Dear friends,

I hope you are well these winter days... wherever your life finds you. I am happy to be reaching out to you today. Doesn’t it feel like Christmas has barely passed and we are already anticipating the season of Lent that will soon be upon us? In the face of the flying of time, this quiet, interim winter moment, seems to me, a nice time to catch up with you all.

Even—and perhaps especially—in this time of year, our ministries are growing, changing and bearing much fruit. In the pages and images that follow, we want to share some of this with you. We’ll also offer here some personal reflections on our Constitutions from a few of our religious. The Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, which guide us in all we do, are as much for us an invitation to prayerful reflection as they are a rule of life. Interestingly, as beautiful as they are, they are rarely shared outside the membership of Holy Cross. This surprises me and I would like to change that a bit. So, with this Pillars, we share some bits of our constitution and some reflections on how we think about God’s call, our mission, brotherhood, and more. It makes sense to me that we would share this with you as our Constitutions—as in the one immediately below—often refer to all of you, the ones who accompany us in our efforts.

“Our commitment is an invitation for our fellow Christians to fulfill their vocation, and for ourselves it is a concrete way of working with them for the spread of the Gospel and with all for the development of a more just and human society.” (Constitution, 1:7)

This great band of men I’m privileged to live, witness and walk with has always worked side by side with friends and collaborators who also leave great footsteps in their following of Christ. You are the great band of lay faithful who accompany us on our way to the Father and to building His Kingdom on earth. You have given of your time, treasure and talents, and prayed with and for us, as we have prayed for you. We are so grateful for this relationship we have.

Because none of this could happen without your support and friendship, we share here not only our constitutions and how we attempt to faithfully live them, but we offer too an overview of the financials for fiscal year 2018-2019. Your support allows us to serve God’s people as we would hope. As we work together for a more just and human society and together spread the Gospel, I thank you on behalf of the entire province for all of the ways you accompany us. We are in this together and can only complete the work of salvation together. May God bring to completion all that He has begun in us. God bless you well.

Yours,

Rev. William M. Lies, C.S.C.,
Provincial Superior

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From the Provincial Superior

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Provincial Superior
Rev. William M. Lies, C.S.C.
Assistant Provincial; Vicar
Rev. Peter A. Jarret, C.S.C.
Assistant Provincial; Steward
Rev. Mark B. Thesing, 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.

On the Cover
Sunrise in winter over Old College on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.
Photo by Matt Cashore.
Inside

Constitutions
Of the Congregation of Holy Cross
4

Fiscal Year Overview
2018-2019
12

Donor Reflection
The Sebesta Family
17

Our Community
in Phoenix
Casa Santa Cruz
24

Also in this Issue

11 Faith for the Journey - Impact Story
18 Holy Cross Mission Center Updates
20 Formation/Vocations
29 Holy Cross Family Ministries
30 Around the Province
35 In Memory

Ave Maria Press
Updates
26
The constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross are both a rule of life for the individual members and a plan of organization and governance for the whole community. First approved by the Holy See in 1857, they have been amended and rewritten several times since. After the Second Vatican Council, all religious communities in the Catholic Church were told to revise their constitutions to bring them into conformity with the decrees of the Council and the Code of Canon Law. The present constitutions were completely rewritten after the Council. Only a general chapter of the Congregation can change or amend the constitutions and changes must then be approved by the Vatican Office for Religious Communities and Secular Institutes. The present Holy Cross constitutions received the approval of the Holy See in 1988. There have been several amendments since then.

There are eight constitutions in all, divided into 122 articles. In addition, there are 149 statutes, which function as by-laws for implementation of the constitutions. These can be changed by a general chapter without Vatican approval.

To read all of the Constitutions of the Congregation, visit the Province website at https://www.holycrossusa.org/article/holy-cross-constitutions/.

The Congregation of Holy Cross grew out of a union of the Brothers of St. Joseph founded by Father Jacques Dujarié in 1820 and the Auxiliary Priests of Le Mans, France, founded by Blessed Basile Moreau in 1835. Because of Dujarié’s failing health, Moreau was named by the bishop of Le Mans as the superior of both groups, and in 1837, he joined them together. The group took its name, not from its special devotion, but from the neighborhood (Sainte-Croix/Holy Cross) in Le Mans that was its administrative center. The brothers were teachers in parish schools. The priests preached parish missions and assisted pastors who needed help. Their original mission was to revive the Church in France after the French Revolution. In time, it became a missionary community sending members beyond the borders of France to Africa, North and South America, and India. A distinguishing characteristic of the Congregation is laymen and ordained men in the same community and sharing equally in its governance.
Fr. James Connelly, C.S.C., serves as a congregational archivist for the Congregation of Holy Cross. He received both his B.A. (1960) and M.A. (1968) in history from Notre Dame. He also received an S.T.B (1963) from Gregorian University and a Ph.D. (1977) from the University of Chicago in the History of Christianity. He has taught at many institutions, including King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, PA (1972-76); Alokolum National Seminary, Gulu, Uganda (1977-1980); and the University of Portland, Portland, OR, (1993-2009.) He has served as an archivist for the Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross (1980-1993) and for the Congregation of Holy Cross (2005-present.) He also served as religious superior at Holy Cross House (2009-2015.) Father Connelly edited for publication Father Edward Sorin’s The Chronicles of Notre Dame du Lac (Notre Dame Press, 1992), and is the author of The University of Portland: A Century of Teaching, Faith and Service (U.P. Press, 2001) and Basil Moreau and the Congregation of Holy Cross (Portland: Garaventa Center, 2007) and other publications.
God’s Call  
**by Rev. Dennis Strach, C.S.C.**

I oftentimes call to mind Constitution 1 in the context of the Eucharist. When we celebrate Mass and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we sacramentally embody our response to God’s call: “Follow me.”

As Mass begins, we sign ourselves with the Cross, our surest hope, and in light of the promise of resurrection that our baptism brings, we call to mind our sins. Confident of God’s call that incorporates us into this family of the Church, we invoke all those who have walked this way before us in the Communion of Saints (the Confiteor) as we pray for God’s mercy. In the proclamation of the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to our hearts and calls us once more, just as He called His people throughout salvation history. The Word proclaimed calls to us: “Follow me.” Not despite it, but precisely because of the fact that we find it within ourselves to hold back, the Word is made flesh. In this gift of the Eucharist, we receive the very life of God. As we say “Amen,” we elect to become what we receive. Finally, we are sent to give away the gift we have received. Once again, we respond to the gift of God’s call, not by “trying harder” or developing our own solutions to our inadequacies, but by recognizing that this call belongs to the Lord. Only by abandoning ourselves to His call, only by giving away the very gift that we’ve received, is the gift fully realized.

This is true of our vocation in Holy Cross, and it is true for each one of us who bear the name of Christ.

*Fr. Dennis Strach, C.S.C., is associate director, Office of Vocations, for the Congregation of Holy Cross, U.S. Province. Fr. Dennis grew up in Rochester Hills, Mich., and came to the Congregation of Holy Cross after earning his bachelor’s degree in music from Oakland University. Prior to his role in vocations, he served for four years as the parochial vicar of St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. Fr. Dennis was ordained a priest on April 2, 2016. He is the priest-in-residence at the University of Notre Dame in Knott Hall.*

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Mission  
**by Rev. Matt Kuczora, C.S.C.**

Every resident in Dunne Hall, home to 221 men at Notre Dame, knows Constitution 2. At least they know one line from it: the competence to see and the courage to act. This phrase is our hall’s motto and it informs all we do.

