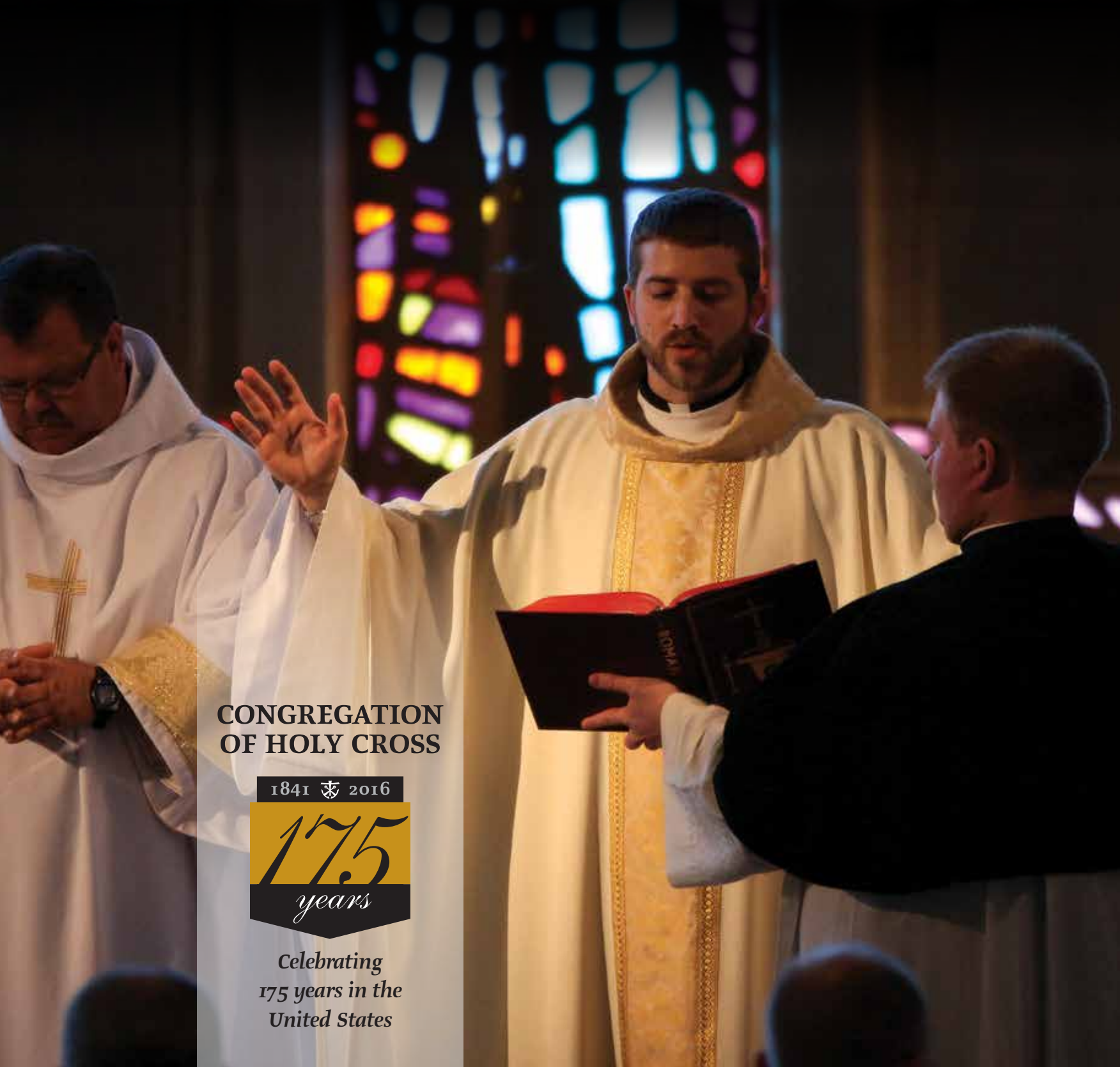


# Pillars

SUMMER 2017



CONGREGATION  
OF HOLY CROSS



*Celebrating  
175 years in the  
United States*

## *From the Provincial Superior*

My dear friends in Christ,

In 2016, the Congregation of Holy Cross commemorated its 175th anniversary of faithful service in the United States, a milestone worthy of remembering throughout this year. Our history in the United States is rich and while many might associate our most significant accomplishment as the University of Notre Dame, there's so much more to our legacy which you'll find in the following pages.

Reflecting on our years in the United States, I recognize the Holy Cross story transcends the work of our members and our apostolates. Our story is yours, shared with others, past and present, whose personal convictions, commitment to stewardship and devotion to the Church and God's people mirror the mission of Holy Cross. This unique alignment of vision and service has as a natural outcome a unity of prayer and financial investment that has and is transforming the lives we serve in common. Ours is a partnership in the best sense of the word.

I believe another foundation of our partnership is gratitude. There are a number of reasons individuals support our work and underlying many of these reasons is gratitude - for the gifts they have received, for their faith and for the impact of Holy Cross in their lives. Again, we in Holy Cross share this same deep gratitude for you and your role in advancing our sacred mission.

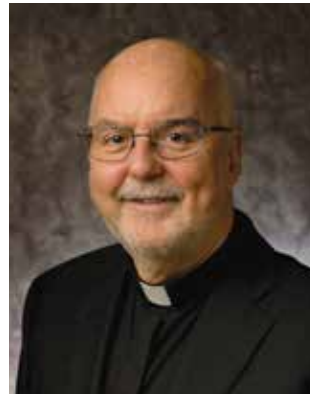
Our gratitude is expressed in many ways such as reporting to you on the status of your investment in Holy Cross through an annual accounting of our revenues and expenses. The amount of charitable gifts we received this past fiscal year is phenomenal and essential to all we do. The greatest impact, of course, is in the lives we serve and the hearts we bring to Christ. This is the essence of our mission.

While 175 years of continuous service is significant, it is the past and our focus needs to remain in the present while we glimpse to the future. Today and for our immediate future, we are carefully allocating and planning the use of our limited human and financial resources under the guidance of a strategic apostolic plan to ensure our continued service to the Church in our ministries, particularly in higher education, parishes and international missions. There will be difficult and challenging decisions ahead but we can approach them with great confidence knowing that the One who began the good work in us will bring it to completion.

Without question, God's Providence has brought us together as partners. As we in Holy Cross continue to serve God's people each day and as we anticipate tomorrow, we do so inspired by your love and your investment, grateful that you chose to walk with us. Thank you!

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

Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C.



## **Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers**

We are an apostolic, Roman Catholic community of priests and brothers, who with zeal and a preferential option for the poor, work to make God known, loved and served in our education, parish and mission communities across the United States, and around the world.



### **Provincial Superior**

Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C.

### **Assistant Provincial; Vicar**

Rev. Richard S. Wilkinson, C.S.C.

### **Assistant Provincial; Steward**

Rev. E. William Beauchamp, C.S.C.

### **Assistant Provincial; Secretary**

Br. Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C.

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### **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.





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# Congregation of Holy Cross Celebrates



# 175 *of Service in the United States* years

BY REV. THOMAS J. O'HARA, C.S.C.,  
PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR, U.S. PROVINCE

*A*s of 2016, the Congregation of Holy Cross has been in the United States for 175 years, and it's really through the grace of God and the hard work of countless men and faithful lay collaborators who have paved the way for us. We always talk about a 'great band of men,' and we in the Congregation of Holy Cross, in the United States and elsewhere, are following in their footsteps. When I am asked "to what do I attribute our longevity?" I always have to respond that it's a multitude of things.

First, it's human effort, it's men who took risks – men who believed in the Gospel, men who came together as a community so that the work is not just the work of any one individual. It's the work of a group of people who believe in each other with that sense of camaraderie.

I'm a firm believer that nothing can be done without the cooperation of many people. But, also individuals have to, from time to time, step forward

and push one another, and we've been fortunate to have those leaders. In Fr. Moreau's time, Fr. Sorin, whom Fr. Moreau sent over from France, was just 28-years-old. He and six brothers, Br. Vincent (licensed then as a teacher and a patriarch of the group), Brothers Joachim, Lawrence, and Francis Xavier—who had professed vows only days before leaving France, and Brothers Anselm and Gatian who were both still novices, took a big risk coming to a wilderness. They





didn't speak English and they had no idea what they were going to face. By all accounts it should not have thrived, yet 175 years later, here we still are, and we have seen the development of the University of Notre Dame, the premier Catholic university in the country, and arguably the world, in addition to three other well respected Catholic academic institutions – the University of Portland on the west coast, and Stonehill College and King's College on the east coast. You see the 13 parishes we serve, imbued with the Holy Cross charism. You see André House, where we care for the poor in Phoenix. You see a downtown chapel caring for the poor in Portland. You see Latino ministry in Arizona and Texas. So, ultimately, I attribute the longevity of the Congregation here in the United States to a combination of men who were devoted to the cause, who came together and believed in each other, and took risks, all for the greater glory of God.

### Men with Hope to Bring

This work and our charism is deeply important, monumentally so in the times we face today. We've always said that we are Men with Hope to Bring. Blessed Basil Moreau believed that deeply. In our times, there are many reasons to be anxious about our culture, many reasons to be anxious about the fragility of our world, the structures of our families, many

reasons to be fearful of the future. But Holy Cross still holds on to that principle - to not give up hope. We are men who bring hope to others no matter where we go. For example, the percentage of young people who come to our four academic institutions with psychological struggles is higher than it's ever been. These young people are struggling in their own personal lives even while working toward an academic degree. So, the message of hope for them is critical. Despite all the challenges and pressures they face with the quick fixes of our culture, we reach out to our young people and remind them that they are children of God. Do not give up hope, believe in yourself, and trust in God. To be men who bring hope is as critical now in 2017 as it was in 1842.

