Our Philanthropic Mission: Uniting those who are called to be witnesses of Christ’s love, and stewards of His gifts, with our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a pleasure for me to introduce Pillars, a new publication designed to keep you, our faithful friends, informed of the ministries of Holy Cross in the United States and abroad.

Like our emblem, the Cross and Anchors, a Pillar is a symbol of strength, of stability and longevity and is appropriately reflective of the history of Holy Cross in the world. It is also a symbol of the investment you and others have made in our work. Together with Christ, we form the foundation, the Pillars, to affect change.

Our work in this world is the Gospel of Christ. We do that work in partnership with many in the Church and with our faithful friends. We cannot act alone, we cannot serve alone. We combine the spirit and resources from each to make an impact in our world.

Pillars will also provide us, the family of Holy Cross, a venue to share our deep gratitude for your support while offering reflections on how your support is advancing our mission.

Soon, we will be starting a new calendar year. For many, a new year means new resolutions, new goals, and new challenges. As a religious organization, we are no different.

We are in the process of preparing a strategic plan to carry us through the year 2012, addressing such important issues as Vocations and Formation, the care of our elderly and retiring brothers, our Educational and International Ministries, and much more.

We will assemble the collective wisdom of our family to create this document, knowing throughout the process that Time, place and circumstances differ, but the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross remains urgently the same: to proclaim the Kingdom of God (mission statement from the 2012 strategic plan)

In your affiliation with the Church, your affirmation of faith, you are part of this mission, and I invite your continued investment in bringing change to our world.

Future issues of Pillars will introduce, or re-introduce to you, the many faces, places and ministries of Holy Cross. With each Issue, I invite your feedback on what you read in this publication.

On behalf of the entire family of Holy Cross, I extend our prayers for a most blessed New Year to you and yours.

(Rev.) David Tyson, C.S.C.
Provincial Superior

IN THIS ISSUE:
1. A Letter from Father David Tyson, C.S.C., Provincial Superior
2. East Africa - Developments
3. Holy Cross House Formation News
4. Views!
Our Philanthropic Mission: Uniting those who are called to be witnesses of Christ's love, and stewards of His gifts, with our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all.

East Africa - Spirit Alive!  
Rev. George Muganyizi, C.S.C.

The Congregation of Holy Cross celebrates 46 years of missionary service in East Africa. We also celebrate the gracious and generous missionary spirit of our donors without whom we could never have accomplished so much, from the early founding of many parishes and the staffing of schools in Fort Portal Diocese, Uganda, to the establishment of a program for the religious formation and apostolic training of young East African Holy Cross members, to our present outreach in service of the Church as pastoral workers and teachers in the three countries of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

In planning for the future of our ministry, we have acquired a five acre piece of land along the River Nile (Uganda) as site for a Pastoral Center to serve the retreat, training and conference needs of the Church in East Africa. We have also developed two income-producing farms in Uganda – near our Novitiate at Saaka and within one of our parishes at Kyembogo – and in 1998 we inaugurated the Bishop McCauley Endowment Fund, named after our Holy Cross missionary pioneer in East Africa, to enable the sustainability of our life and mission.

Not one of the achievements above would have been possible without the outstanding support of friends and donors in partnership with Holy Cross.

Growth and Development

Each year as new growth and development is experienced as a blessing from God and in response to the many needs of the people of East Africa, the demand for more resources grows. How will the District of East Africa provide for the many young vocations to the religious life as brothers or priests? With the influx of vocations, there is a need for more housing, religious formation, professional training and education. We have the opportunity to expand our ministries, and there is clearly a need for more income-producing projects.

In a practical sense, hope springs eternal in the hearts of the Holy Cross members and in the hearts of our people. In spite of the challenges and uncertainties, the Holy Cross District of East Africa claims a place in the hearts of our donors. Each has a role in helping us shape a bright future. We are grateful to our benefactors for keeping the miracle of Holy Cross in East Africa alive and growing.
Our Philanthropic Mission: Uniting those who are called to be witnesses of Christ’s love, and stewards of His gifts, with our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all.

East Africa - Spirit Alive! A Donor’s Story

The Wilma and Peter Veldman Family - East Africa Advocates

In the spring of 2000, Peter and Wilma Veldman of South Bend, Indiana, were introduced to Father George Muganyizi, CSC, then pastor of St. Brendan’s Kitete Parish in Tanzania, East Africa, while he was visiting the United States.

That encounter quickly developed into a mutual friendship which blossomed into life-changing opportunities for parishioners at St. Brendan’s, some 8,500 miles away.

As Father George described the life of his parishioners and shared his vision for St. Brendan’s, the Veldman family became intrigued with the opportunity to invest in this vision as a way of fulfilling their personal desire to impact lives in need, while at the same time provide a meaningful tribute to their late daughter and sister, Audrey.

At the invitation of Father George, the Veldman family decided to fund an agricultural and technical school at St. Brendan’s for children residing in and around the parish (formal education for the majority of poor children in Tanzania, East Africa ends after the 7th grade level). The school would focus on teaching girls how to sew and boys how to farm.