“For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act.” *Constitution, 214.*

It’s on our t-shirts and my rector email signature line. It’s also the theme of our hall retreat, which averages over 100 participants each year and includes four talks that punctuate the weekend together: Competence, Courage, Vision, Action. In short, for us, this line means that we must know what trouble looks like and then have the guts to do something about it.

Our mascot is the Sentinel. Like a watchman on the wall, we must be able to spot a dire situation from afar, perhaps one that isn’t so clear and then raise the alarm to get help. In a college dorm, that might mean spotting when a friend is sad, dejected or even suffering from depression. It could look like recognizing someone who is intoxicated, a dating relationship that has become toxic, or wherever injustice dwells. From there, we intervene, bring in experts, or throw ourselves into the fray on behalf of those in need.

*Fr. Matt Kuczora, C.S.C., is the rector of Dunne Hall, on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Fr. Matt attended Notre Dame graduating in 2005 with a degree in Accountancy and again in 2011 from the M.Div. program. Before coming to campus, Fr. Matt worked in Monterrey, Mexico as the Director of Vocations for Holy Cross in Mexico and as the Director of the Postulant Seminarian Program there. He is originally from Marion, Ind.*
Prayer by Rev. Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C.

Prayer is the very air our soul breathes, but we need to breathe deeply. We may think that we invite ourselves to pray, but we are invited by God before we ever thought of coming to prayer. Just as communication is the life-blood of a loving marriage, so prayer must be the life of everyone seeking to love God. In a religious community, such as the Congregation of Holy Cross, the importance and the delight of prayer give life to its ministry. We cannot talk of God unless we are also talking to God. One must catch the ball before one can throw it.

St. Paul urges us to “pray always.” We can learn to be aware of our breathing and listen to the silence of contemplation. Although we are not part of God, we can learn to be aware that we are never apart from God. No matter where we are or when, God is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. Our prayer, as described in Constitution 3, is our way of life, a way of life we must diligently practice every day of our life.

Fr. Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C., is Professor Emeritus, Program of Liberal Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He holds an S.T.L. degree in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a Ph.D. in literature from Duke University. He has taught literature at the University of Portland, been Director of Novices, taught in the Great Books Program at the University of Notre Dame, and authored several books.

Brotherhood by Br. James Henke, C.S.C.

We live in an alienated world. Since the days of Cain and Abel, humanity has found it easier to draw divides than to come together as brothers and sisters. And, if we look at ourselves honestly, we will find that we, too, both experience and contribute to that alienation. The reality of alienation does not magically disappear for a Holy Cross religious. Yet, the brotherhood we share challenges us to begin living a new reality—one in which we recognize that we belong together. This does not mean we will never have our squabbles; we will continue to be a community with varying opinions, experiences, and passions. But as we grow deeper into our brotherhood, we recognize that all these things are but furnishings and that nothing can separate us from Him whom we share—Jesus Christ. The bond we share in Jesus runs deeper than any of our differences.

As I move forward in formation in Holy Cross, our constitution on brotherhood challenges me to love each of my brothers in the recognition that we do indeed belong together. Our striving to live this life of brotherhood in Holy Cross “will then be a sign in an alienated world”—a sign that points toward the brotherhood we all share.

Br. James Henke, C.S.C., is a second year professed scholastic, who is originally from Greenwood, Ind. He attended the University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate before transferring to the Old College Undergraduate Seminary. Br. Henke is currently living at Moreau Seminary and working to complete his M.Div. at the University of Notre Dame.

It was a call that came to us from without, but also one that arose up within us, as from His Spirit. (Constitution, 1:4)
Consecration and Commitment

“Fidelity to our vows is the basis and foundation of the whole structure of Holy Cross ...”
—Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.

Through my years as Novice Master at Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colorado, I have learned that there are many ways of speaking about the vows we profess as consecrated religious but none more poignant or more beautifully stated than our Constitution 5: Consecration and Commitment. Our Commitment is to freely and generously offer to God all that we have and all that we are. A commitment made out of love for the One who called and loved us first, who accepts and consecrates our self-gift, giving us the graces needed to live in loving response to the Spirit’s indwelling presence with and in us.

“We accept the Lord’s call to pledge ourselves publicly and perpetually as members of the Congregation of Holy Cross by the vows of consecrated celibacy, poverty and obedience ...” (C5:43)

Through our vows we commit ourselves to seek whole-hearted intimacy with God (Celibacy), trusting dependence on God (Poverty), and willing surrender to God (Obedience).

In Constitution 6, we are then reminded:

“We pronounce our vows in a moment, but living them for the sake of the kingdom is the work of a lifetime. That fulfillment demands of us more than the mere wish, more even than the firm decision. It demands the conversion of our habits, our character, our attitudes, our desires.” (C6:57)

We are called to faithfulness to who we are and what we must be about as consecrated religious. This conversion is indeed the work of a lifetime.

It is said of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, when a young man once asked her to pray that he be successful, replied, “No, I will not pray that you be successful ... but I will pray that you will always be faithful!”

That call to faithfulness is foundational in living the vowed life. As our formula in professing our vows concludes:

“May the God who allows and invites me To make this commitment Strengthen and protect me To be faithful to it.” (C5:53)

Fr. Kenneth Molinaro, C.S.C., is superior and novice master of the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colo. After making his Novitiate in Bennington, Vt., he returned to the University of Notre Dame and earned a degree in sociology in 1971. He went on to earn Certificate Endorsement as a Reading Specialist from the National College of Education in 1973 and a graduate degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame in 1976 before his ordination to the priesthood on September 4, 1976. Fr. Ken then served as principal of Sacred Heart School in Winnetka, Ill., Christ the King School in South Bend, Ind., and Notre Dame High School in Niles, Ill. Prior to becoming Novice Master, Fr. Ken served as Assistant Provincial and Vicar for the Indiana/USA Province and Secretary of the Provincial Council.

In consecrated celibacy we wish to love with the freedom, openness and availability that can be recognized as a sign of the kingdom. (Constitution, §44)
Constitution 6

Formation and Transformation  by Rev. John Herman, C.S.C.

When I think of our Holy Cross program of initial formation of our seminarians and brothers, I think of Jesus, who as Constitution 6: Formation and Transformation reminds us “... spent long days alone with His disciples, speaking to them of the mysteries of His kingdom and forming them to the point when they too could be sent on His mission.” (56) We are an apostolic religious community seeking to imitate Jesus in preparing our men in formation well for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead of them in ministry in our educational apostolates, our parishes and our missions. Our formation program seeks to help our men “... be created anew to the point where we can say, ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.’” (59) We are blessed to have a very good number of quality young men coming to us for formation. Our program provides structure and guidance for our men to be converted more and more to Christ, as we seek to help each man “... assume appropriate responsibility for his formation...” (74) We seek to provide a solid foundation in the human, spiritual, intellectual, pastoral and communal dimensions of their lives to open them to continued growth throughout their lives in their vocations as Holy Cross priests and brothers.

Fr. John Herman, C.S.C., is rector and religious superior at Moreau Seminary, the Congregation of Holy Cross’ major religious seminary. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at the University of Detroit prior to entering formation in Holy Cross. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 22, 1995. Prior to serving at Moreau Seminary, Fr. John served the Congregation as the rector of O’Neill Hall and a campus minister at the University of Notre Dame, as the pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Ariz., and then as pastor of Nuestra Madre Santisima de la Luz Parish, in Gualalupe, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Authority and Responsibility  by Rev. James Lackenmier, C.S.C.

Authority in Holy Cross is tied to community life and the vow of obedience.

Constitution 7 begins by telling us that we are all in this together. Our common life and mission suppose that we deliberate and decide together in local, provincial and general meetings and in the governing councils which exist at those levels. We seek God’s will together, so that in matters that touch us all, we can be drawn “toward unity of thought, sentiment and action.”