### Devotion to the Gospel

If hope is what strengthens and carries us in our life of faith, it's our devotion to the Gospel which cements it and will help us sustain the Congregation's existence not only in the United States, but around the world. Also supporting us is our commitment to the vows we take, living the Constitutions we proclaim, and caring for each other. We need each other. Being a Religious of Holy Cross is an outstanding privilege. I love Holy Cross. When I was teaching

*continued on next page*

***Pictured above:  
Left, Science class,  
circa 1870, taken at the  
University of Notre Dame.***

***Right, Fr. Theodore M.  
Hesburgh, C.S.C., with  
students, circa the late  
1960s, University  
of Notre Dame.***





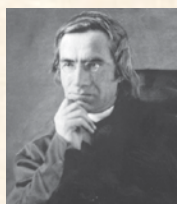
***Pictured this page, Above Left, St. André Bessette Parish, Portland, Ore.***

***Right, Final Vows, 2015, Notre Dame.***

a class, I said to my students, “Alright, before I start talking, you should know that I have a bias. And my bias is that I love Holy Cross.” Yet, because of this love, I am also critical of where we need to make progress. I think we must always remain honest with each other and challenge each other to be more effective in our ministries. What gives me immense hope is the number and caliber of men coming to us to explore their vocation. This year we welcome 17 new postulants, more new postulants than in the last 25 years. They are bright and engaged and believe strongly in the mission of Holy Cross and the Church. Outwardly, people see what we are doing, whether in

parishes, academic institutions, or direct service to the poor and through the collaborative support and prayers of our parishioners, benefactors, families, friends and lay colleagues, this good work is furthered in the name of Christ.

From a practical standpoint, needs are always present. These needs can be met with our energy, our passion, and our concern. But in order to get to that point, we make a financial investment to educate our young men so that they’re prepared to meet the challenges of being messengers of hope. We also must honor our elder priests and brothers who have lived years of faith-filled service and who deserve to be



**1841**

Fr. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., is sent as a missionary to the United States by Fr. Basil Moreau, C.S.C.

**1842**

University of Notre Dame is founded by Fr. Sorin, C.S.C.



**1853**

First Holy Cross Brother sent to Bengal as part of missionary group

**1865**

Ave Maria Press is established



**1870**

Holy Cross begins expansion into Texas

**1872**

Holy Cross expands into Wisconsin and Louisiana

**1877**

First Polish language parish is opened in South Bend, Ind., beginning a long tradition of Holy Cross serving immigrants

**1885**

St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, is founded on land acquired by Fr. Sorin



Fr. Corby establishes Mission Band in Watertown, Wis.

**1889**

Holy Cross Seminary opens at Notre Dame, Ind.



**1902**

Holy Cross takes over administration of University of Portland (Columbia Prep)







respected and cared for in the best way possible. As we know, the cost of education and health care both remain very expensive in our country.

Whether we provide direct service to the poor at André House, at the downtown kitchen in Portland, or our sponsored missions in East Africa, Chile, Perú or Mexico, it takes the hard work of Holy Cross Religious, who bring significant energy, vision and passion. It also requires financial support, sometimes significant support. So, we rely on the generosity of our benefactors to help us do what we can. We never think of our donors as people who simply fund us, or donate to us. They are Holy Cross in action, people

who believe in us. They pray for us, and they pray with us, even as we pray for them. And their prayers for our success is their success.

It is their ministry.

## The Congregation without the United States

Blessed Basil Moreau was a genius in many ways! It was a small Congregation, and he sent religious to foreign countries? And yet he sent men to Algeria, to Poland, to Bengal, what we now call Bangladesh, and to the United States. It was like a Gospel story ... putting seeds in the ground. Some grew, some didn't;

*continued on next page*

***Pictured above:***  
***Left, St. Adalbert/St. Casimir***  
***Parish Community,***  
***South Bend, Ind.***

***Right, Holy Cross House,***  
***Notre Dame.***

### 1918

*First retreat for the laity is given at Notre Dame, later known as "The Big Retreat"*



### 1942

*Fr. Peyton, C.S.C. founds Family Rosary coining the phrase the "family that prays together, stays together"*

### 1920

*Moreau Seminary opens at Notre Dame*



### 1934

*Novitiate is established in North Dartmouth, Mass.*

### 1943

*Holy Cross arrives in Chile and assumes administration of St. George's College, Santiago*



### 1946

*King's College is established in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.*

*U.S. Province is split into a Brothers' Province and a Priests' Province*

### 1948

*Stonehill College is established in North Easton, Mass.*



*U.S. Province of priests is divided into the Indiana Province and the Eastern Province*

### 1949

*Ministry is begun in "squatter" territories in Santiago, Chile to become San Roque Parish*

*Timeline continued on next page →*

### 1917

*Bengal Foreign Mission Society is formed to raise funds for Holy Cross missions in Bengal*





**Pictured Above, Left to Right:**  
**Fr. Aaron Michka, C.S.C.,**  
**and Fr. Gerard Olinger, C.S.C.,**  
**concelebrating a Mass in**  
**Taman, México.**

some withered and some blossomed. Thanks be to God, the seed here in the United States blossomed in a most significant way, as have the seeds we planted in Bangladesh and other places. If a seed hadn't been planted in the United States, it would have blossomed in other parts of the world just the same. Regardless of where we serve, the cultures from which we come or the unique ministries in which we devote our lives, the commonality between us is, "I'm Holy Cross," more than "I'm an American/Indian/Tanzanian." We are an international Congregation, and

we would be international no matter where the seeds took root. The United States is just a part of the larger Congregation. We're happy and proud that we're a very strong part of that. But there are other parts of it, and those seeds have matured as well.

### The Local Influence

Brother Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C., assistant provincial, always makes the argument that parishes in the South Bend, Indiana area got off the ground solely because of Holy Cross. You could say the same of



**1958**

First Holy Cross Priests are sent to Uganda, among them Fr. McCauley who would become bishop of Fort Portal, Uganda

New Moreau Seminary opens at current location at Notre Dame

**1961**

Holy Cross House opens at Notre Dame



**1963**

Holy Cross begins its ministry in Perú

Total membership of Indiana Province reaches all-time high

**1964**

Holy Cross Association is established as direct mail ministry

**1967**

Congregation separates legally and financially from the universities and colleges

**1968**

Southern Province is founded serving 11 states

**1974**

As part of westward expansion, regional residence opens in Berkeley, Calif., for Holy Cross Religious



**1976**

Holy Cross in Perú expands to serve Canto Grande in Lima



**1978**

Novitiate opens in Cascade, Colo.

Holy Cross opens parish in Nairobi, Kenya





the parishes Holy Cross founded in central Texas. Locally, things would look a lot different without Holy Cross, and the United States would be different without our parishes. Time and time and time again, the parishioners of our parishes say to me, “there’s something about Holy Cross parishes that we love”. People don’t want to even think of their parish not being a Holy Cross parish, or us having to move on from a parish. Blessed Basil Moreau created our Congregation to be auxiliaries to the local Church, which is a very distinct charge. Wherever we are, we try to capture the culture of the local church. As we serve, we try to adapt ourselves to the local church, to the dioceses and to the students, faculty, administrators and alumni with whom we work. Think of the difference that those people are making in our country and in our world. Our world would be different without the Holy Cross influence.

### A Humbling Privilege

To be Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, at this time in history is incredibly humbling. It’s a privilege

*continued on next page*

# The U.S. Province Today

## The Men

**361**  
Priests

**16**  
Brothers

**12**  
Deacons

**58**  
Temporarily Professed  
Seminarians

**1**  
Temporarily  
Professed  
Brother

## The Ministries

in **17**  
Countries

**4**  
Colleges and  
Universities

Holy Cross  
Family  
Ministries

Parishes in  
**8**  
Countries



**1981**  
District of East Africa  
begins accepting local  
vocations

**1984**  
André House  
opens in Phoenix  
to serve poor  
and homeless

**1989**  
Ministries to the poor  
are expanded in  
Portland through  
“Downtown Chapel”

**1995**  
District of  
East Africa is  
incorporated

**2011**  
Eastern Province  
and Indiana  
Province merge  
into the United  
States Province of  
Priests and Brothers





and it's a lot of hard work. We have over 450 men from our Province on five different continents, and my responsibility is to make sure that Holy Cross is doing all it can in each apostolate. That responsibility includes ensuring that our Holy Cross men are being supported and taken care of, but also challenged when the need arises. I'm always aware of my responsibility to our men and those we serve, as well as the responsibility we have to our benefactors, to make sure their contributions are used wisely. I don't take any of those responsibilities lightly and it is a joy and privilege to see what we do. It is work, but it's joyful work, and I'm inspired by what Holy Cross is able to accomplish in our Lord's name.

There are moments each of us encounter in our work, powerful images that stay with us which encapsulate what it means to be a religious in Holy Cross. I attended a Christmas celebration in our parish in Canto Grande outside of Lima, Perú. It's a huge parish, probably 200,000 people. A lot of the people

live in buildings not more substantial than what we would call shacks. Not everyone has running water; not everyone has electricity. So on this Christmas, way up into the hills, in a really poor area, I was with them as we celebrated Mass. A party for the children followed. The combination of the deep, deep faith of the people at Mass, with the subsequent fiesta moved me to tears. These kids received tiny gifts of candy and toys – what might easily be thrown out here, yet the joy that was present and the singing and dancing was inspiring. I thought, here I am in the midst of what we would call incredible poverty, yet all these people found great reason to celebrate their faith. They were joyful in the celebration of Christ's birth. It was just beautiful.

### In Another 175 Years

None of us know what the world is going to look like in the next 175 years. But, the world will be very different. Things we take for granted, something as

*Fr. Greg Haake, C.S.C.,  
teaching a class at the  
University of Notre Dame.*





simple as eyeglasses, might then be obsolete. One thing will never change: the Gospel. The Gospel has survived 2,000 years and it hasn't changed. That means we'll adapt to all the changes of the world as we have in the past 175 years, but we'll always continue to have the constancy of the Gospel. Our benefactors know this and it draws them to become more involved. This makes them more aware of the internationality of Holy Cross and the knowledge that the Congregation is more than any individual apostolate and its mission. It is all connected. As we become even more international in our focus, the world becomes smaller.

What will continue to be crucial now and going forward is the continual supply of bright young men answering God's call. Not just to meet the needs of Holy Cross, but to meet the needs of the greater Church. We have to have the right men to advance our mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God as educators in the faith, which means ensuring our newest members have the proper education and formation.

As time marches on, our generation of Holy Cross is going to reach their eternal reward, and we've got to have bright and capable confreres move into their places. That's the overwhelming need we have: to make sure that we have the right men, not just the right number of men, necessary to carry on the mission of Holy Cross, as we say, "to walk in the footsteps of a great band of men" that we know as Holy Cross.

