitation remains the same: "Come. Follow me." ■

*Fr. Drew Gawrych, C.S.C., is the Associate Director of the Office of Vocations for the United States Province, Moreau Seminary, Notre Dame, Ind.* 

You don't have to be a young man discerning a call to religious life to "like" or follow Holy Cross Vocations! Join the conversation on:

f	facebook.com/holycrossvocations	
<b>Y</b>	twitter.com/CSCVocations	
You Tube	youtube.com/cscvocations	
	holycrossblog.org	
www.holycrossvocations.org		



Your questions answered ... Plain Speaking

by Rev. Herbert C. Yost, C.S.C.

"I have some Israeli friends who are extremely religious and practice their Jewish faith to the letter-ofthe-law. Even though it is written in the Bible, I find it difficult to believe that these kind, deeply religious people will be denied entrance to Heaven because they do not believe in Jesus Christ. Will these wonderful people enter Heaven if they continue to live a good life and practice their Jewish faith?" — JK from New Jersey

If I were a fundamentalist Christian answering this question, John, the answer would be "Absolutely not!" These Christians can point to any number of New Testament quotations to support their contention. John's Gospel, in particular, is a rich source (e.g., "I am the way, the truth, the life. No one can come to the Father but through me." John 14:6).

The quotes from Scripture gave rise to centuries of anti-Semitism. Early Church Fathers had harsh things to say about Jews. Augustine argued that Jews should suffer as a perpetual reminder of their murder of Christ. John Chrysostom and others insisted that Satan dwelt among the Jews as a partner. Obviously, there was no hope of Heaven.

A more illuminating way to see the Church's changing attitudes about our Jewish brothers and sisters is to read the Good Friday Petition for the Jewish people. Here's the form used before 1955:

Let us pray also for the faithless Jews: that Almighty God may remove the veil from their hearts; so that they too may acknowledge Jesus Christ our Lord. ('Amen' is not responded, nor is said 'Let us pray', or 'Let us kneel', or 'Arise', but immediately is said:) Almighty and eternal God, who dost not exclude from thy mercy even Jewish faithlessness: hear our prayers, which we offer for the blindness of that people; that acknowledging the light of thy Truth, which is Christ, they may be delivered from their darkness. Through the same our Lord Jesus Christ ... for ever and ever. Amen.

Note the specification that there be no kneeling, in contrast to the other prayers. It was said the Church did not wish to imitate the Jews who mocked Christ before his crucifixion by kneeling before him and reviling him (my note: another example of selective reading ... it was the **Roman soldiers** who knelt before Jesus and reviled him).

In 1955, Pope Pius XII said that all must kneel. In May 1959, Pope John XXIII ordered the word "faithless" (*perfidis*) be removed from the prayer because of misconceptions that *perfidis* was equivalent to "perfidious."

After Vatican II, the prayer was completely revised for the 1970 edition of the Roman Missal. The new Roman Missal of 2011 basically keeps the same wording.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they may continue to grow in the love of His name and in faithfulness to His covenant. (Prayer in silence). Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and his posterity. Listen to your Church as we pray that the people you first made your own may arrive at the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Personally, John, I believe your friends will be in Heaven with God.

One, Jesus cherished His Jewish heritage. He did not intend to destroy or replace it, nor do we ever hear Him condemning his religion. The only condemnations are directed at the *leadership* of the Jewish people.

Two, we pray in the Eucharistic

Prayers for those whose faith is known to God alone and we ask that they be welcomed into the Kingdom.

Three, asking whether Jews (and by extension, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists, etc.) will be in Heaven or not says that entry into Heaven is based on an accident of birth or on merit (an accumulation of good deeds), not God's Grace. But fortunately for us, God doesn't play by our rules. His mercy and compassion surpass all human understanding and comprehension.