We are told to be “frank and respectful.” We are told that the Spirit can speak through any of us. It is a matter of our vow of obedience that we are all expected to contribute and to respond, that we all take responsibility for the common good.

There is another level of authority. Constitution 7 calls it “a ministry among us and to us, vested in our superiors.” In Holy Cross, the superior’s responsibility is first of all “to preach and to witness the gospel to his confreres,” to help them hear God’s call.

The superior “presides” in the community. While everyone is responsible for the community’s life, the superior coordinates and assists everyone to contribute and to respond to the common good.

The superior is also a “pastor.” He is concerned for the welfare of every member. “He owes us encouragement, gratitude, correction, solicitude, and whatever else each one may need.” The superior tries to develop a shepherd’s heart. “Superior” is a title, not a descriptor. In Holy Cross, the superior is a brother among brothers, “tasked with a ministry among us and to us.”

Ordained a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross in December 1964, Fr. James Lackenmier, C.S.C., has been devoted to the ministry of education. He arrived at the King’s College campus in 1974, serving as the college chaplain and later as the director of development before becoming president and local superior. He also served as local superior in Cocoa Beach, Fla., before returning to the midwest to serve as local superior of Fatima House, Notre Dame, Ind.
Our mission is the Lord’s and so is the strength for it. We turn to him in prayer that he will clasp us more firmly to himself and use our hands and wits to do the work that only he can do. Then our work itself becomes a prayer: a service that speaks to the Lord who works through us. (Constitution, 2:20)

The Cross, Our Hope  
by Rev. Louis DelFra, C.S.C.

Our Scriptures, like our lives in ministry, are punctuated frequently by seemingly hopeless situations. From Noah awakening on the fortieth straight day of the flood and gazing out on nothing but endless water; to Abraham walking alongside Isaac, the heir of the Covenant, yet who carries upon his shoulders the wood on which he will be sacrificed. From the anonymous friends of a paralyzed man, who carry him about Galilee on his stretcher, day after day; to the courageous and terrified women who stand at the foot of Jesus’ cross. It would not be difficult for each of us to add examples from the suffering we often encounter among those to whom we minister in Holy Cross.

And yet ... Noah sends out a bird over the endless waters. Abraham spots a ram in the thistle. The men carrying the paralyzed hear of a healer, climb a roof, and begin pulling up tile. The women prepare burial spices and venture vulnerably into the Sunday dawn. Again, it is not difficult for each of us to recall how we, too, have encountered despair and, for some mysterious reason, been moved to action.

What can explain such movements — what, but the gift of hope? We are indeed “men with hope to bring.” Thankfully, this hope is neither self-generated, nor the logical response to the facts of any desperate situation. We are “men with hope to bring” because we are recipients of a divine gift, which compels us to believe that the inevitable darkness and suffering we encounter in our lives is not the final fact. In Jesus Christ, to whom we have consecrated our lives in Holy Cross, God has blessed us with a stirring in our hearts, that swells into a conviction, and then bursts forth in our action, announcing to all: today, Light will shine in our darkness! The Cross, indeed, has become the source of our hope! 🙏
Q: Please tell us about your journey to the U.S.

Coming to America is one of the biggest gifts from God. I was attending Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School in Uganda. My peers and I learned everything from agriculture to literature to computer science to religion from the Holy Cross religious and lay collaborators who teach there. It is ranked among Uganda’s top 50 schools and is nationally recognized for academic excellence.

Yet it was more than just a school for me. It was (and will always be) my home. I strongly believe that the main reason I was able to come to the U.S. was the use of the school computer lab, developed out of the generosity of Holy Cross donors, who witnessed a need in the school for technology. It is in that computer lab that I started the application process. I applied to Oklahoma State University on scholarship and was admitted. When I received my paperwork, I applied for the U.S. visa which I was granted. Thanks to Fr. Michael Matthews, C.S.C., the flight ticket was not a problem.

In 2015, I earned my B.A. in mechanical and aerospace engineering. I was then awarded another full scholarship at OSU to study for an M.A. in aerospace engineering, which I completed in 2019.

Q: You ranked number six in your class at OSU – what kept you motivated to achieve this goal?

My inspiration comes from the Bible. When the prophets in the Old Testament used to spread the Word of God, they had resilience and perseverance. This motivates me to keep pushing boundaries.

Lastly, looking at where I come from, I feel a responsibility to work hard for my family and my community. It is a wonderful testament to Holy Cross Lake View and the wonderful education I received there. Anyone who has made a contribution to Holy Cross Lake View should be enormously proud of the caliber of education, and the school’s ability to help students achieve dreams they didn’t know were possible.

Q: Who has inspired you the most in your journey?

First and foremost, it has been God and Jesus. My journey has been a faith-based journey and not a granted one. Having faith and trusting God has surprised me and prompted many questions about the mysterious ways God works.

And, of course, Holy Cross Lake View played a crucial role. The vision of Holy Cross Lake View is to educate the youth to be useful citizens in the society. Without any doubt I strongly believe in the vision of Lake View, and I am one of the best examples where Lake View is transforming the youth of Uganda. Lake View provided an opportunity for me to have a great education at an affordable cost. I am able to keep pushing because of the excellent training I acquired there.

Pictured with Fr. Michael Matthews, C.S.C., during graduation at Oklahoma State University. Jdiobe was a student of Fr. Matthews at Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School in Jinja, Uganda.
Slow and steady wins the race. A common expression to describe how persistence, vision and focus are instrumental in achieving a goal. As I was reviewing the financial position of United States Province for the past fiscal year, this quote came to mind. Our efforts to be prudent stewards of the gifts we have requires nothing less than our best attention and diligence.

Of course, the race we hope to win is best described by St. Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, and the resources we receive, manage and expend are intended to proclaim the Kingdom of God. True to this mission, we too, like St. Paul, will compete well and win the race.

You and members of the United States Province share the course, we share the goal and we will eventually share the prize. Our gratitude for your investment inspires our forward momentum, helps us keep a steady pace and bring others along with us. More than $8 million was gifted to Holy Cross the last fiscal year, dollars that advanced the education and formation of our growing number of seminarians and scholastics, that contributed to the quality of care for our elder and retired members and affected thousands of lives through our international missions. The impact is phenomenal - thank you!

No matter what the future may bring, we will remain steady in our course eternally grateful that you journey with us, and in faith, hope and love hold fast to our mission.

A blessed 2020 to you and your loved ones.

Rev. Mark B. Thesing, C.S.C.
Assistant Provincial; Steward
Overview

Sources of Gifts

Gift Designations

2018-2019

- Annual Gifts $4,225,672.16
- Campaign $2,594,532.42
- Planned Gifts $631,228.41
- Masses, Enrollments, Confraternity $221,197.56
- HCMC Masses, Enrollments $20,303.37
- Grants $192,300.00
- Mission Appeals $157,771.02
- Footsteps $71,570.50

Total $8,114,575.44

2018-2019

- Missions $3,649,592.66
- Unrestricted $3,344,606.64
- Healthcare Retirement $510,064.05
- Education, Formation, Vocations $342,713.10
- Masses, Enrollments, Confraternity $221,197.56
- Mexico $24,501.99
- Other* $21,899.44

Total $8,114,575.44

*Other includes work with poor and gifts to Moreau Shrine in France

continued on next page
2018-2019

Fiscal Year Overview

U.S. Province Operating Expenses  $19.9 million

Member Support and Housing  31%
Provides all basic needs to our priests, brothers, deacons, novices, postulants, and seminarians, including operational costs for all U.S. Province residences.

Member Healthcare  32%
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.