As a member of the Holy Cross Family, you are our ambassadors. As you share your enthusiasm in Holy Cross and your willingness to tell its story, these

*As time marches on, our generation of Holy Cross is going to reach their eternal reward, and we've got to have bright and capable confreres move into their places. That's the overwhelming need we have: to make sure that we have the right men, not just the right number of men, necessary to carry on the mission of Holy Cross ...*

efforts are coupled with your continued prayers and support as you work alongside us in the vineyard. Blessed Basil Moreau said that we will never cultivate the mind at the expense of the heart, and I think this applies here as well. Intellectually, we all understand the need for financial support to carry on our mission, but it is equally important to cultivate the hearts of all who walk with us into the future as great witnesses to the hope, mercy, and compassion which compels all of us to further the Kingdom here on earth. ✠



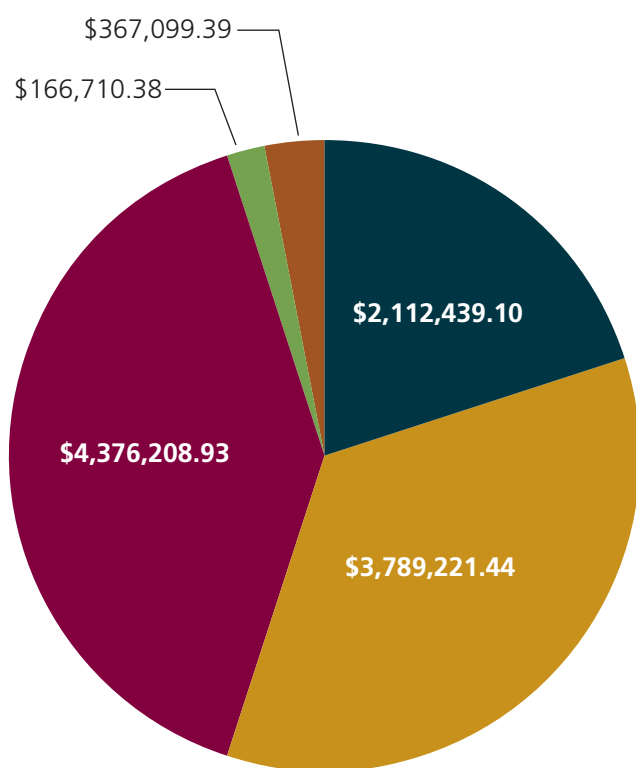
*At Right, Fr. Peter Rocca, C.S.C., (left) and Mr. Dennis Strach, C.S.C., (right) after Dennis' Final Profession of Vows in the Fall of 2015. Fr. Dennis Strach, C.S.C., was ordained in the spring of 2016.*



# 2015-2016 Fiscal Year

The Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers issues this annual report to update you on the progress of the Province's vision, illustrate how your gifts are used, and provide you with concrete examples of how lives are dramatically changed as a result of your generosity.

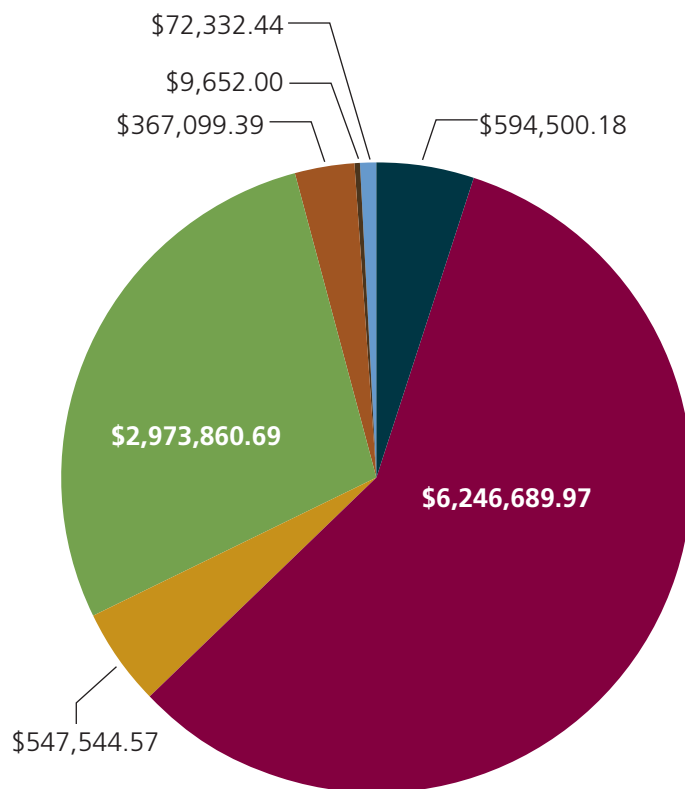
## Sources of Gifts



### 2015-2016

• Footsteps Campaign	\$2,112,439.10
• Planned Gifts	\$3,789,221.44
• Annual Gifts	\$4,376,208.93
• Grants	\$166,710.38
• Masses, Prayers, Votives	\$367,099.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,811,679.24</b>

## Gift Designations



### 2015-2016

• Unrestricted	\$594,500.18
• Education, Formation, Vocations	\$6,246,689.97
• Care for Retired Priests	\$547,544.57
• Missions	\$2,973,860.69
• Masses, Prayers, Votives	\$367,099.39
• Other	\$72,332.44
• México	\$72,332.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,811,679.24</b>



# Overview

## U.S. Province Operating Expenses - \$23.6 million



**27%**

### Member Support and Housing

Provides all basic needs to our priests, brothers, deacons, novices, postulants, and seminarians, including operational costs for all U.S. Province residences



**25%**

### Member Healthcare

Operational funding of Holy Cross House; subsidizing of dental and health insurance premiums; assisted living; support of wellness initiatives, health assessments, and development of wellness program strategies; assurance of quality health care and facilities



**15%**

### Missions and Other

Includes costs of contributing to international mission and to the annual budget of the Holy Cross Mission Center



**12%**

### Leadership and Administration

Includes all administrative and leadership costs including travel, office and staff costs, and legal and professional expenses



**10%**

### Vocations, Education and Formation

Includes all costs of vocations, our seminary and novitiate and our undergraduate seminary program at the University of Notre Dame. Also includes the cost of C.S.C.'s in pursuit of advanced studies



**4%**

### Fundraising

Includes all costs of the Office of Development, including staff, travel and the cost of the marketing and communications with U.S. Province donors



**7%**

### Property Management

Includes depreciation and costs to maintain properties and vehicles

### Thank You!

The United States Province of Priests and Brothers thanks you for your prayers and support. Your commitment and care will not only provide for our current healthcare and mission needs, but also help us educate and prepare your future Holy Cross priests and brothers.

*continued on next page*



# 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Overview

## Holy Cross Mission Center Distributions

**1%**

### Haiti

Holy Cross Mission Center coordinates special mission initiatives, like relief efforts in Haiti after the earthquake and helping rebuild Holy Cross Pere Basile Moreau School

**14%**

### South America

**The District of Chile** includes parishes and social service; lay formation; youth ministry; social justice work; outreach to abandoned and abused children in Santiago; prevention programs for the children of Santiago, city center; Family Rosary International; strong vocation program

**The District of Perú** includes Parroquia el Señor de la Esperanza (Lord of Hope Parish), in Canto Grande, Lima, serving 250,000 parishioners in one of the most impoverished areas of Lima; Colegio Fe y Alegría school which serves about 2,000 students, including pre-kindergarten, technical job training students and special education; the District began the “Yancana Huasy” project more than 30 years ago to assist the families of children with physical and mental challenges, especially Downs’ Syndrome and cerebral palsy. The District of Perú also has two houses of formation

**2%**

### Ghana

Holy Cross Mission Center maintains a special relationship with Holy Cross in Ghana, whose ministries fall under the auspices of the Midwest Province of Brothers. In this capacity, we help with their communications and fundraising which supports their formation program and educational apostolates, such as basic skills training program at Anaji and St. Brother André High School in Kasoa, Ghana

**23%**

### Bangladesh

Assisting Notre Dame University in Dhaka with fundraising needs for construction of its facilities; 13 parishes – including 10 tribal parishes – educates thousands of children; Family Rosary International is also present helping thousands of new Christians

**56%**

### East Africa

**The District of East Africa** includes Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania – a total of almost 27,000 square miles serving several thousand parishioners; four parishes: Holy Cross Parish-Dandora Community, Boma Rescue Center for children; Brother André Dispensary treats hundreds seeking medical assistance each day; Holy Cross Bugembe in Jinja, which operates St. Andrew, St. Jude and Holy Cross Primary Schools, along with a HIV/AIDS program run out of the church; Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School in Jinja; St. Jude Tadeo Parish (Kyarusozi, Fort Portal) operates Kyarusozi Vocational Training School; St. Joseph Hill Secondary School draws students from the outlying villages; St. Brendan Parish (Kitete, Tanzania), in a very remote area, operates the Audrey Veldman Vocational Training Centre and Lostete Health Care Clinic

**4%**

### Management, General and Fundraising

Staffing needs; international travel to complete missionary work; printing costs; events