The entire Veldman family, with Wilma and Peter at the lead, adopted the agro-technical school as their own and in January 2002, the Audrey Veldman Agro-Technical School was dedicated, with Wilma and Peter and two of their sons attending the dedication celebration.

Since the dedication, the Veldman family has continued their personal investment in the School. Since 2002, dormitories for girls have been added and a carpentry program for boys introduced.

According Wilma Veldman, after learning of the limited educational opportunities for the children in this remote part of East Africa, the only acceptable thing to do was to act. She and her family decided to take action, the result being a lasting impact on the St. Brendan’s community.

Reflecting on her trip to East Africa, Wilma states of all her travels throughout the world the hospitality, the genuine appreciation and joy of the people, and seeing first-hand the fruits of her investment, made this the best trip of her life.
Views! We Welcome Your Thoughts.

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___ I would like information about Making a Gift.

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Please mail this form to: Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province, Office of Development, P.O. Box 765, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0765. Thank You.

Jane Q. Public
Street Address,
City, ST Zip Code
Who's Who in our United States Formation Program?

Deacons
Rev. Mr. Kevin Sandberg, CSC Royal Palm Beach, CA
Rev. Mr. Andrew Sebesta, CSC Sugarland, TX

Temporarily Professed
Third Year
Mr. Joseph Miller, CSC South Bend, IN
Mr. Nathan Wills, CSC Mendota Hts, MN

Second Year
Mr. Nathan Farley, CSC Dover, OH

First Year
Mr. Andrew Gawrych, CSC McGregor, TX
Mr. Vincent Kuna, CSC Naperville, IL
Mr. Stephen Lacroix, CSC Sugarland, TX
Mr. Charles McCoy, CSC Deerfield, IL

Regents
Mr. Phillip Conner, CSC Three Oaks, MI
Mr. James Gallaher, CSC South Bend, IN
Mr. Gregory Haake, CSC Leawood, KS
Mr. Stephen Koeth, CSC Staten Island, NY
Mr. Peter McCormick, CSC Grand Rapids, MI

Novices - 5
Candidates - 7
Collegians - 7

Formation's Future: Recruiting Vocations in the 21st Century

Rev. James King, C.S.C., vocations Director

A major challenge for vocations in the post-Vatican II era is that the immigrant Church of tightly-knit ethnic neighborhoods populated by large extended families is virtually extinct. Prior to the 1960’s, a cohesive Catholic culture characterized by devotion to faith and family produced hundreds of vocations in many parishes. Today, as people are more mobile and families scattered, that culture is much harder to develop and sustain.

Nevertheless, Holy Cross has fared extraordinarily well in comparison with most communities, largely because we have continued to invest our personnel and energies in Catholic education. Most young people do not have the same understanding of religious life that their parents and grandparents absorbed naturally from their surroundings, so our ability to attract vocations depends largely upon making the most of our opportunities in the educational environment which, after the home, is typically the most formative one of their lives. Undergraduate residence halls are consistently the main source of Holy Cross vocations, precisely because that is where we come to know students best, teaching and living with them as we have done since our founding.

The future of the Church depends largely upon creating a new kind of Catholic culture in parishes, schools, and universities. If we want more vocations, we must prioritize Catholic education at all levels and compensate for an absence of geographic identity with an even greater commitment to educating young people in the faith of their ancestors so that it takes root and provides an identity that guides them from within no matter how far they may later journey from home.

Making a Splash at Holy Cross House

Kevin R. Baker, H.F.A., Administrator

While it may be only 12’ x 16’ in size the therapy pool at Holy Cross House is a big hit with the men. Since its completion in March of 2004, an average of 18 men a week benefit from this form of aquatic rehab and fitness. The pool features an adjustable floor, variable speed treadmill, therapy jets and viewing cameras. The pool allows the therapist to address many different modalities of treatment from post stroke or fracture to basic gait or balance training. What makes this form of treatment so appealing is the warmth of the water, a toasty 94 degrees, and the buoyancy gained by being supported by the water, therefore allowing easier movement of joints and limbs. As we move into 2005 we plan to open the pool to the greater Holy Cross Community as a way of incorporating the Province’s focus on Wellness. The vision of Father Ted Hesburgh, in honor of and to serve Father Ned Joyce, provided the leadership for creating the pool. Many generous donations by family and friends of Holy Cross completed the project.

Father Ted Hesburgh, CSC and the late Father Ned Joyce, CSC, with Peg Lammers, Director of Nursing, at the Pool Dedication.
The Priests of Holy Cross, Indiana Province, launched its first annual fund drive entitled Our Only Hope in December 2004. The purpose of the annual fund is to invite and encourage our friends to make an annual gift to Holy Cross reflecting their personal alliance with our mission and ministries.

Funds raised through annual giving, the majority of which are unrestricted, directly impact our ministries in the United States and throughout the world.

Unrestricted gifts support the needs of the communities and people we serve through our parish ministry, our work with the poor and oppressed and our International Missions. Gifts can also be designated to care for retired and infirmed religious or support the education and training of new religious through our formation program.

A heartfelt thanks to these donors for making our first annual fund a success (as of 12/30/04):

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Mr. and Mrs. Rocco Ameduri
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