Missions and Other  3%
Includes costs of contributing to international missions and to the annual budget of the Holy Cross Mission Center.

Leadership and Administration  10%
Includes all administrative and leadership costs including travel, office and staff costs, and legal and professional expenses.

Vocations, Education and Formation  14%
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 Holy Cross in pursuit of advanced studies.

Fundraising  4%
Includes all costs of the Office of Development, including staff, travel and the cost of the marketing and communications with U.S. Province donors.

Property Management  6%
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.
Holy Cross Mission Center Distributions  $7.3 million

8%
Latin America
The District of Chile includes schools, parishes and social services to abandoned and abused children, as well as to homebound adults, the rural and urban poor, and newly arrived immigrants to the country. Lay formation, youth ministry and the works of social justice are highlighted at all of the ministries. Santiago, Chile is also home to the new International House of Formation, where young men from six countries are preparing for their life in Holy Cross. Saint George’s College and Colegio Andacollo continue to be centers for learning and service to the wider community, and Family Rosary serves a number of dioceses there.

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 Down Syndrome and cerebral palsy. The District of Perú also has two houses of formation.

6%
Management, General and Fundraising
Staffing needs; international travel to complete missionary work; printing costs; events

15%
Bangladesh
Sacred Heart of Jesus Province serves Bengali people in 14 parishes and schools, 10 of which serve tribal peoples. Schools and programs in Dhaka and Mymensingh offer top education opportunities and the new Notre Dame University of Bangladesh is making its mark on higher education. Family Rosary conducts many initiatives through the parishes and schools, making a real mark on the life of Catholics and Christians, and on society at-large.

71%
East Africa
The District of East Africa includes Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania — a total of almost 27,000 square miles serving several thousand parishioners. Kenya: Holy Cross Parish-Andora Community, Brother Andre Medical Centre, specializing in prenatal and birth care for mothers and babies in this poor sector of 300,000 people. Uganda: Holy Cross Bugembe in Jinja, which operates St. Andrew, St. Jude and Holy Cross Primary Schools, along with an 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 Centre and Lostete Health Care Clinic; three parishes in the three dioceses of Tanzania serve the people of the area; a clinic was established in Arusha, Tanzania; a parish was established in Kampala, Uganda; Dandora, Nairobi, Kenya has also experienced the growth of a second parish church; and there are houses of formation for postulants, as well as a novitiate and post-novitiate located in Uganda and Kenya.
### Fiscal Year Overview

**U.S. Province Endowment Composition**  
$158.9 million

- **48%**  
  Healthcare/Retirement

- **35%**  
  Education and Formation

- **10%**  
  Plant

- **3%**  
  Missions

- **4%**  
  Other

### Notes
The Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers has a general endowment that supports annual capital operating expenses, an endowment for the healthcare needs of our religious in Holy Cross House, and one specifically for education—which provides partial funding for the formation program and the education of the seminarians and scholastics, as well as men in advanced studies.

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### Holy Cross Mission Center Endowment Composition  
$54.7 million

- **18%**  
  Latin America

- **50%**  
  East Africa

- **18%**  
  Bangladesh

- **12%**  
  Other Other Needs

- **2%**  
  Undesignated/Unrestricted

### 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), Peru 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, the Province in Haiti and the District of West Africa sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross.

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.
It’s never too late to pursue a hobby – just ask Ed Sebesta who in his 70’s developed an interest and then passion for playing casino poker. A member of his family introduced him to the game and before long, Ed was hooked. But that’s just the beginning of the story.

Ed and his wife Jeanette’s son, Andrew, was a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province, who died in 2012 at the age of 39 from a brain tumor. Fr. Andrew entered the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1997, professing his First Vows in 1998. He made his Perpetual Profession of Vows and was ordained a deacon in 2003, serving at Christ the King Parish in South Bend, Ind. Late 2004, the brain tumor was discovered and treatments began. Undeterred by the diagnosis and treatments, Fr. Andrew was ordained in April 2005, continuing to receive treatments at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Ed and Jeanette were deeply appreciative of the care Fr. Andrew received both at the MD Anderson Cancer Center and at Holy Cross House, the United States Province’s home for its elder, infirmed and recuperating members, so as Ed’s poker career advanced, he and Jeanette decided that any of their winnings would be donated to Holy Cross, specifically to support the care of elder and infirmed members.

Beginning with a solid game performance in late 2016, Ed made his first donation from his winnings, more than $23,000.00. Subsequent victories and winnings followed in 2017 and 2018. As Ed’s winnings continued, the idea of creating an endowment in Fr. Andrew’s name surfaced, and in April 2018, Ed and Jeanette created The Rev. Andrew M. Sebesta, C.S.C., Endowment for the Care of Elder and Retired Religious, in which his donated winnings would support.

In just three short years since starting his poker career, Ed has gifted more than $130,900.00 to Holy Cross, a significant amount given a part-time hobby.

Following the example of his son, Ed plays poker not with himself in mind but with a commitment to serve others. The United States Province has been doubly blessed by the Sebesta family and is grateful for the footprints Fr. Andrew made throughout his religious life and for the generosity of Ed and Jeanette who honor their son with the same passion and faithfulness in which he embraced his vocation.

To read more about Ed’s journey in poker, visit https://www.worldpokertour.com/live_update/ed-sebesta-plays-for-a-high.

Top, left: Over 200 Holy Cross school children in Thanchi, Bangladesh, received access to clean water, which was scarce following detrimental flooding in July 2019. The water tanks and piping were laid by many of the students themselves.

Top, right: Parish and community members in the Hill Tracts region wade through the aftermath of July 2019’s flooding, assessing damage.

Bottom: Parish members received mosquito nets made possible by generous donors to the relief campaign. Flood waters became insect infested, so the netting helped lower the risk of illness and disease.
The Holy Cross Mission Center (HCMC) continues its lively work in 16 different countries, bringing pastoral care, education, and health care across borders of all sorts. Collaborating with Holy Cross parishes, campuses, and Holy Cross religious, HCMC is able to stand in solidarity both through prayer and mission work with our global sisters and brothers living on the margins of society. Your generous donations, donations from mission appeals, and campaigns like World Mission Sunday and other events, help our missions build schools, provide clean water, set up health clinics, and unite regions through parishes.

When disaster strikes, as it did this past July with detrimental flooding in our three parishes in the Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh — Bolipara, Thanci, and Bandarban — we are blessed to see the response of our Holy Cross community. Homes were destroyed and whole villages were underwater, with rising waters, insects and waterborne diseases increasing. The rising water also destroyed main roads inhibiting the transportation of water and food supplies. More than 200,000 people in Bangladesh were evacuated to temporary camps, as their homes are predominantly made out of fragile material such as bamboo, mud, and timber.

Within a few weeks, the Holy Cross Mission Center raised more than $125,000 from compassionate benefactors. Food, mosquito nets, medicines, and infrastructural repair were made possible by this generous response — a testament to the strength of Blessed Basil Moreau’s legacy of Divine Providence and meeting the world’s needs with individual and collective resources. Clean water tanks were installed, food was distributed to the region, and the 200 children living in the parish schools were able to receive the resources needed to continue their education amongst the chaos. Many lives were saved by your donations!

In 1853, Blessed Basil Moreau sent the first Holy Cross missionaries to the region that is now Bangladesh. Holy Cross has lived with the people of Bangladesh through border changes, political conflict, and its movement for independence in the 1970s for over 160 years. Holy Cross continues to stand in solidarity with our community in Bangladesh.