## U.S. Province Endowment Composition

\$126 million



**49%**

Healthcare/  
Retirement



**30%**

Education and  
Formation



**14%**

Plant



**3%**

Missions

**Other**

**4%**

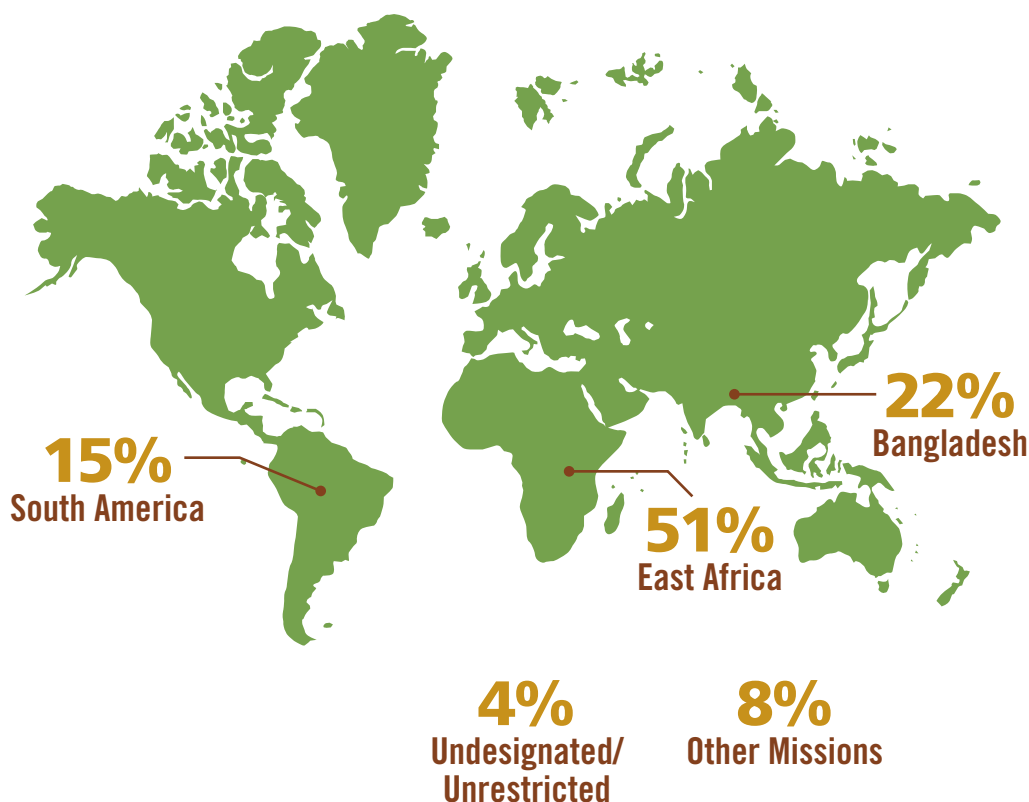
### Notes

The Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers has a general endowment that covers annual capital operating expenses, an endowment for the healthcare needs of our religious in Holy Cross House, and one specifically for education – which is used to fund the formation program and the education of the seminarians, as well as men in advanced studies.

For FAQ on our Holy Cross Endowments, please refer to the 2013-2014 annual report, page 8, at: [annualreport.holycrossusa.org](http://annualreport.holycrossusa.org)

## Holy Cross Mission Center Endowment Composition

\$41 million



### Notes

Our mission sends us across borders of every sort. Holy Cross Mission Center was established in 1923 by several brothers and priests under the leadership of Rev. Michael Mathis, C.S.C. It supports locations for which the U.S. Province has direct jurisdiction: Districts of Chile, East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), Perú and the Region of México – as well as areas with which the U.S. Province has a special relationship, for example the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province of Bangladesh and relief efforts in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

Mission Center efforts provide assistance and hospitality; health care; logistical support to members of the U.S. Province and religious from throughout the Congregation visiting the United States; scholarship awards through the Universities of Notre Dame and Portland for Holy Cross indigenous religious; and educational and volunteer opportunities with parishes and schools.



# Meet the Formation Staff

Formation is a long and incremental process. There are many steps along the way so that a man can come to understand his vocation more fully without constantly worrying about “the big decision” of whether or not God is calling him to be a priest or brother. Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province, formation programs are led by religious committed to helping men mature and develop in all areas of their discernment and formation, with the further support of talented individuals to assist in administrative matters.

In July 2016, Fr. John Herman, C.S.C., officially became the new rector and superior of Moreau Seminary, replacing Fr. Peter Jarret, C.S.C., who completed six years as rector on June 1, 2016. Fr. Jarret is now an assistant provincial residing at the Provincial House.

Previously the pastor of Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz, in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, México, Fr. Herman is now responsible for seminary formation and, essentially, for all of the people and activities that take place at Moreau Seminary. He also directs the professed program for those seminarians who have completed the novitiate, have taken temporary vows, and are formally enrolled in the Master of Divinity Program through the theology department at the University of Notre Dame.

The Assistant Superior of Moreau Seminary is Fr. John Vickers, C.S.C., who assists Fr. Herman with house activities and responsibilities. Fr. Vickers is Canadian-born and raised in the Province of Nova Scotia. He joined the formation staff in August 2015, and on July 1, 2016, he was named Assistant Superior of Moreau Seminary. ✠

## MOREAU SEMINARY

Notre Dame, Indiana



**Rev. John Herman, C.S.C.**  
Rector and Superior



**Rev. John Vickers, C.S.C.**  
Assistant Superior



**Rev. Jeff Cooper, C.S.C.**  
Postulant Director



**Rev. Nate Wills, C.S.C.**  
Formation Staff



**Rev. Charlie Kohlerman, C.S.C.**  
Formation Staff



**Rev. Peter Rocca, C.S.C.**  
Formation Staff



**Ms. Catherine Osowski**  
House Administrator



**Ms. Tami Grimsd**  
Administrative Assistant

## HOLY CROSS NOVITIATE

Cascade, Colorado



**Rev. Kenneth Molinaro, C.S.C.**  
Superior and Novice Master



**Rev. Donald Dilg, C.S.C.**  
Assistant Novice Master



**Br. James Blaszk, C.S.C.**  
Procuretor

## OLD COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE SEMINARY

Notre Dame, Indiana



**Rev. Brian Ching, C.S.C.**  
Director



**Rev. Steve Kempinger, C.S.C.**  
Assistant Director



# Vocation

## *in the Shape of the Cross*

*If you aren't vigilant, a lot of formation in the seminary can create a momentum toward navelgazing. We can get in the habit of asking ourselves constantly, "How is my prayer life, my school work, my vocation, my ministry?" Even something like community, which jostles us out of self-contemplation, is often an occasion to scrutinize ourselves: "How am I doing in community life? Am I growing? Do people like me?"*

*In short, you could fool yourself into believing that this life as a religious in Holy Cross or that life as a seminarian training to be a priest, is actually my work, and that this work is in the first place actually about me. Well it isn't!*

*We hear over and over again that, "you are the one most responsible for our own formation," and this is true! We should be doing the hard work of formation. But formation is secondary. Formation comes after and is ordered toward vocation.*

*And vocation is a pure, simple, undeserved gift. Vocation is from God. Not from us.*

*Vocation is the pathway that God puts before us that will bring us to communion with him and teach us how to love our brothers and sisters – it is the coincidence of love and sacrifice.*

*Vocation is a pathway of joy such that we can say along with Catherine of Sienna, "the way to heaven is heaven." While this road may be difficult at times, more often than not, the struggles along the journey come from our own ego, our own selfishness, and the pain of dying to ourselves. This is an encounter with the Cross, and Holy Cross preaches that even the Cross can be borne as a gift. This gift of the Cross, which wins salvation for us, and the gift of vocation, which extends this salvation, are woven tightly together.*

*One place in particular where I see these mysteries is with my community at Mass. At large Masses here at Notre Dame, we in the pews watch as dozens and dozens of Holy Cross Priests process into the Basilica in long lines of cream and gold vestments. Some of their faces are wrinkled, some still bright with youth. Some are professors, others pastors, dorm rectors, missionaries. Some stride with ease, others shuffle tired legs. But they all walk together up to the altar of God, the God of their youth.*

*This is the brotherhood I belong to.*

*If you talk to these men, they will tell you of a life in Holy Cross of joy and sacrifice, of love, pain, and adventure. They will tell you stories of the people they have come to love along the way, and of Jesus Christ, their Lord and their brother. They will tell you of the Cross of Jesus – of love and sacrifice intermingled.*

*My older brothers in Holy Cross carry all of this in their hearts and written into their faces as row after row of them bow to and kiss the altar, giving thanks to the God who invited them to this life. Watching these men shows all of us present who follow Jesus, who belong to the Church, and who prepare for a vocation to the priesthood and to religious life – it's all a gift. And the only response is Eucharistia! Thanksgiving.*

*Vocation will always have the shape of the Cross. All love will have the mark of sacrifice. We here at Moreau, who are discerning the gifts that God has given us, the life to which God calls us, have received without cost. We are preparing to live a life where we will give without cost. It is not about us – and maybe it takes years of formation to learn this. Please God, our lives will look like the life of Jesus Christ. Please God, our lives will look like the heroes of Holy Cross. Please God, our lives will be an offering of thanksgiving for the God who loved us first. ✠*



**Michael Thomas, C.S.C., is in his third year of temporary vows. He resides at Moreau Seminary where he lives in community with other Holy Cross seminarians and priests. At the same time, he is working on his M.Div. at the University of Notre Dame. Michael is originally from Lakeville, Ind.**



# Our Community in Cocoa Beach

BY REV. JAMES LACKENMIER, C.S.C. SUPERIOR OF CHRISTOPHER LODGE  
IN COCOA BEACH, FLA.



Christopher Lodge, a ten-unit apartment building on a beautiful ocean-front property, just south of Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center, was a gift to the Southern Province from a devoted Holy Cross benefactor, Mr. Robert H. Gore, in 1971. It was named for Father Christopher J. O'Toole, C.S.C., former Superior General and the first Provincial of the Southern Province. Christopher Lodge provided a location for ministry to the Space Coast Catholic Community as well as a place for retreat and vacation for members of the Southern Province.

In 1978, ownership was transferred to the Eastern province, which used the property for the same ministerial and community purposes. The Eastern Province expanded the facility, adding a community house, with a dining room, kitchen, community room, offices, a chapel and guest rooms. In 1998, an adjacent single family home was purchased which now serves as a Guest House. Following the merger of the Eastern and Indiana Provinces in 2011, Christopher Lodge became a local community of the newly named United States Province of Priests and Brothers.

Over the years, dozens of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers have ministered to the local Church, have visited for vacation, for retreat, and many have retired to Cocoa Beach after years of service. Currently, the Holy Cross community at Cocoa Beach has ten members. We are very diverse in our experience as priests and religious. We have served as parish priests, missionaries in Perú, college and high school educators, and as members of the Holy Cross administration. We continue to be active in the local Church assisting at parishes and at the nearby Patrick Air Force Base.





*Pictured during the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: celebrant Fr. Fred Serraino, C.S.C., reader Fr. Laurence Olszewski, C.S.C., and seated at right, Fr. Thomas Shea, C.S.C.*

We have a rich community life, centered on a routine of community prayer and liturgy, and community meals. We welcome neighbors and friends to join us for morning prayer and Mass. As we celebrate the Church's liturgical year, we invite a Holy Cross speaker to lead us in an Advent and Lenten day of reflection. We meet several times a year to plan our schedule and address matters of common interest.