I close with comments made by Cardinal Koch on May 16, 2012. The Cardinal is President of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. While Catholics profess that, in the end, all salvation will be accomplished through Jesus Christ, he said, "It does not necessarily follow that the Jews are excluded from God's salvation because they do not believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Israel and the Son of God. ... That the Jews are participants in God's salvation is theologically unguestionable, but how that can be possible without confessing Christ explicitly is and remains an unfathomable divine mystery."

#### Questions for Fr. Herb? Send to: Plain!Speaking

c/o Congregation of Holy Cross United States Province P.O. Box 765 Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765 **development@holycrossusa.org** 

If you want to read Fr. Herb's weekly Gospel reading reflections, please visit us online at: **reflections.holycrossusa.org** 

# Interview with Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C.

#### **Q:** Fr. O'Hara, can you tell us about your vocation with Holy Cross: how you first became aware of the Community and how you eventually entered Holy Cross?

A: My first exposure to the Congregation of Holy Cross was during my freshman year at King's College, back in 1967. King's College was founded in 1946 by the Congregation to educate the sons – and eventually the daughters – of coal miners. My father was a miner and he and my mother were strong and faithful Catholics, so King's was the logical choice for me. The spirit and charism of Holy Cross permeated King's College. I can remember, even as a freshman, my great admiration for the witness and dedication of the priests and brothers. Their example surfaced as a call to the priesthood for me.

I am particularly grateful to Rev. Frank Gartland, C.S.C., head of Campus Ministry at that time, for his influence and prompting me to explore a vocation with Holy Cross. During my senior year, I decided to join the Community immediately after graduation. The spirit was alive and well as I packed my things for the Novitiate, but after nine months I left because I felt I wasn't ready. I took a job in a hospital in Washington, D.C., but continued my relationship with Holy Cross through my spiritual director. After a year working, I felt I was ready to return to the formation program.

**Q:** In the course of your early formation, did you have specific ideas as to the ministries in which you might be engaged as a priest? **A:** The question touches upon one of my favorite subjects, God's Providence. It seems each step I took during my formation was in preparation for the next opportunity, the next call to serve and eventually to where I am today. God, working through me and those who were involved in my formation, had a plan far more meaningful and important than one I could have conceived on my own. When I was still in temporary vows, I served as a Rector at Dillon Hall on Notre Dame's campus. Being part of the Holy Cross Community caring for the young lives at Notre Dame not only solidified for me the importance of our presence in living the mission of Holy Cross and Notre Dame, but also instilled thoughts of working in education.

In 1975, the Provincial Superior, Rev. Richard Warner, C.S.C., suggested I go to Bangladesh to teach English at Notre Dame College. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I also worked with the Sisters of Charity, Mother Teresa's community, caring for the ill, forgotten and dying. My time in Bangladesh taught me a great deal about hope and service, while providing a profound understanding of mission.

Before my Ordination in 1978, I was assigned to an inner-city parish in Brooklyn, N.Y. Ministry to families, many financially poor, was an extension of what I learned of mission in Bangladesh, but it also gave me tremendous parish experience.

I emphasize education, mission and parish because these three ministries are hallmarks of Holy Cross and I was blessed to have had such a profound experience with each ministry in my formation. This was certainly God's Hand at work.

After my Ordination, I was asked to pursue a doctorate and upon receiving that I began my career in higher education at King's College. The majority of my ministry since Ordination has been at King's, with the exception of two years where I taught at the Philosophy Centre in Jinja, Uganda, while living with the Holy Cross Community there and the past year while I was on a sabbatical.

#### **Q:** You've stated in the past that at your core, you are Holy Cross. Can you explain what that means to you?

**A:** We in the Holy Cross Community commonly use the phrase, "Men with hope to



Fr. O'Hara in 2011 with students from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



Fr. O'Hara in Bangladesh in 2007.

bring" to describe ourselves and our motto is "Ave Crux, Spes Unica," "Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope." Hope is the recurring theme in the life of Holy Cross and we exist to give hope to others by helping them with the crosses they carry. With the compassion of Christ, we are called to help others see that their crosses don't have to be overwhelming. The Cross reminds us that from the depth of pain and struggle, there is hope and love. That's our message and it's at the very core of who I am as a Holy Cross priest, so that no matter what I do in ministry or where I serve, hope in the Cross remains the focus.