“These five who, in a very real way through these vows they profess, are laying down their lives for one another and for us all,” said Fr. Lies. “As they profess poverty, chastity and obedience, they are professing their complete and total trust that Christ is their place in the world, and that they will not only abide in him, but proclaim him with their lives. These vows that you profess today, what you do here today, is an act of love for the God who first loved you. They will allow you to love as Christ loves us ... and to be Christ for others.”

Rev. Mr. Vincent Nguyen, C.S.C., Rev. Mr. Joseph Pedersen, C.S.C., Rev. Mr. Zachary Rathke, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Gilbrian Stoy, C.S.C., were ordained to the Order of Deacon the following day, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, in the Moreau Seminary Chapel by the Most Rev. Jorge Izaguirre, Bishop Prelate of the Territorial Prelature of Chuquibamba, Peru.

At Lucernarium on Friday, August 30, Fr. Peter Jarret, C.S.C., Assistant Provincial, shared an essential truth with the men preparing to take their vows and for all Christians. “It is not the search for happiness, for worldly success, for comfort, or for recognition that defines our lives and gives us joy, it is faithfulness — the ability to trust and rest in God’s love for us and in God’s call.”

“It is not the search for happiness, for worldly success, for comfort, or for recognition that defines our lives and gives us joy, it is faithfulness — the ability to trust and rest in God’s love for us and in God’s call.”

– REV. PETER JARRET, C.S.C.

During his formation, Br. Joe served as assistant second grade catechist at St. Joseph Catholic School, South Bend, Ind. (Fall 2012-Spring 2013); intern at House of Possibilities in South Easton, Mass. (Summer 2013); primary second grade catechist at Our Lady of the Woods Parish, Woodland Park, Colo. (Fall 2013-Summer 2014); primary first grade catechist at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Granger, Ind. (Fall 2014); hospital chaplain at Penrose Hospitals, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Fall 2013-Summer 2014); spiritual advisor, St. Vincent DePaul Society at Holy Cross Parish, South Bend, Ind. (Fall 2014-Spring 2015); camp counselor/parish summer intern at St. John Vianney Parish, Goodyear, Ariz. (Summer 2015); assistant learning coordinator at Marian High School, Mishawaka, Ind. (Fall 2015-Spring 2016); academic resource intern at Shepard Academic Resource Center, University of Portland (Fall 2016-Spring 2017); pastoral intern at the University of Portland Campus Ministry (Fall 2016-Summer 2019); pastoral resident at Fields and Schoenfeldt Hall, University of Portland (Fall 2016-Summer 2019); and pastoral assistant at St. André Bessette Catholic Church, Portland, Ore. (Fall 2017-Summer 2019).

Br. Joe is serving at André House of Hospitality, Phoenix, Ariz.


Deacon Vincent served as a chaplain at the Center for Hospice Care, South Bend, Ind. (2015-2016); at the Shrine of Blessed Basil Moreau, Le Mans, France (Summer 2016); as a marriage enrichment leader at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, Ind. (2016-2017); at Holy Cross Family Ministries in Easton, Mass. (Summer 2017); in multi-cultural ministry at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. (2017-2018); at André House in Phoenix, Ariz. (Summer 2018); and as assistant rector of Sorin College at the University of Notre Dame (2018-2019).

Deacon Vincent is serving at Holy Cross Parish, South Bend, Ind.

Rev. Mr. Mark Joseph Pedersen, C.S.C., is the fifth of six children of Michael and Mary Pedersen of Waterloo, Iowa. Deacon Joe graduated with a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., in 2009, earned his master’s degree from the University in 2011, and his M.Div. in 2019. Prior to entering the Congregation of Holy Cross, he was a theology teacher at Benilde-St. Margaret School in St. Louis Park, Minn. He entered Holy Cross in Aug. 2013 as a postulant, and made his First Profession of Vows on Aug. 1, 2015.

During his formation, Deacon Joe served as a hospital chaplain at Penrose-St. Francis Hospital, Colorado Springs, Colo. (2014-2015); at the Catholic Worker House in South Bend, Ind. (2015-2016); in bible study outreach in Campus Ministry at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. (2016-2017); as a pastoral assistant at La Luz Parish, Monterrey, Mexico (2017); as an intern in the development office at the University of Portland, Portland, Ore. (Summer 2018); and as assistant director of Old College Undergraduate Seminary on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. (2018-2019).

Deacon Joe is serving as rector at Siegfried Hall at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.
Rev. Mr. Zachary Rathke, C.S.C., is the youngest of three children of Charles and Anne Rathke of College Station, Texas. He graduated with a B.A. from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, earned a Master’s of Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., and earned his M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. in 2019. Deacon Zach entered the Congregation of Holy Cross in Aug. 2013 as a postulant, and professed First Vows on Aug. 1, 2015.

During his formation, Deacon Zach served in youth and outreach programs at La Luz Parish, Monterrey, Mexico (Summer 2014); school and ministry programs at Holy Redeemer Parish, Portland, Ore. (Winter 2015); Yancana Huasy and Fe y Alegría Schools in Lima, Peru (Summer 2016); St. Ignatius Martyr Parish, Austin, Texas (Summer 2017); Spanish language immersion program in Puebla, Mexico (Summer 2018); and El Señor de la Esperanza Parish in Lima, Peru (Fall Pastoral Semester 2018).

Deacon Zachary is serving at St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Austin, Texas.

Rev. Mr. Gilbrian Stoy, C.S.C., is the youngest of three children of Thomas Stoy and Bridig Fitzgerald of Little Falls, Minn., which also happens to be the birthplace of Rev. William M. Lies, C.S.C., Provincial Superior! If that wasn’t enough of a coincidence, Deacon Gil’s grandfather was the very doctor who delivered Fr. Lies and his twin brother, Fr. James Lies, C.S.C.!

Deacon Gil graduated with a B.S. in Preprofessional Studies from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., in 2013, and earned his M.Div. from the University in 2019. He entered Holy Cross in Aug. 2013 as a postulant. He made his First Profession of Vows on Aug. 1, 2015.


Deacon Gil is serving at Christ the King Parish, South Bend, Ind.

Welcome to Our New Vocations Directors!


Prior to his assignment in the Office of Vocations, Fr. John served as rector of the Shrine of Blessed Basil Moreau in Le Mans, France, and as pastor of Our Lady of Holy Cross Parish in Le Mans. Before being assigned to France, Fr. John was pastor of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, Ind. He received his B.A. and his M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame, professing Final Vows in 2001 with his ordination in April 2002.

Fr. Dennis’ most recent assignment was at St. Ignatius Martyr Parish in Austin, Texas, where he also served as a Deacon in 2015/2016 prior to his ordination in April 2016. Fr. Dennis received his B.A. from Oakland University in Rochester, Mich. in 2010 and his M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame in 2015.

The Office of Development spoke with Frs. DeRiso and Strach about their new assignments and their objectives. To read more of the interview, visit https://www.holycrossusa.org/article/new-vocation-staff/.

How have you prepared yourself for this new assignment and what do you see?

Fr. DeRiso: I’ve prayed, studied, listened to the vocation stories of men currently in formation, and consulted with many (including with my predecessors in the office of vocations). I’ve also reflected on my life of ministry, on my experience of community life in Holy Cross, and on my own process of discernment before entering religious life.

I’m privileged to work in the office of vocations with Fathers Tim Mouton, C.S.C., and Dennis Strach, C.S.C. We began our ministry together in prayer, entrusting this mission to the Lord, in the knowledge that it is His work and not our own.

Fr. Strach: Like the other two directors in our office, I am primarily concerned with accompanying men throughout the country who are discerning life as a priest or a brother in Holy Cross. Each of us spend a lot of time connecting with young men, listening attentively to the ways that God is speaking to their hearts and then guiding these men on their next steps in pursuing God’s will, wherever that may lead.