Closely associated with Christopher Lodge are four Holy Cross Priests who serve in two Parishes. Saint John the Evangelist is a vibrant parish of the Orlando Diocese in nearby Viera, founded only fifteen years ago, which is in the process of building a new Church. St. Rita Parish, which has an active Hispanic ministry, is further away in Dade City in the St. Petersburg Diocese. The Holy Cross men of St. John's and St. Rita's come often to Christopher Lodge for community and holiday events, or for an occasional day off. During the past year the St. John parish staff met here, as did a Young Adult group for a "Theology on

Tap" session with our members.

The Holy Cross Community at Cocoa Beach is well known for its hospitality. Every year, we welcome dozens of Holy Cross visitors who visit for retreat or for a week of vacation and recreation. We have been blessed with visits from Holy Cross Priests and Brothers from India, Bangladesh, East Africa, Haiti, Chile, Perú, Brazil and México. We always ask these visitors to join us for a "community conversation," and to share with us their experience of Holy Cross ministry and community life.

For the past several years, young Holy Cross Religious have chosen our community as the place for their retreats in preparation for Final Profession and for Ordination to the diaconate and priesthood. It has been a joy to welcome them, to pray with them, to witness their enthusiasm and zeal. We hope that they see in us a community of elders who continue to be, in the words of our Holy Cross Constitutions, "Men with Hope to Bring." ✠



**REV. JAMES LACKENMIER, C.S.C.**  
SUPERIOR OF  
CHRISTOPHER LODGE,  
COCOA BEACH, FLA.

*Rev. James Lackenmier, C.S.C., was ordained a priest in 1964. He earned his BA at Stonehill College; an S.T.L. from Pontifical Gregorian University Rome; an M.A. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and an MA in English Literature at the University of Chicago. Fr. Lackenmier taught high school in Connecticut and Massachusetts and served for 25 years at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., including 18 years as president.*



# All in the Family

*Siblings in the Congregation of Holy Cross*



*Pictured clockwise, starting at far left: Fr. Leonard Banas, C.S.C., Fr. Jim Banas, C.S.C., Matthew Rehagan, Fr. Chris Rehagan, C.S.C., Fr. Tom Blantz, C.S.C., Fr. Jim Blantz, C.S.C., Fr. Bill Wack, C.S.C., and Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C.,*

**W**e often refer to our Holy Cross Community as a family — in the way we live and carry out our mission — but, in some cases, members of our Religious family are also immediate family! Believe it or not, there are currently four pairs of Holy Cross Religious and seminarians who are siblings, and many more relatives can be found in the Congregation's history.

Having just one child enter the seminary can be enough to make a devoted mother briefly feel faint — so it's easy to imagine the unique dynamic a family takes on when more than one sibling finds themselves called to this life. *Pillars* caught up with a couple honest-to-goodness brothers in Holy Cross to discover how, or if, their familial bond played a role in their discernment, and if the trajectory of their paths within the Congregation are similar.

### **Rev. Bill Wack, C.S.C. and Rev. Neil Wack, C.S.C.**

In a large, Catholic family with 10 children, it's a strong possibility one might discern a vocation to the priesthood, and, as it turns out, not a bit outrageous that a second sibling would follow. Fr. Bill Wack, C.S.C., and Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C., grew up just two blocks from Christ the King Parish, South Bend, Ind., a Holy Cross parish, where Fr. Neil would later serve as pastor! Their great uncle was also a Holy Cross Priest and the boys knew many Holy Cross Priests early in their lives, who were great examples. After Fr. Bill Wack, C.S.C., was ordained in 1994 and assigned to his first parish in Colorado Springs, his youngest brother visited him and saw his joy for ministry and

love of the Sacraments so clearly that it illuminated his own possible vocation at Moreau Seminary. Fr. Bill

went on to serve as Director of Vocations at Notre Dame, Director of André House of Hospitality in Phoenix, and pastor of St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Austin, Texas, before the Holy Father announced in May 2017, that Fr. Bill was to become Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla! (See more about his appointment on page 23).



**Left, Fr. Bill Wack, C.S.C., and Right, Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C.**

*continued on next page*



*“This family is the Congregation of Holy Cross, founded by Basil Anthony Moreau. We are a community of pontifical right: men living and working under the approbation and authority of the successor of Peter. We are a religious congregation composed of two distinct societies of clerics and of laymen bound together in one indivisible brotherhood. Ours is a common founder, tradition, rule, government, way of life and mission.”*

*(Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 1:6)*

Serendipitously in 2015, Fr. Neil became the Director of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross. When you speak with them, it's obvious how much the two enjoy each other's company and all they have in common, but you might be interested to find out in what ways their discernment differed, and how their brotherhood is strikingly similar to the brotherhood among religious who weren't raised together.

***Pillars: How did it come to be that you both not only discerned a vocation to the priesthood, but with the Congregation of Holy Cross?***

**Fr. Bill:** We were very involved at Christ the King Catholic Church in South Bend, Ind. ... as altar servers, as volunteers in the office, and just kind of all-around helpers. I know it had an impact on me, and I'm sure Neil as well. When we were discerning we thought we should give at least a cursory glance to the diocese and other orders, but, in my mind anyway, I just knew that it was going to be Holy Cross if I was going to go into formation somewhere.

**Fr. Neil:** We were only two blocks from the parish, so we grew up with Holy Cross priests. For me, it was all about big brother. We're the youngest two of the family, and we always hung out together, so when I thought I might be interested in this, it clearly was because Billy was such a great priest, and so joyful about it. With Billy as the example, it was easy to go into Holy Cross.

***Pillars: Fr. Bill, was being an example to your younger brother daunting?***

**Fr. Bill:** Actually, it wasn't anything I thought about or focused on. We love our vocation, and it's just something that as vocations director ... I thought, we've got to share this with young people. That's how we attract people - not brochures or websites - it's that love for the vocation, and that's what I did. When Neil announced that he was accepted, he kind of did it on his own. He's said it was partially because of the example, and that's very humbling and very touching, but it wasn't anything that I was setting out to do specifically.

***Pillars: How did your family react?***

**Fr. Bill:** I believe that our other eight siblings ahead of us had at one point or another toyed with the idea of religious life, or at least said it out loud. My folks maybe at first got real excited, then after that, it was just like, “Okay, alright, we'll see ...” But when I started to go on visits, do a weekend away, then was interviewed, it was kind of like, “Okay! It's getting serious ...” I was accepted, went in, and they were very supportive, but it kind of crept up on them.

**Fr. Neil:** When Billy entered, I wasn't at all interested in this life, believe it or not. It was like this strange thing the rest of us siblings couldn't possibly imagine doing. Billy and I rode our bikes to Moreau Seminary and met with Fr. André Léviellé, C.S.C., way back

when. I think Billy was a sophomore in high school and I was in eighth grade. Fr. André had a good conversation with Billy, and then turned to me and said, "Well, what do you think?" And I said, well there's no way. It's a dumb idea. But once Billy went in, for me it was like, well, of course! Billy is doing this ... we hang out together, I'm going to do this! Now, it took me ten years to be ordained, so it really was a while before it sunk in for me, but it wasn't a dumb idea after all!

### **Pillars: How does your relationship and brotherhood compare to the familial bond you have with other priests and brothers in the Congregation?**

**Fr. Neil:** I would say it depends on the person, but some of us have that close of a bond – a bond like Billy and I have, because you're in the trenches with them, and the older you get, the more you have those

shared experiences. You share a common table with each other, you are praying and recreating together, so you do end up with a pretty strong bond.

**Fr. Bill:** The one difference with Neil and I is that we have a history that goes all the way back to our earliest years, so we can laugh about things that happened when we were five, or eight or whatever. With my classmates of 26 years, we can laugh about things that happened 26 years ago in the candidate program, and we will always have that in common, but Neil and I get to go all the way back, and growing up in a large family, we were taught to be obedient, hard workers. It translated into a willingness to do whatever we are asked. We embraced that aspect of our religious life.

**Fr. Neil:** We love being priests and we love Holy Cross. Even as brothers, that is where we intersect the most and how we are reflected most in our work.

*continued on next page*

### **Bishop-Elect Fr. Bill Wack**

## **From the Heart of Texas to the Florida Panhandle**

*"I am incredibly humbled by the Holy Father's appointment to serve the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee as bishop. Now I know for sure that God is merciful, having called this sinner to serve in this capacity. The first words which came to mind when I heard of the appointment were, 'Lord I am not worthy ... but only say the Word ...'"*

*These words from Fr. Bill Wack, C.S.C., followed the announcement made by His Holiness, Pope Francis, on Monday, May 29, 2017 of the appointment of Fr. Bill as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla.*

*In accepting the appointment, Fr. Bill further shared, "I have always loved being a priest. For me there is nothing higher than the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist and the other Sacraments. Over the past 23 years, I have grown tremendously in my faith, through the very mysteries I have served. As a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, I*

*know of the power of the Cross of Christ, and the hope that it brings to all creation. We in Holy Cross strive to be "educators in the faith" wherever we go, and I am happy to continue to do this in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee."*

*Fr. Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C., Provincial Superior of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers, offered an enthusiastic response to the appointment. "Bishop-elect Wack is a gifted pastor and administrator who possesses an extremely welcoming personality. He is quick to reach out to all, is strong enough to lead and humble enough to listen. Above all,*

*he is an outstanding priest who is passionate in his faith and absolutely dedicated to serving the People of God. As his brothers in Holy Cross, we are proud of him and are united with him in prayer as he assumes this important responsibility in our Church."*

*Fr. Bill's closing comments on his appointment are an invitation which we invite you to share. "May God have mercy on us all! Please know of my prayers for you every day. At the same time, remember me in your prayers. Without your help and your prayers, I can do nothing. With God, however, all things are possible."*



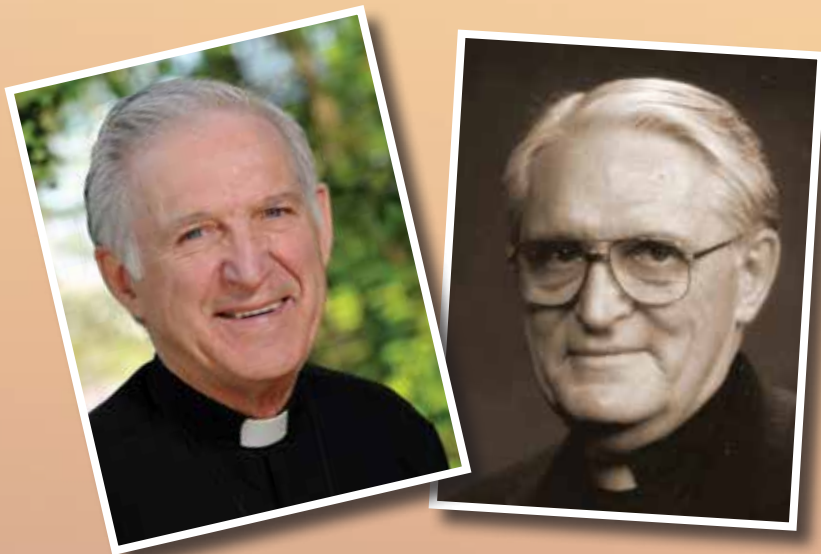
## Rev. Leonard Banas, C.S.C. and Rev. James Banas, C.S.C.\*

**Pillars: Fr. Leonard, some siblings who've entered Holy Cross have a similar timeline and experience as their ministry goes - but you and Fr. James went in quite opposite directions. Can you share a little bit of background on your and Fr. James' behalf?**

**Fr. Leonard Banas, C.S.C.:** As soon as I graduated from high school, at age 17, I came to Holy Cross Seminary, while the Second World War was still on, but cranking down. My father was very happy when he heard I was joining the seminary. My mother didn't show it, but she told me later that she wasn't all that happy about it until I was ordained.