## **Q:** Can you briefly describe your vision for the United States Province?

A: Immediately, I want to see the integration of the former Eastern Province and Indiana Province continue. When I look at the diversity of our ministries and the geographic areas we serve, our educational presence at four significant colleges and universities and our greater international outreach, I see our strength and the great progress we've made since the 2011 merger. All of our members and all of our lay collaborators should see a unified United States Province rather than defining Holy Cross in parochial terms.

We must also remember that we – and our ministries – are part of the international Community as well. Everything we do in education, parish and mission in the U.S. Province reflects Blessed Moreau's vision for Holy Cross worldwide and we join with our brothers internationally in spreading God's word with zeal.

The great work we do must mirror that of the Universal Church; our ministries must fit within the Church as a whole. I've been charged with completing a strategic plan for the United States Province by the 2015 Chapter and that process and the outcomes will assist with this priority. We will consult with all of our membership as we develop the plan. The same Spirit is guiding every member of the Community in unique ways, so for us to harness that inspiration and respond appropriately, we'll need the input of all our Religious. I have every confidence we'll be able to answer this question, "Are we doing the right things in the most effective way for Holy Cross, for the Church and for those we serve and hope to serve?"

Q: Is there a role for Holy Cross friends and benefactors in this vision? If so, what might that be? A: Lay collaborators work, pray, volunteer and teach alongside us and so many financially support Holy Cross. There's no question that Holy Cross could not have assumed the work it does without lay collaborators. The very hope Holy Cross gives, we draw from the men and women who graciously share their time, talents and treasure with us. This has been true since Holy Cross was founded 175 years ago. So what I'd tell our friends is this: Please continue your walk with us, particularly as we carefully assess our current work in preparation for our future. Your commitment and involvement are a joyful source of hope for us and with it we can accomplish great things for the Kingdom of God.

# More about Fr. O'Hara

Born: Hazleton, Pa. College: King's College (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), B.A., Political Science, 1971 Graduate School: University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, Ind.), M.Th., 1977; The American University (Washington, D.C.), Ph.D., Political Science, 1988

Final Vows: Sept. 3, 1977 Ordination to the Priesthood: June 10, 1978, South Easton, Mass. Holy Cross Assignments:

- King's College: President (1999 -2011); Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (1996 - 1999); Professor of Political Science; Philosophical Centre of Jinja in Uganda (1994 - 1996) Assistant Professor of Government and Politics (1988 - 1994)
- Adjunct Professor, The American University (1987)
- Priest-in-Residence, St. Ann Parish, Washington, D.C. (1984 - 1988)
- Chaplain, Holy Cross Hospital, Silver Spring, Md., and Chaplain to Holy Cross brothers at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. (1982 - 1984)
- Associate Pastor, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Brooklyn, N.Y. (1977 - 1982)
- Resident Assistant, University of Notre Dame (1976 - 1977)
- Professor at Notre Dame College (Dhaka, Bangladesh); assisting in relief work with Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity (1975)



Five men professed First Vows at a July 28 Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Colorado Springs, Colo. Matthew Hovde, C.S.C.; Joshua Leeuw, C.S.C.; Michael Palmer, C.S.C.; Ryan Pietrocarlo, C.S.C.; and Dennis Strach II, C.S.C., professed First Vows during a Liturgy presided by Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C., Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers. This was an especially joyous occasion for the Community because the Colorado wildfires had forced the evacuation of the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colo., on June 23. The evacuation order was lifted on July 1. During that time, the novices helped out at an evacuation center run by a ministry of Catholic Charities.