What do you see as your most critical objectives?

Fr. DeRiso: Our most critical objectives are accompanying young men so that they might be supported in discerning God’s call and inviting young men to consider the priesthood and brotherhood in Holy Cross as a response to God’s call.

We seek men who desire to abandon all to follow Christ and to fall in step with us – men who are ready to walk side by side with us in our following of the Lord as religious priests and brothers of Holy Cross – men who are willing to stand in solidarity with those who bear the cross of suffering and announce to them the hope that it promises.

Fr. Strach: When I first talked with Fr. DeRiso about his vision for our new vocations team, it was clear that his priority was to begin our ministry in prayer. Sure enough, the first thing we officially did as a team of directors was to spend time on retreat, asking our Lord for this gift of integrity, and that we be constantly mindful that our work is the Lord’s. As a team, we have prepared primarily by asking God to accomplish within us that which we need to communicate the beauty of religious life and the indispensable mission of Holy Cross.
“... most of the men here are older (all but one in their seventies and eighties) and have retired from their former ministries, but they seem to have retired to something else ... On the weekends it’s hard to find any of them here, because they are off serving in parishes or nursing homes with Mass, Confessions, sick calls and other ministries.”
When I was assigned to be superior at Casa Santa Cruz in Phoenix, I thought I was going to serve as superior in a retirement home with a bunch of priests whom I had gotten to know from my many previous visits to family in Phoenix. The Casa was always the place I stayed. On my stays, I prayed with these guys, ate with them, and got my first view of their involvements in the life of the local church.

So now I’m here, and I have learned that, yes, most of the men here are older (all but one in their seventies and eighties) and have retired from their former ministries, but they seem to have retired to something else. There are ten priests who reside with us now, nine from our Province and one from the Tamil Nadu vicariate in India. On the weekends it’s hard to find any of them here, because they are off serving in parishes or nursing homes with Mass, Confessions, sick calls and other ministries. Many of them also serve various needs during the week in those weekend parishes.

Various other ministries involve Casa residents. One priest works with RCIA and children’s religion classes at a neighboring parish, two work at André House, our Province’s wonderful ministry feeding 600 homeless a day. One of our priests does full-time counseling in addition to his parish assistance. Another is gone 30 weeks a year doing Marriage Encounters. Our youngest is a full-time student and also very generously assists at many different parishes.

The Casa consists of a small apartment for each resident, as well as a community house with dining room, kitchen and living room and a beautiful chapel where we gather twice daily for Liturgy of the Hours and for Mass. This being Arizona, there is also a swimming pool and a therapy pool, the latter of which serves to ease the arthritis that seems to hit most of us as we age.

Besides the ten Casa residents, there are seven other Holy Cross priests and brothers serving the Church in Phoenix. I’ve nicknamed the whole group of us ‘the Desert CSCs.’ A priest and two brothers, one each from the Midwest and our Provinces, work at André House, three priests serve at St. John Vianney parish and one serves as pastor both of Our Lady of the Valley and St. Raphael parishes. The Casa serves as sort a community center for them, as a place to escape the pressures of ministry for the day and also as the place to celebrate community feasts of one type or another. We host frequent gatherings for these men, and they are all welcome to come and dine with us or stay overnight any time they feel the need.

All of this has made me think of the roots of our community in Father Moreau’s little band of auxiliary priests, almost immediately joined by brothers and sisters, who went about the countryside around Le Mans supporting overworked pastors, preaching missions and trying to help with the education of those who’d lost access to it because of the French Revolution. Very soon as the community expanded and the sisters became their own separate part of the Holy Cross family, the types and numbers of ministry expanded into many different forms in many different parts of the world.

I think there is a lovely spiritual symmetry here at Casa Santa Cruz that we who are in the senior stages of our ministerial life in Holy Cross have come from those widespread ministries and find our apostolic lives resembling very much that of our very first ancestors in Holy Cross. It’s a great blessing, indeed.
Witbeck Retires After 30 Years at Ave Maria Press

Mark Witbeck, vice president and director of finance and operations, retired after 30 years at Ave Maria Press. Publisher Thomas Grady acknowledged that it was “impossible to summarize adequately the many contributions that Mark has made during his 30-year tenure at Ave Maria Press. He and his seasoned team of colleagues are responsible for developing, maintaining, and improving the infrastructure that allows the rest of us to do our jobs.”

Grady credited Witbeck with creating and refining the tools and metrics that Ave uses to help measure its performance and its success as a business; transitioning the accounting department from adding machines and early spreadsheets to the sophisticated computer systems we use now; spearheading the effort to acquire the Thomas More, Christian Classics, and Forest of Peace imprints for Ave in 2003; leading the effort to professionalize the company’s shipping and warehousing operation while maintaining a near-perfect efficiency rate; and overseeing the closing of Ave’s printing business in 2012. Grady noted that Witbeck has ensured a strong, professional, and productive relationship with the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priest and Brothers, of which Ave is an apostolate.

“Ave Maria Press has truly been a great place to work with a supportive board of directors, a great management team, and a dedicated, long-term staff,” Witbeck said. “We have seen tremendous change and disruption in the publishing industry in the past 30 years, but always came out stronger in the end.”

Outside of his work at Ave Maria Press, Witbeck opened the first Sports Clips franchise in South Bend in 2009 and a second in 2012. He sold his stores in 2017 in preparation for retirement. He has served on the board of directors for First Tee of Indiana-Michigan since 2013.

Prior to becoming controller at Ave in 1989, Witbeck worked in community newspapers in Houston, Texas, and Big Rapids, Mich., and managed a video rental business for Family Video. He was also elected the youngest ever member of the Big Rapids City Commission at age 26.

Witbeck and his wife Lana have a daughter Analise. He plans to christen his retirement by spending a year cruising the Great Loop.
Ave Maria Press Welcomes New Editorial Director, Director of Finance and Operations

Ave Maria Press is pleased to announce the hiring of two executives for its core management team. 


“It’s such a delight and privilege to join this publishing team,” Marrs said. “I resonate deeply with Ave’s mission to help people grow in their knowledge and love of God. I see my new role as an opportunity to contribute to Ave’s legacy of sharing the gospel of Jesus through the written word.”

Marrs worked as a freelance editor for a variety of publishers between 2005 and 2015. He earned a doctorate in religious studies from Baylor University, where he also taught biblical theology, church history, philosophy, theological ethics, bioethics, and historical theology. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He has a bachelor’s degree in English from Shepherd University and a master’s degree in theology from the Talbot School of Theology.

Marrs replaces Robert Hamma, who retired in 2016. Publisher Thomas Grady has been filling the editorial director role since Hamma’s retirement.

Marscola, the director of finance at Gibson Insurance in South Bend, replaced Mark Witbeck. “I am very honored, excited, and blessed to join Ave Maria Press and to help serve the mission put in place by Fr. Sorin in 1865,” Marscola said. “Everyone can find ways to serve and do more in this world, but to have the opportunity to be part of an organization that lives and breathes this mission daily is amazing!”

Marscola has a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Notre Dame. He worked in various positions in finance and accounting in the Indiana-Michigan area and in Texas, where he was raised.

Marrs and Marscola will join Karey Circosta, associate publisher and director of sales & marketing, and Kristen Hornyak Bonelli, creative director, on Ave’s executive management team.

“I’m thrilled to welcome Daniel and Kyle to Ave,” Grady said. “Both are enormously talented and immensely likable, and they bring a clear commitment to and passion for the mission of the Press and the Congregation of Holy Cross.”
Ave Explores Takes In-Depth Look at Important Topics in the Church Multimedia Project to Educate Catholics About Their Faith

Following a successful project in 2018, Ave Maria Press launched another edition of Ave Explores — an initiative aimed at helping everyday Catholics better live their faith.