With Jim, there was more of a reaction. Jim played the piano well and was the life of the party at family gatherings, where the whole family would gather around and sing. I never asked him about coming and it was a complete surprise when he indicated he would like to join Moreau Seminary when I was in my first year there and he was in his first year of college.

*Pictured Left,  
Fr. Leonard Banas, C.S.C.,  
and Right,  
Fr. Jim Banas, C.S.C.\**



*\*Rev. James T. Banas, C.S.C., passed away at the age of 87, as this publication went to press. Please take a moment to remember him as you read the memoriams section on page 35.*

About my third year at Moreau, I started thinking of the academics, and then my fourth year, much to my surprise, the superior called me and asked me if I'd like to study in Rome. That was the first time I felt home sick at all, yet off I went, sailing to Europe, which took ten days. And we had somebody in the prow of the ship, standing ... watching ... for mines. They hadn't cleared the ocean of those things completely. Long story short, I was ordained a half year before my class on December 20, 1952, and when I came home, I didn't even recognize my own sister! A lot can change in five years ...

I came back and got into the academic life, they immediately put me into seminary at Holy Cross Seminary to start teaching Latin, then sent me off to study at Princeton, which was very difficult, but I earned my Master's degree. I came back to the South Bend, Indiana area in the early 60s, and started teaching here at the University of Notre Dame, and just loved it. And I've always gone out to parishes on Sundays – about 40 different parishes in the area. After a time, I took a sabbatical, and when I returned, I saw a notice on the board from Elkhart, Indiana, asking for somebody to help, so I went and told the pastor of my willingness to help. That was 30 years ago and I'm now in my 31st year of assistance to the parish.

Jim entered the Old College candidate program in September of 1948, began his novitiate year the next August and professed first vows August 16, 1950. He then returned to Notre Dame and Moreau Seminary for his college work and graduated in June of 1953.

Later that summer he entered Holy Cross College, Washington, D.C. for the study of theology. Two years later he moved down the road to the Foreign Mission Seminary to prepare for service in Bangladesh and was ordained on June 5, 1957.

***“In consecrated obedience  
we join with our brothers in  
community and with  
the whole Church in the  
search for God’s will.”***

— Constitutions of the  
Congregation of Holy Cross, 5:44

His first two years of priesthood were spent assisting at Notre Dame while doing graduate work in history. After earning a master’s degree in that area in 1959 he began what was to be his life’s work at Notre Dame College in Dhaka, Bangladesh. His first assignment was to teach English (and occasionally history), which remained his life-long apostolate. He served as vice-principal, English teacher, head of the English department, as well as assistant director of the college seminary program.

As if that wasn’t enough, Jim — an excellent chef in his own right — supervised the kitchens and cooks of the seminary and residents, as well as the college, especially on major feast days and college gatherings.

As the campus expanded, Jim supervised the landscaping, arranging the gardens and shrubs on the grounds to provide a fresh green atmosphere in the heart of Dhaka. Student activities took up much of his time, including the production of three full-length plays and eight dramatic readings of plays. In the midst of all these activities, there was the regular demand to provide spiritual direction for seminarians and brothers in formation, and he was, unofficially, a driving force and entrepreneur behind 100 various social projects on the campus.

Many years ago, Jim also started a “boys home” for street children and orphans, including many who



***Above, Left, Matthew Rehagen (seminarian),  
and Right, Fr. Chris Rehagen, C.S.C.***

had grown up in Mother Teresa’s orphanages and needed a place to live and study. He also pioneered a technical school teaching basic trades and skills to poor boys and girls from the surrounding slums.

Bangladesh truly had become his home — so, Jim and I were never together — never stationed in the same place, neither in formation nor afterwards. We went completely different routes.

When I turned 70, although I didn’t have to retire from teaching, I thought there were a number of young people

*continued on next page*



*continued from page 25*

coming up who had doctorates – why not make room for them? So, I turned in my resignation to Notre Dame.

During that time, I went to visit my brother. Jim was in Bangladesh. I visited him for two weeks. We hopped on motorcycles, and he took me all across the country to different missions. We went to Nepal and Kathmandu. We joked about that because there's a temple there called the monkey temple, and there are these monkeys all over – big guys – and Jim started feeding them. Well, they're smart. They see where the food is coming from, they're not going to pick it up off the ground. So they came at Jim – and he got up and started running, with a legion of monkeys coming at him. All in all, our visit together was a nice experience, and it was good for me to have visited Jim, because Jim was not a great letter-writer. Nor was I, but I did a little better than him. He was too busy doing things! Jim was a very resourceful person – always fascinated by things and quite capable of adapting – I think that made him a good missionary.

Our three older brothers are deceased, but our two sisters are still with me. One, who is a little older than myself, lives out in California and has a cottage up in the high sierras. Over the years, both Jim and myself went out there for vacation, hiking in the mountains. The last time we made the long trip was 2015. We visited other relatives in 2016, Jim and I, making a few necessary pit stops along the way. I suppose that the time together made up for the many years we spent apart, busy in our respective ministries. ✠

## Our Many Other Current

**Fr. James Blantz, C.S.C.**, Magician, Casa Santa Cruz, Phoenix

**Fr. Thomas Blantz, C.S.C.**, Professor of History, Emeritus, University of Notre Dame

Fr. Tom Blantz, C.S.C., came to Holy Cross in high school – his brother, Fr. Jim Blantz, C.S.C., arrived after high school – and given the close time frame, you'd think they would see a great deal of each other. Yet, that difference of a year saw Fr. Jim away at the Novitiate, followed by Fr. Tom, and once both ordained a priest, Fr. Tom was off to Rome, and Fr. Jim was off to Bangladesh. So it is that they scarcely saw each other over the next 50 years. When Fr. Jim Blantz found himself on a mission trip to Uganda, surrounded by 30 kids who didn't speak English, he thought about a magic trick he knew. He took out a coin and made it vanish. And they were thrilled. Since then, he's performed magic for over 40 years, while working in parish and chaplaincy. Fr. Jim donates all his earnings from his shows back to missions like those in Uganda and Bangladesh. Fr. Tom continues to engage in historical research and writing.



*Left, Fr. Tom Blantz, C.S.C., and right, Fr. Jim Blantz, C.S.C.*

# Holy Cross Siblings

**Fr. James Lies, C.S.C.**, London Program,

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

**Fr. William Lies, C.S.C.**, Vice President for

Mission Engagement and Church Affairs, University

of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

Fr. Jim Lies, C.S.C., and Fr. Bill Lies, C.S.C., are twin brothers and Holy Cross Priests, who took a very similar path in Holy Cross, as far as their assignments and administrative duties in education go. Fr. Jim Lies, C.S.C., has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and a Master of Arts in counseling from the University of Notre Dame. Along with his twin brother, William (also a Holy Cross Priest), he was born in Little Falls, Minn., on July 4, 1962. Fr. William Lies, C.S.C., is a fellow of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, and also the liaison for Notre Dame to the Congregation of Holy Cross, the U.S. Bishops, the USCCB and its affiliates, the Holy See, and the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem.

**Fr. Christopher Rehagen, C.S.C.**,

Rector, O'Neill Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

**Matthew Rehagen,**

Seminarian, Old College Undergraduate Program, Notre Dame, Ind.

Fr. Chris and his brother Matthew, a Holy Cross Seminarian, are two of four boys, originally from Jefferson City, Mo.— Fr. Chris being the oldest. Fr. Chris attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 2009 with a double major in Finance and Economics and a Theology minor. Following graduation, he entered formation with the Congregation of Holy Cross. While in formation, he earned an M. Div. from Notre Dame and served in a variety of ministries, including hospital chaplaincy, campus ministry, parish work, and direct service to the poor. He professed his Final Vows in September 2014 and was ordained a priest in April 2015. Prior to serving as the rector of O'Neill Hall, he served as the Parochial Vicar at Christ the King Parish in South Bend, Ind. Witnessing his older brother's formation in Holy Cross, Matthew Rehagen decided to approach formation a little bit differently, by entering the Congregation through the Old College Undergraduate Program. Matthew will be a junior at Old College next year.

## More Related Holy Cross Religious Throughout History

- **Fr. Lawrence Bauer, Br. Christopher Bauer and Br. Protase Bauer**
- **Fr. Thomas Bill and Sr. Clare Bill**
- **Fr. John J. Cavanaugh and Fr. Francis Cavanaugh**
- **Fr. Thomas Conmy and Fr. Jerome Conmy** (Eastern Province)
- **Fr. James Dillon and Fr. Patrick Dillon**
- **Br. Benedict Gervais and Br. Bernard Gervais**

- **Br. Anthony Houser and Fr. Joseph Houser**
- **Fr. Jim Kelly and Sr. Cecilia Kelly**
- **Fr. Thomas McAvoy and Fr. Bernard McAvoy**
- **Fr. Walter Mihalik and Br. Eduardo Mihalik**
- **Fr. Patrick Peyton and Fr. Thomas Peyton**
- **Fr. Thomas Waldron and Br. Hugh Waldron**
- **Fr. Francis Weber and Fr. Anthony Weber**
- **Fr. John Zahm, Sister M. Angelica, and Sister M. Angelique**



# Two Men Ordained Holy Cross Priests

BY REV. NEIL WACK, C.S.C.