**Rev. David T. Tyson, C.S.C.,** completed nine years as Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province in June. In commemoration, Fr. Tyson was elected Regent Emeritus by the University of Portland's Board of Regents and was given the University's highest honor — the Christus Magister Medal — during spring commencement. He also was honored by the University of Notre Dame with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and was elected a Trustee Emeritus by the Board of Trustees.

#### University of Notre Dame Rev. Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C.,

Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture at Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, was recognized for several works, including first-place honors from the Catholic Press Association for best coverage of immigration in "America Magazine" and a book on spirituality.

University of Portland The University of Portland has been named the top producer of Fulbright scholars in the nation among "master's universities" for the past two years. This year, of the 10 students at Holy Cross Colleges and Universities receiving Fulbright grants, six were from Portland; two were from **Notre Dame;** and two were from **King's College.** 

#### **King's College**

Fourteen **King's** students and five faculty and administration members were inducted into the College's chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma, the national honor society of colleges and universities with a Catholic tradition.

#### Stonehill College Rev. James M. Lies, C.S.C.,

was named Vice President for Mission at **Stonehill College** by the Stonehill Board of Trustees. He previously served as Executive Director of the Garaventa Center for Catholic Intellectual Life and American Culture at the **University** of Portland.

#### Indiana

Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame

In May and June, **Sacred Heart** parishioners donated 315 pounds of food to the Northeast Neighborhood Food Pantry and the Catholic Worker House.

**St. Joseph Parish, South Bend St. Joseph Parish** sent 84 youth and chaperones on a service trip to rural Wayne County, W. Va., in June. Twelve families benefitted from the group's work, which made homes warmer, drier and safer after severe tornado damage in March.

#### Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish, South Bend

Parishioners, neighbors and local businesses met with South Bend

Mayor Pete Buttigieg in June to address concerns of their neighborhood. The church is an anchor on the city's northwest side that advocates for the elderly and minorities who live near the parish.

#### St. Adalbert/St. Casimir Parish, South Bend

Andrew Currier joined the **St. Adalbert Catholic School** community from St. Joseph's Regional School, in the Washington, D.C. area. Currier attended the University of Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education Program.

#### Christ the King Church, South Bend

In July, a group of eight students and three chaperones spent a month of service in Arizona helping out at fellow Holy Cross apostolates: **André House** in Phoenix and **St. John Vianney Parish** in Goodyear.

#### Texas

#### St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church, Austin

Parishioners participated in the third annual R.E.A.C.H. O.U.T. program, serving more than 350 of Austin's homeless with services such showers, haircuts, massages, medical evaluations, backpacks, bus passes and a hot meal.

#### Vermont

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish, Bennington The elementary grades of The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales have 150 students enrolled and were approved to add another Pre-K class. Last month, the parish food pantry distributed food to 691 individuals, a full shopping basket at a time.

#### Massachusetts

#### Holy Cross Parish, South Easton

The church was the site in early August for the national workshop "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings," sponsored by The North American Forum on the Catechumenate and the Diocese of Fall River Office of Faith Formation. The three-day event focused on RCIA.

#### Arizona St. John Vianney Parish, Goodyear

To encourage students to be servant-leaders, students, faculty and parents prepared 800 sack lunches for the hungry at **André House** in Phoenix twice during the school year.

#### Colorado

Tri-Community Parishes, Colorado Springs, Colo. Parishioners of Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Perpetual Help contributed to a special collection for assistance and food for victims of the Waldo Canyon Fire, collecting almost \$6,500 for Catholic Charities. Tri-Community also acted as a distribution site for non-perishable food items for Westside CARES' Care and Share program for evacuees.

#### Oregon

#### Saint André Bessette Catholic Church, Portland

On tour in the northwest, Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont Royal (the boys choir from St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal) stopped at St. André's namesake in Portland to perform.

Rev. Ronald Raab, C.S.C., As-

sociate Pastor, won best regular column, spiritual life, from the Catholic Press Association for three columns in "Celebrate!" magazine. Fr. Raab also won first place in the column category in the 2012 Canadian Church Press Awards.

#### Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Portland

The parish is in the second year of a community garden program, converting unused space in the school parking lot into a 7,000square-foot garden. The garden is watered using several rain water collection tanks and bioswales from the school roof. The conservation efforts save the parish about \$4,000 per year in storm water charges.

#### **Holy Cross Mission Center**

Two recent graduates from Notre Dame and the University of Portland are joining the Overseas Lay Ministry Program in Uganda this year for 16 months. The OLM program, sponsored by the **Holy Cross Mission Center**, offers opportunities for recent college graduates to work with Holy Cross religious serving the people of Uganda and Chilé.

#### **Holy Cross Family Ministries**

Rev. James Phalan, C.S.C., Director of Family Rosary International, and Rev. Stephen Gibson, C.S.C., Retreat Director at the Fr. Peyton Centre in Ireland, participated in a two-day Bike-a-thon in Ireland to raise money and awareness for families served by the work of the Father Patrick Peyton Memorial Centre in Attymass, Ireland. They raised more than \$18,000.

#### André House, Phoenix

As a social justice ministry of Holy Cross, **André House** receives volunteer help from students from Holy Cross parishes and colleges/ universities. This year, summer staff included five students from the **University of Notre Dame** and one from **King's College**. In August, one student each from **Stonehill College** and **King's College** joined the agency's core staff for a full year.

#### **District of East Africa**

Five men professed First Vows on July 25 at the Holy Cross Novitiate in Lake Saaka in Fort Portal, Uganda. **District Superior Rev. Patrick Neary, C.S.C.**, presided at the First Vows of **Martin Ikiao Mwenda**, **C.S.C.**; Joseph Kivilu Nthuku, **C.S.C.**; Joseph Owori, C.S.C.; Emmanuel Ssegujja, C.S.C.; and Noah Tuwebaze, C.S.C.

#### **District of Chilé**

The seventh annual Encuentro de Colaboradores C.S.C., a gathering of lay collaborators from each of the District's ministries, took place recently. More than 250 people participated to reflect on their collaboration in Holy Cross, the connection they feel with Holy Cross Religious and to celebrate the Year of the Brother. Youth from each of the apostolates also participated.

#### **District of Perú**

Seven students from **King's College** spent a portion of a threeweek study abroad program in Perú at the **Peyton Center.** 

#### **Region of México**

Director of Vocations for México **Rev. Matthew Kuczora, C.S.C.,** was recognized by the Catholic Press Association for best essay in religious order magazines for his story, "Blessed are we who comfort the mourners" published in "VISION Catholic Vocation Discernment Guide."

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# New Appointments

## The Assistant Provincials



#### Rev. Richard S. Wilkinson, C.S.C., First Assistant Provincial; Vicar

Born: Laconia, N.H.

College: University of New Hampshire (Durham, N.H.), B.A., Political Science and Philosophy, 1973 Graduate School: University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, Ind.), M. Div., 1978 Continuing Studies: Christian Institute for the Study of Human Sexuality, 1995; Chicago Theological Union, 1996; School of Applied Theology (Berkeley, Calif.), 1997

Final Vows: Sept. 15, 1978

Ordination to the Priesthood: June 9, 1979

Holy Cross Assignments: Fr. Wilkinson was named Associate Director of Campus Ministry at St. Edward's University (Austin, Texas) in 1998 and was appointed Director of Campus Ministry in 2000. In 1997-98, he was Interim Director of Novices at the Holy Cross Novitiate (Cascade, Colo.); Assistant Rector, Director of the Candidate Program, Associate Director of the Deacon Program and Steward, Moreau Seminary (Notre Dame, Ind.), 1991-96; Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish (Bennington, Vt.), 1990-1991; Director of Novices, Holy Cross Novitiate (Waterford, N.Y.), 1989-90, and Assistant Director, 1987-89; Pastor, Parroquia Cristo Nuestro Redentor de Peñalolén (Santiago, Chile), 1983-87, Associate Pastor, 1980-83; Associate Pastor, Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish (Brooklyn, N.Y.), 1979-80, Deacon, 1979; and spent his pastoral year, 1976-77, with Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity Hospital for Dying and Destitute in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