Catholic author and speaker Katie Prejean McGrady is the project manager for Ave Explores. The month-long installment that launched in the fall focused on the role of the Virgin Mary in the life of the Catholic Church. Prejean McGrady, award-winning author of Follow and Room 24, spearheaded a similar project surrounding the Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment in 2018 that was geared toward youth ministry leaders.

Ave Explores: Mary includes articles, videos, podcasts, social media exclusives, surprising facts, and resources for classrooms and parishes. Sign up is free at avemariapress.com.

“So many people feel faith is something you do only on Sunday when you attend Mass. Ave Explores will help you see your faith as something you can live every day,” Prejean McGrady said.

Experts are providing insights, ideas, and practical resources to help Catholics better understand the continued importance of Christ’s mother not only in the Church but also in their own lives. “We’ve looked at how Mary is a model of discipleship and an example of how to be in intimate relationship with the Lord. We have examined how Mary is our companion, our supporter, and a guide for families in how to live a faithful life,” Prejean McGrady said.

Other issues include:
· How Mary can influence our prayer practice
· Mary as a model for our families
· Celebrating Marian feast days
· Ways to teach non-Catholics about why Mary is important for all of us

Karey Circosta, associate publisher and vice president of sales and marketing at Ave Maria Press, emphasized that Ave Explores is free to anyone who wants to receive the material via email and on Ave Maria Press’s website and social media. “Ave’s commitment to the Church goes beyond publishing high school textbooks, ministry resources, and books on prayer and spirituality,” she said. “We also want to provide online content on important issues in the Church that offers spiritual enrichment and practical resources to help all Catholics grow in their faith.”

Circosta said that Mary is a perfect topic for the new Ave Explores because Our Lady of Sorrows is the patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross, of which Ave Maria Press is an apostolate.

“We are pleased to work with Katie Prejean McGrady on this initiative. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and contacts within the Church that makes this project beneficial to all.”
Holy Cross Family Ministries, a family of ministries that strengthens families and helps families pray together announced the opening of The Museum of Family Prayer: A Contemporary Experience of Father Peyton’s ongoing ministry in North Easton, Mass. The Museum of Family Prayer opened on Sunday, September 15 and continues the work of Venerable Patrick Peyton’s mission of encouraging families to pray daily, particularly the Rosary. Father Patrick Peyton, a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, was a Catholic media pioneer and now sainthood candidate, who founded Family Rosary in 1942 and Family Theater Productions in 1947 and spent his priesthood serving the spiritual needs of families worldwide.

The museum offers a unique, interactive experience of prayer using digital media for the entire family to experience together. The museum is expected to attract those on pilgrimages who will be traveling to the museum for spiritual reasons, as well as visitors and guests who want to explore more about prayer.

“Our work is to educate, inform and celebrate the mission of Father Patrick Peyton as well as educate and enlighten those who journey here to learn more about the power of prayer,” said Rev. Willy Raymond, C.S.C., president, Holy Cross Family Ministries. “In order to engage in this technology-filled world, The Museum of Family Prayer is filled with impactful images, digital and audio media and projected prayers to show that in every corner of the world people are praying—Catholics, other Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and others—this commonality unites, rather than divides. The Museum is open to everyone, of every faith.”

The Museum of Family Prayer shares the power of family prayer through state of the art interactive, educational, reflective and immersive opportunities through exhibits, graphics, media content, a family room and chapel creating a lively, interactive experience allowing guests to touch, listen and watch, reflect and pray, all with the focus of prayer and the works of Father Peyton. Guests can see and hear audio and video messages on the Blessed Virgin Mary and relax in The Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Chapel.

Father Peyton known as the “Rosary Priest,” would continually remind families worldwide that “The family that prayers together stays together.” Father Peyton’s ministry is still strong and vibrant and after more than 70 years, continues to support families in 17 countries. The museum is a showcase of his vision, work and of course the power of prayer.

A true prayer destination for pilgrims and guests alike, the museum is open Monday - Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free. For more information, visit www.MuseumOfFamilyPrayer.org.
NOTABLE MENTIONS

In July, the Congregation of Holy Cross held its scheduled Extraordinary General Chapter in Rome, Italy, which continued the movement towards organizational changes. Although no specific plans were adopted, the Congregation continues to move forward with the process and explore specific opportunities. Currently there are three provinces in the United States along with one province and one region in Canada. During the next few years, the United States Province along with the Moreau and Midwest Provinces, and the two jurisdictions in Canada, will investigate how the mission of the Congregation can be fulfilled in the generations to come.

Combining of provinces in the United States took place in the recent past, as the Southern Province, Eastern Province and Indiana Province came together through two distinct stages and became the United States Province. Also, the Eastern Province of Brothers and South-West Province came together as the Moreau Province.

As this is a complicated process, the Congregation is taking the time to fully explore and investigate how God is calling its religious to use the structure of the Congregation as a means to fulfill the mission. The ambition is to develop and present a formal proposal to the General Chapter in 2022.

On August 15, ten new novices were received into the novitiate in Cascade, Colo., representing three different jurisdictions within the Congregation of Holy Cross.


Rev. Steve Newton, C.S.C., is one of three new members elected to a three-year term on the Leadership Team of the Association of US Catholic Priests (AUSCP) at its June Assembly. Founded in 2011, AUSCP is the largest association of priests in the United States.

Congratulations to Rev. Ollie Williams, C.S.C., associate professor of Management & Organization at the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, who was recently
honored with the 2019 Sumner Marcus Award for his significant contributions to the field of management.

As he finished his term with the Strada Education Network, Inc., where he served on the Board of Trustees for 23 years, Rev. Bill Beauchamp, C.S.C., President Emeritus of the University of Portland, Portland, Ore., was named “Sagamore of the Wabash” by the Governor of Indiana, the Honorable Eric J. Holcomb.

Congratulations to Rev. Austin Collins, C.S.C. The city of South Bend erected some of Fr. Collins’ sculptures at roundabouts downtown. Fr. Collins has lent other pieces to the city of Chicago, which had displayed them in parks along the lakefront in recent years.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Construction continues on the new Corby Hall and completion is expected by April 2020, with a dedication on May 1, 2020. Keep an eye on the progress at https://www.workzonecam.com/projects/notredame.


Students at the University of Notre Dame are offered diverse ways of interacting with Holy Cross Mission Center missions. One of which is through the Center for Social Concerns to work on an International Summer Service Learning Program (ISSLP) in Uganda. Two students each teach at St. Joseph’s Hill Secondary School in Kyarusoezi and at Holy Cross Lake View Secondary School in Jinja. Their responsibilities included accompanying catechists and seminarians on home and school visits, teaching in a classroom setting, running after school activities like sports clubs, and assisting with dormitory supervision. If you know someone who might be interested in the ISSLP, encourage them to visit https://socialconcerns.nd.edu/international-summer-service-learning-program.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

The University of Portland received its highest ranking in the annual U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings.

The University is 2nd out of 113 institutions listed in the “Regional Universities - West” classification. This ranking marks the 25th consecutive year the University of Portland has received a top-ten ranking. The University has moved up the U.S. News list with its 2nd place ranking. In the 2018 and 2019 rankings, the University placed 6th in the “Regional Universities - West” category.