**T**wo new priests were ordained on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The Most Reverend Arthur J. Colgan, C.S.C., Auxiliary Bishop of Chosica (Perú), conferred the Sacrament of Holy Orders on **Rev. Michael Palmer, C.S.C., and Rev. Ryan Pietrocarlo, C.S.C.**

*Above, pictured, Left to Right, Rev. Michael Palmer, C.S.C., Bishop Arthur Colgan, C.S.C., and Rev. Ryan Pietrocarlo, C.S.C.*

In acknowledgment and celebration of their ordination, Rev. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C., Provincial Superior of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross, reminded Deacons Michael and Ryan of Constitution 5:52, that is most suitable for their unique paths within the Congregation: "We live our consecration in many lands and cultures. Our commitment is the same

wherever we are, but we seek to express it in a manner rooted in and enriched by the varying contexts and cultures in which we live. In this way, we hope to make our witness and service more effective for the kingdom." (*Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross*) "The seed of service and witness you've planted during your time in formation is now further nourished by your ordination as priests. Let now the effect

take root and continue to blossom as you carry out your ministries,” added Fr. O’Hara.

**Fr. Michael** is the fourth of seven sons of Warren and Victoria Palmer of Berkley, Mich. He entered formation with the Congregation in 2007 and professed First Vows on July 28, 2012. He served his diaconate year at Christ the King Parish in South Bend, Ind., where he continues his ministry as parochial vicar.

Prior to his Ordination as a transitional deacon, Fr. Michael served as a religious education teacher at St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend, Ind. (2010-2011); as hospital chaplain and Catholic Charities volunteer in Colorado Springs, Colo. (2011-2012); and as a novice in residence at St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Austin, Texas (2012). From 2012 to 2013, he served as a volunteer at the LOGAN Center in South Bend, Ind., then as a RCIA team member at Christ the King Catholic Church, South Bend, Ind. (2013-2014). During his pastoral year, he served as asst. hall director and campus ministry team member at the University of Portland (2014-2015). In 2015, Fr. Michael entered chaplain training at the U.S. Army Chaplain School in Fort Jackson, S.C., then served in marriage preparation at Christ the King Catholic Church, South Bend, Ind. (2015-2016). Fr. Michael earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., in 2011, and earned his M.Div. from the same in 2016.

**Fr. Ryan** is the older of two children of Joe and Karen Pietrocarlo of East Rochester, N.Y. He served his diaconate at St. Adalbert/St. Casimir Parishes in South Bend, Ind., and continues his ministry there as parochial vicar.

Prior to his diaconate year, Fr. Ryan served as a volunteer at Holy Cross House, Notre Dame, Ind. (August 2007-May 2008); as a chemistry tutor for First Year of Studies, Notre Dame, Ind. (August 2008-December 2009); as catechist at Christ the King Parish in South Bend, Ind. (August 2010-May 2011); as a volunteer at André House, Phoenix (June 2011-July 2011); as chaplain at Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs, Colo. (August 2011-July 2012); then in music ministry and as catechist at Our Lady of the Woods Parish in Woodland Park, Colo. From August 2012 to May 2013, Fr. Ryan volunteered at Stone Soup Community in South Bend, Ind., then served in marriage preparation at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, Ind. (August 2013-May 2014). Fr. Ryan served his pastoral year at Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz Parish, Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, México (July 2014-June 2015), then served in adult faith formation at St. Adalbert/St. Casimir Parishes, South Bend, Ind. (August 2015-May 2016). Fr. Ryan earned a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., in 2011 and received his M.Div. from the same in 2016. He entered formation with Holy Cross as an Old Collegian in 2007. He made his First Profession of Vows on July 28, 2012.







# Plain ! Speaking

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

*“You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand, bliss forever.”*

—*Psalm 16.11*

The family stories in this issue of *Pillars* are really interesting. I know Holy Cross has in the past had many siblings as part of the community. A part of me has always wondered how the parents reacted to the thought of two or more children entering religious life. On the one hand they give their child their blessing, but on the other: “Omigosh, no grandkids to carry on the family name!” That’s a real sacrifice for those folks.

My three siblings are happily married, and their children are either married or show no inclination for religious life. But there was some influence from the Holy Cross family that led me to the community. I was born and raised in Lancaster, Pa., and there were three Holy Cross men from that city: Fr. Bernard Ransing, C.S.C., Bro. Elmo Bransby, C.S.C., and Br. Clem Burger, C.S.C. Two young Lancastrians were in the Little Sem: Dan and John Schick, but they left before their novitiate year.

And then there were those wonderful Sisters of the Holy Cross who staffed St. Anthony’s School. I believe that ultimately they were the ones responsible for getting me here. How did that come about?

In sophomore year of high school, I

applied to the seminary for the Diocese of Harrisburg. Although the tests and interviews were passed with flying colors, ultimately the powers that be decided not to accept me because I had been deaf since age 7. Those were the days when a priest had to be a “whole person”, i.e., no physical defects.

After getting over the disappointment, application was made to three religious communities; all had the same negative

*“God will get  
you where  
you’re needed!”*

—*Fr. Herb Yost, C.S.C.*

response. By this time the good Sisters had gotten wind of what I was doing. Some of them encouraged me to think of Holy Cross, and a couple wrote letters to the Vocation Director at the time, Fr. William Melody, C.S.C. Fr. Ransing helped too. To make a long story short, I was accepted provisionally (they wanted to be sure my hearing wouldn’t be a barrier

to studies and ministry). So I entered the Little Sem in 1964, and I’m still here!!

The moral of the story: God gets us where we’re needed. That has been true not only of my entry into Holy Cross, but in every assignment I’ve had over the years. Not only was I able to meet needs in the particular assignment, but there were many graces and blessings that I needed to receive to facilitate my own growth.

There is a special gratitude to the Lord because I’ve been able to use my story to help others. Over the years of working with Holy Cross Association, there were numerous letters from parents or grandparents unhappy that their child was not admitted to Notre Dame. Sometimes the sadness was over a job application, or a religious choice by the child, or a career choice. In every case, I was able to share my story and say: “God will get you where you’re needed!” It was gratifying to read later letters from disgruntled parents that their child had succeeded beautifully in their second or third college choice, or that things had worked out better than expected for a job or move! ✠

# Around Province

## UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

More than 700 University of Notre Dame students, faculty, staff and alumni were among the participants in the 2017 March for Life on January 27 in Washington, D.C. ① Notre Dame priests performed a “Blessing and Sending” before buses carrying the Notre Dame contingent departed from Stepan Center. The Notre Dame march participants included University president, Fr. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. Fr. Jenkins also presided at a Mass for the Notre Dame marchers at St. Agnes Church in Arlington, VA.

The University of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) has embarked upon a new partnership with the American In-

dian Catholic Schools Network (AICSN). The collaboration allows ACE to work with the staffs of five Catholic mission schools and help the 1,300 students and their families along their educational journeys. “This is an opportunity that fits beautifully with our mission of transforming Catholic schools, particularly for under-represented students,” said Fr. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., the Hackett Family Director of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives. “We are working with AICSN to strengthen and sustain schools that offer the best educational opportunities for the children they serve.” The partnership started Jan. 1 and is funded by a grant from the Better Way Foundation. ACE is working with AICSN to provide professional development, build



governance structures for the network and grow the enrollments of the schools.

More than 700 students, administrators, faculty, staff and guests gathered late January 16 in the University of Notre Dame’s Main Building Rotunda for a candlelight prayer service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. University President Fr. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., led the group in prayer and reflection on the life and words of King. Fr. Jenkins opened the service with the following prayer:

“Dear Lord, we stand together before you, as people have for countless generations in hope, in sorrow, in joy, and in pain. Help us, we pray, as we look back at the life and words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: May we also look forward with determination. May our celebration tonight and this week propel us. May it motivate us. May it energize us. May it unite

us in a commitment to respect and admire and learn from what makes each of us unique, and beloved, and chosen by you, our loving and merciful God. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus.” A candlelit procession to the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue followed the prayer service, which was sponsored by the Office of the President, Campus Ministry and the President’s Oversight Committee on Diversity.

## UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

For the seventh consecutive year, the University of Portland was the top Oregon school in Kiplinger’s Personal Finance annual ranking of best values in its private universities category for 2017. The University of Portland was ranked 58th nationwide among all private universities.

Sr. Sue Bruno, O.S.F., Fields Hall Director at the University

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## Around Province

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of Portland, was formally honored as a recipient of the 2016 Spirit of Holy Cross Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, upon its lay collaborators. For the past five years, Sr. Sue Bruno of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, Ill, has served as the University's Fields Hall Director and has made a significant impact on both students and colleagues alike. "Sr. Sue has been a faith-filled and extraordinary collaborator with Holy Cross at the University of Portland and at the University of Notre Dame," according to **Fr. John Donato, C.S.C.**, vice president for student affairs. "For twenty years she has given herself entirely to the service and support of her resident students, truly knowing and understanding them and providing a great example of religious life. She has led the Encounter with Christ retreats, been a formation staff member for seminarians, and quite simply, has been an excellent friend to so many of us. Sr. Sue and I are in our fifth year of service in Fields Hall and I could not be more proud of her. I am honored to call her my colleague and friend."

Several years ago, **Fr. Richard Berg, C.S.C.**, was asked to serve as pastor at Portland's Downtown Chapel (now St. André Bessette Catholic

Church). It was there he found his calling of urban outreach to its poor and mentally ill residents. Fr. Berg interviewed a group of nine active duty military veterans undergoing treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. His intention was to write about their personal suffering and the impact of PTSD on their personal relationships, and ultimately to develop a program to help family members and the public understand what combat veterans were going through. Using material from his interviews, Fr. Berg wrote a fictional story incorporating the soldiers' stories and his own research. The resulting novel, *Scars*, published by Corby Books, Lakeville, Ind., was published in 2013. Fr. Berg's novel was well received and he was encouraged to take the story to a wider audience. *Scars* was converted to a stage play by scriptwriter Roccie Hill and producer John Beaulieu and premiered on January 24 at Lakewood Center for the Arts in Lake Oswego, Ore. It is hoped that *Scars* will be adapted for the silver screen as well!