## Rev. James E. McDonald, C.S.C., Second Assistant Provincial; Steward

Born: Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

College: University of Notre Dame, B.A., Liberal Studies and Spanish, 1979 Graduate School: University of Notre Dame, M. Div., 1984; Cambridge University (United Kingdom), M.A. in Modern Languages, 1991; and The Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.), J.D., 1994 Final Vows: Sept. 3, 1983

#### Ordination to the Priesthood: April 28, 1984

Holy Cross Assignments: Fr. McDonald served as Associate Vice President and Counselor to the President at the University of Notre Dame from 2005 to 2011. Prior to that, he was Rector of Saint George's College from 2000 to 2005; Associate Dean of the Notre Dame Law School from 1997 to 2000; Assistant Provincial and Steward of the Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross from 1994 to 1997; Associate Rector of Basilica of the Sacred Heart from 1990 to 1991; Vice Rector of Campus Ministry at Saint George's College, 1987 to 1990; Assistant Rector (Sorin College), instructor in the College of Arts and Letters, Notre Dame, 1984-85; and Deacon, St. John Vianney Parish, Goodyear, Ariz., 1983 to 1984.



#### Brother Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C., Third Assistant Provincial; Secretary

Born: Mishawaka, Ind. College: St. Edward's University (Austin, Texas), A.B. Magna Cum Laude, 1963 Graduate School: Indiana University (Bloomington, Ind.), M.A., American History, 1967, and M.S. in Education, 1969; University of Notre Dame, M.A., Government, 1979, and Ph.D., Government, 1985 Continuing Studies: Institute of American History and Government, State University of New York at Stoneybrook, 1968

Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1963

Holy Cross Assignments: Br. Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C., was appointed the University of Portland's Academic Vice President in 1996 and Provost in 2002. He previously served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and taught history and political science. Br. Stabrowski was Acting President of the University in the summer and fall of 2003. Br. Stabrowski served for 14 years at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind., where he was a professor of American government and history. He is the author of a book on the Polish community of South Bend, Ind. ("South Bend Polonia"). From 1970 to 1974, Br. Stabrowski served as Principal of Holy Trinity High School in Chicago; from 1969 to 1970, Assistant Principal, Archbishop Hoben High School, Akron, Ohio; and from 1963 to 1969, teacher and department head at Cathedral High School, Indianapolis. He also served part-time as an instructor at Purdue University North Central (Westville, Ind.) and St. Francis College (Michigan City, Ind., campus).



# Rev. Edwin H. Obermiller, C.S.C., Fourth Assistant Provincial; Counselor Born: Canton, Ohio College: Pontifical College Josephinum (Columbus, Ohio), B.A., Psychology, 1988 Graduate School: Jesuit School of Theology, Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, Calif.), 1994 Final Vows: Aug. 27, 1994 Ordination to the Priesthood: April 13, 1996

**Holy Cross Assignments:** In 2009, Fr. Obermiller was named Third Assistant Provincial with oversight for the Offices of Vocations, Development and Communications by then-Provincial Superior Rev. David T. Tyson. Fr. Obermiller was reappointed by Provincial Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara in 2012. Fr. Obermiller served at the University of Portland for 11 years, which included Director of Campus Ministry and two years as assistant Superior of the Holy Cross community at UP before being named Director of Vocations in 2006.