For the 22nd consecutive year, the University of Portland has received a top-ten ranking by *U.S. News & World Report*. The University is 7th out of 124 institutions listed in the "Regional Universities - West" classification. Among notable

measures in the rankings was the University's exceptional 90% first-year retention rate and an annual graduation rate of 78%.

### STONEHILL COLLEGE

On Monday, January 16, Groundskeeper Ken Percy received the Spirit of Holy Cross Award from the **Congregation of Holy Cross, U.S. Province of**

once the metal roof supports were raised, it became clear that the neighborhood had a new landmark as the structure towers over its surroundings. While there have been several updates to the original plans, perhaps most significant has been the construction of several classrooms underneath the structure's bleachers. These classrooms will allow



**Priests and Brothers.** At Stonehill since 1978, he was honored for faithfully serving the Holy Cross mission of making God known, loved and served in an educational setting.

### LATIN AMERICA (Districts of Perú and Chile, Region of México)

Work on the Perú Pavilion is coming along right on schedule with approximately 65-70% of the project already completed. ② This includes the facility's bleacher-style seating, stage area, along with its kitchen and restrooms. Without a doubt the most visible change over the last month has been the roof taking shape high above the ground. In fact,

the school to achieve a long standing goal of switching from its current double-sessions format to a single daily session for all 2,000 students. The Pavilion is expected to be completed by year's end.

On Friday, January 6, 2017, five Holy Cross Novices from the Holy Cross Novitiate in Huaycán, Perú, made their First Professions of Religious Vows in the Congregation. The First Profession class represents all four countries in which Holy Cross serves in Latin America: Brazil (2 newly professed), Chile (1 newly professed), México (1 newly professed), and Perú (1 newly professed). The five newly professed are: **Mr. Jose (Junior)**



3



4

Soares da Silva Filho, C.S.C., of Brazil; **Mr. Jim Marvin Gutierrez Agurto, C.S.C.**, of Perú; **Mr. Reynaldo Rosario Gonzalez Ortiz, C.S.C.**, of México; **Mr. Osvaldo Juan Melin Cortéz, C.S.C.**, of Chile; and **Mr. Valman Fernandes Barbosa, C.S.C.**, of Brazil. In essence, the young men have been preparing for their First Profession since the moment they were formally received into the Novitiate on January 7, 2016. Throughout the year, they were shepherded in their formation by **Fr. John**

**Phalen, C.S.C.**, Novice Master, and **Br. John Tryon, C.S.C.**, Assistant Novice Master. The **Most Rev. Arthur J. Colgan, C.S.C.**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Chosica, presided at the Mass. The **Most Rev. Jorge Izaguirre, C.S.C.**, Bishop Prelate of the Territorial Prelature of Chuquibamba, concelebrated the First Profession Mass.

On Saturday, May 27, the United States Province dedicated the new house of formation in Chile which provides formation for our men from

Chile, Perú, Brazil, Haiti, and México. Construction began last fall and the project was completed on time and on budget. The new house ③ has 20 rooms for men in formation, four rooms for staff and other finally professed religious, and two guest rooms. The bulk of the building's space is dedicated to the communal areas, including the chapel, library, kitchen, dining room, community room, classrooms, and conference room.

**Fr. Bob Epping, C.S.C.**, Superi-

or General of the Congregation of Holy Cross, presided at the dedication with Mass in Nuestra Señora de Santa Cruz (Our Lady of Holy Cross) chapel. ④ Also in attendance were Fr. Tom O'Hara, C.S.C., Provincial Superior and Fr. Rick Wilkinson, C.S.C., Assistant Provincial, who were also there for a Provincial Visit. Fr. Mike DeLaney, C.S.C., Director of the Holy Cross Mission Center, and many other Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters were also present.

### DISTRICT OF EAST AFRICA

On the heels of its largest Final Vows class ever in June 2016, the Congregation of Holy Cross's District of East Africa celebrated its largest priestly Ordination class ever on January 7, 2017. The nine men ordained were: **Fr. Patrick Opere Okuthe, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Dennis Lule Kaddu, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Lawrence Mwenya, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Oswald Nkyanungi, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Robert Ssali, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Richard Nsubuga, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Caxton Peter Mayanja, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Henry Senteza Kajubi, C.S.C.**; and **Fr. John Baptist Nsubuga, C.S.C.**

The class drew a large crowd of over 2,000 to the Ordinations, including family members and friends of the nine men ordained as well as many of their confreres in the District of East Africa (Kampala, Uganda), led by District Superior **Fr. Patrick Neary, C.S.C.** Representing the General Administration was **Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C.**, Vicar General and First General Assistant. Fr. Neary has known this Ordination class since

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## Around Province

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their arrival at McCauley Formation House in July 2011.

On Saturday, October 22, the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated the joyous dedication and blessing of the new McCauley House of Formation in Nairobi, Kenya, which houses the District of East Africa's Post-Novitiate Formation Program. Joining the men in formation and **Fr. Cyprian Binaka, C.S.C.**, Superior of the McCauley House of Formation, for the festivities, were **Fr. Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C.**, Superior of the United States Province (Notre Dame, Indiana); **Br. Zaydak, C.S.C.**; **Fr. Patrick Neary, C.S.C.**, Superior of the District of East Africa (Kampala, Uganda); **Fr. E. William Beauchamp, C.S.C.**, Assistant Superior and Steward of the United States Province; and **Fr. David T. Tyson, C.S.C.**, Former Superior of the United States Province. Many other Holy Cross Religious, including many Holy Cross sisters, as well as the architects, engineers, and contractors who were so crucial in the construction of the new house, were also present for the Mass and the luncheon and festivities that followed.

Thanks in large part to our donors, we have continued to witness steady progress on the Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School - Musima Campus construction. 5 The current phase of construction covers classrooms, laboratories



and the library. Construction has reached the second floor and provisions for physically challenged students have been made, including ramps.

We are currently working with the lead architect to complete the drawing of all plans for all buildings throughout every phase of construction. We look forward to sharing drafts of the assembly hall, dining hall, kitchen and girls' dormitory when they become available.

For more information on Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School and our Musima Campus project, please visit **Lake View**. [holycrossusa.org](http://holycrossusa.org).

### AVE MARIA PRESS

In late 2016, Ave Maria Press released *Joined by Grace*, a new, mentor-based marriage preparation program. It is the first program that emphasizes the connection between marriage and the other six Sacraments. Ave has been a leader in marriage ministry for almost 50 years with *Together for Life*, which helps couples plan their wedding liturgy. The new program helps couples prepare beyond the wedding day. Written by marriage experts John and Teri Bosio, and produced by the Emmy-win-



ning Spirit Juice Studios, *Joined by Grace* provides parish leaders, mentor couples, and engaged couples the most comprehensive, innovative, and up-to-date marriage preparation program for Catholic

parishes today. **Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C.**, director of the Office of Vocations, is among the pastoral ministry experts featured in the video portion of the series. You can learn more about the *Joined by Grace* program at [JoinedbyGrace.com](http://JoinedbyGrace.com). ✠

# In Memory

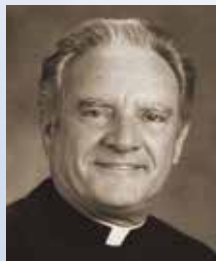
*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest ...” (Mt. 11:28)*

The prayers of the members of the Congregation and the usual suffrages of the Religious of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers are requested for the repose of the souls of our religious who've passed away since spring of 2016.



**REV. JOSEPH F. GENIESSE, C.S.C.**

Sept. 30, 1930 – Jun. 28, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1955  
Ordained: Oct. 27, 1957



**REV. WILLIAM G. CONDON, C.S.C.**

Jun. 30, 1934 – Jul. 3, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1958  
Ordained: Jun. 1, 1961



**BR. RONALD G. WHELAN, C.S.C.**

Oct. 10, 1932 – Jul. 4, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1955



**BR. JOHN J. PLATTE, C.S.C.**

Mar. 12, 1929 – Aug. 3, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1955



**REV. J. ROBERT RIOUX, C.S.C.**

Jun. 19, 1924 – Sept. 2, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1953  
Ordained: Jun. 8, 1956



**BR. LOUIS F. HURCIK, C.S.C.**

Jul. 8, 1933 – Sept. 23, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1955



**REV. RUDOLPH V. CARCHIDI, C.S.C.**

Jun. 30, 1927 – Sept. 24, 2016  
Final Vows: Sept. 12, 1952  
Ordained: Jun. 4, 1955



**REV. JAMES J. MCGRATH, C.S.C.**

Oct. 30, 1931 – Oct. 24, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1954  
Ordained: Jun. 5, 1959



**REV. JOSEPH P. BROWNE, C.S.C.**

Jun. 12, 1929 – Oct. 30, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1952  
Ordained: Jun. 4, 1955



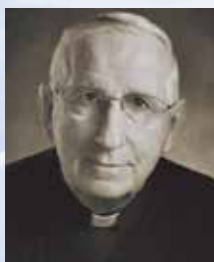
**BR. THOMAS P. TUCKER, C.S.C.**

Feb. 1, 1935 – Nov. 20, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1959



**REV. RONALD J. WASOWSKI, C.S.C.**

Mar. 31, 1946 – Dec. 5, 2016  
Final Vows: Feb. 10, 1973  
Ordained: Jun. 2, 1973



**REV. DONALD J. HAYCOCK, C.S.C.**

Feb. 19, 1930 – Dec. 9, 2016  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1956  
Ordained: Nov. 30, 1958



**REV. JAMES E. KELLY, C.S.C.**

Apr. 30, 1931 – Feb. 16, 2017  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1956  
Ordained: Jun. 4, 1958



**REV. JAMES T. BANAS, C.S.C.**

Apr. 1, 1930 – May 25, 2017  
Final Vows: Aug. 16, 1953  
Ordained: Jun. 5, 1957

*“May he rest in the peace of Christ.”*

For more information on the life and ministries of each Holy Cross priest above, please visit [www.holycrossusa.org/obituariesall/](http://www.holycrossusa.org/obituariesall/).

Memorial contributions in honor of our Holy Cross priests and brothers, and in support of the mission and ministries of the Congregation of Holy Cross can be made by using the envelope inserted in this magazine.

Thank you for your prayers and support!





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*Photo: Stained glass window, Moreau Seminary Chapel.*