## The District Superiors



## District of East Africa

Superior: Rev. Patrick Neary, C.S.C.
Born: La Porte, Ind.
College: University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, Ind.), B.A., History, 1985
Graduate School: Jesuit School of Theology (Berkeley, Calif.), M.Div., 1990
Final Vows: Sept. 1, 1990

#### Ordination to the Priesthood: April 6, 1991

**Holy Cross Assignments:** Fr. Neary is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Our Lady Queen of Apostles Philosophy Centre in Jinja, Uganda, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School, also in Jinja. He previously served as Director of the McCauley House Post-Novitiate Formation Program in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2010 to 2011. He served as a Deacon and Associate Pastor at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Ariz., from 1991 to 1994. He was then appointed Director of Special Activities and Cross-Cultural Ministry in Campus Ministry at Notre Dame from 1994 to 2000. He also served as Assistant Rector at Stanford Hall from 1994 to 1995. Fr. Neary served as Assistant Superior/ Vice Rector of Moreau Seminary from 2000-04, and served as Superior/Rector of Moreau Seminary from 2004 to 2010. He also served on the Provincial Council from 2003 to 2010.



## **District of Chile** Superior: Rev. Michael M. DeLaney, C.S.C. Born: Wilmington, Ohio College: School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), 1980 Graduate School: University of Notre Dame, M.Div., 1986 Final Vows: Aug. 30, 1986 Ordination to the Priesthood: April 25, 1987

Holy Cross Assignments: Fr. DeLaney spent 15 years at the University of Portland (Portland, Ore.), from 1987 to 2002, working in Campus Ministry, in Residence Life as Director and teaching Geography. He was also the Superior of the Holy Cross Community for five years, a priest in-residence on campus and served three years as director of the Salzburg program and building a new University Center in Salzburg, Austria. Fr. DeLaney also spent five years, from 2002 to 2007, as the President of Notre Dame High School and the Superior of the Holy Cross Community in Niles, Ill. Since March 2007, Fr. DeLaney has served as the Superior of the District of Chile, living in Santiago. During this time, he has also served as the Director of Campus Ministry at Saint George's College and also serves as the President of Fundación Moreau.



## **District of Perú**

Superior: Rev. Aníbal Andrés Niño Loarte Born: Lima, Perú College: National Conservatory of Music, Lima, 1990-93; Pontifícia Universidad Católica de Chile, B.A. in Theology, 2001

Graduate School: Ruiz de Montoya Jesuit University (Lima), diploma in pastoral counseling, 2009-10; La Pontifícia Universidad Católica del Perú, Licentiate in Spanish and Latin American Literature, 2011

#### Final Vows: Feb. 15, 2003

#### Ordination to the Priesthood: Feb. 22, 2004

Holy Cross Assignments: Prior to professing his Final Vows in 2003 and later as a young priest, he worked in the education and publishing area of the Family Rosary Apostolate. Before beginning his term as Holy Cross Superior in Perú in February of this year, he had been Director of the formation program for five years and Assistant Superior of the District of Perú for the last three, while at the same time serving as Parochial Vicar for El Señor de la Esperanza Parish, where he previously served as Coordinator of Youth Ministry.



## **Region of México**

Director: Rev. Thomas K. Zurcher, C.S.C. Born: Hancock, Mich. College: University of Notre Dame, B.A., 1968 Graduate School: University of Notre Dame, M.Div., 1971; University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein, Ill.), Doctor of Ministry, 1996 Final Vows: April 16, 1971

## Ordination to the Priesthood: April 29, 1972

Holy Cross Assignments: Fr. Zurcher also serves as the Director of Initial Formation in México, to which he was appointed in 2007, and as Associate Pastor at Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz in Guadalupe, Nuevo León, México. From 1972 to 1975, he served as Associate Pastor at Holy Cross Parish in South Bend, Ind. From 1975 to 1981, he was Pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in South Bend and was Pastor of St. John Vianney in Arizona from 1981 to 1990. Fr. Zurcher was Rector of Moreau Seminary from 1990 to 1996 and served as the Vicar for Clergy in the Diocese of Phoenix from 1997 to 2006.

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