In May 2019, students from the University of Portland embarked on a three-week immersion trip to Kitete, Tanzania. Laurie Laird, director of the Moreau Center for Service and Justice, connected with Mwenge Catholic University in Moshi, Rev. Sebastian Mulinge, C.S.C., and Rev. Prosper Tesha, C.S.C., to shape the program continued on next page
and make the visit fruitful for both the students and the mission site. Students experienced Kiswahili language lessons at the University, cultural excursions, homestays, and the opportunity to meet and connect with local college students. The students were then also able to visit Sacred Heart Parish in Sombetini, where they were together for Mass and had an opportunity to meet parishioners and participate in the visit of the Bishop of Kitete.

In September, Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., blessed Dundon-Berchtold Hall at its dedication. It is the newest academic building at the University of Portland in more than 20 years, with 17 classrooms, 36 offices, and three conference rooms. There was a special Mass at the Chapel of Christ the Teacher for the dedication.

STONEHILL COLLEGE

Graduates from Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass., are given the opportunity to participate in a 10-month service corps (June to April). They are sent to different places and countries, one being the Holy Cross mission site in Aynamnam, India. They work with the brothers to teach at Holy Cross School grades K-12, predominantly teaching English language classes. They also live in community and work with different aspects of the missions, all while committing to the program's principles of service, spirituality, community and simple living. You can read the volunteer testimonies by visiting https://www.stonehill.edu/offices-services/servicecorps/india/.

On September 15, the Museum of Family Prayer in North Easton, Mass., on the campus of Stonehill College, was inaugurated. The museum offers a unique experience of prayer using digital media for the entire family to experience together, and builds on the legacy of Venerable Patrick Peyton's vision.

KING’S COLLEGE

On September 15, the doors of the new Christ the King Chapel on the campus of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., were opened. The building is the site of the former Memorial Presbyterian Church, built in the 1870s and closed about 10 years ago. Two lifesized icons are placed near the altar, delivered by a Connecticut iconographer. The icons represent two religious figures key to King's history and mission: Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, which established King's (along with other schools, including the University of Notre Dame) and Our Lady of Sorrows (Mary, the Mother of Jesus) one of three patrons of the Congregation.

The renovated church is officially named The Chapel of Christ the King at the George & Giovita Maffei Family Commons with a small wing of offices and a conference center under construction.

Shown, from left, with the icons, is artist Grace Zazzaro; Rev. John Ryan, C.S.C., King's College president; and Rev. Thomas Looney, C.S.C., director of Campus Ministry.
at King's College.

In the spring, King's College celebrated the end of its 73rd academic year with commencement exercises held at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza. Approximately 490 students received either a master's or bachelor's degree. 📚

From left: Rev. Thomas Looney, C.S.C., director of Campus Ministry at King's College; Raymond Kane, honorary degree recipient, Wilkes-Barre native, military veteran, and a member of the King's first graduating class in 1950; Timothy Barberich, honorary degree recipient, Mountain Top native, and a 1969 King's graduate; Rev. John J. Ryan, C.S.C., Ph.D., King's President; Lou Holtz, commencement speaker, honorary degree recipient, former college and professional football coach; Thomas R. Smith, a 1977 graduate of King's and the Chair of the College's Board of Directors; and the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, who offered remarks at the ceremony.

In July, seven physician assistant students and two physician assistant faculty members from King's College traveled to Canto Grande, Peru to perform free daily health screenings and medical visits and teach at the Policlinico Parroquial Hermano Andres regarding dental hygiene, obesity, hypertension, diabetes management, healthy eating, and the importance of physical activity. 🎓 The Holy Cross Mission Center is grateful that King's College is the first health or medical program at our colleges and universities to send students to an international mission site for specialized care.

PARISHES

Saint Joseph Grade School, South Bend, Ind., an educational ministry of Saint Joseph Catholic Church, of which Rev. Kevin Russeau, C.S.C., is pastor, was named a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School. This is the second time the school has received the distinction, having previously been named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2011.

On August 15, San Roque parish — the first Holy Cross parish in Chile — celebrated its 70th anniversary.

HOLY CROSS MISSION CENTER

From the Holy Cross Mission Center (HCMC), a hearty thank you to all parishes and dioceses that shared in the Mission Appeals program this summer! Every summer the HCMC goes 'on the road' sharing in the program of Mission Appeals. The HCMC is invited annually by 10-12 dioceses/archdioceses to preside and preach at parishes and to share the good news of the work being done by Holy Cross in our international missions. Holy Cross priests who shared in this service celebrated Mass in 30 different parishes over the summer. The priests, living in the midwest, Florida, Pennsylvania, California, Texas and Monterrey, Mexico, all traveled near and far. Archbishop Moses Costa, C.S.C., from the Archdiocese of Chittagong (Bangladesh) and Bishop Lumen Monteiro, C.S.C., from the Diocese of Argatala (India) were able to be a part of this series of Mission Appeals this year. Annually, nearly $100,000 is received from the generosity of many people from the parishes visited. This truly helps us all reach out to bring the word of God to the far corners of the Holy Cross world and to share the good news of what Holy Cross is doing in its service in our Church today. The HCMC could not do it without the cooperation of the local parishes and the dioceses across the country, and with the help of Holly Forgue in the HCMC handling the communications and logistics. Thanks to all!

Rev. Michael M. DeLaney, C.S.C., director of the Holy Cross Mission Center (HCMC), has accepted a new assignment within the Congregation. As of February 2020, he will depart to Montreal to begin preparation for his role as Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory. Fr. DeLaney has been director of the HCMC since 2015, and in this time, has spearheaded many initiatives that have highlighted the missions of the Congregation and with your help he raised $6 million to support the missions. New schools have been built, healthcare clinics have been expanded, and pastoral ministries have persevered under various natural and national disasters.

The HCMC is excited and grateful to announce their partnership with the Lynch Family Foundation Endowment Fund and the establishment of the Mary Jane DeLaney Fund. These two new relationships will help many of the missions and change the lives of those we serve. The fund with the Lynch Family Foundation will annually assist in many aspects of the formation of Holy Cross seminarians all over the world. The fund

continued on next page
will also be allocated to the District of East Africa to assist with the formation of temporarily professed religious, and in the formation house of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Bangladesh. The Mary Jane DeLaney Endowment Fund will serve women and children living on the margins of society, in impoverished conditions or who are victims of injustice. Each year, the fund will generate $100,000 to distribute to such women and children in Chile, Peru, Mexico, Haiti, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Bangladesh.

The Notre Dame Baraka Bouts, women’s boxing team, held their annual Baraka Tournaments in mid-November. The event promotes the Congregation’s missions. Over $75,000 was raised to fund a new dining hall at Holy Cross Lake View Senior Secondary School in Jinja, Uganda.

INTERNATIONAL
LATIN AMERICA
(District of Chile /Perú, Region of México)

On August 1, the Holy Cross community in Mexico welcomed Juan Pablo Hernandez as a new postulant in the formation program. Juan Pablo comes from the State of Tabasco in the southeastern part of Mexico. He flew for the first time, traveling from his family home to Monterrey. ¡Bienvenido Juan Pablo!

October 17 to 22, the Second International Holy Cross Youth Gathering took place in Santiago, Chile. The first gathering took place in 2017 in Lima, Peru, where more than 100 youth participated from Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, and the United States. The first gathering produced a fruitful outcome of motivation and commitment in the youth of the Congregation and Church as a whole. The focal point of the gathering was a 16-mile Pilgrimage to the shrine of Chilean Saint, St. Teresa of the Andes, on October 19.

DISTRICT OF EAST AFRICA
Rev. Mike Mathews, C.S.C., sent in a report from André House: On July 10, sixteen new first year postulants reported to André House of Formation in Jinja, Uganda to begin their five week orientation program. During orientation, the postulants have English, computer and liturgy classes, numerous talks about community life, and presentations about the history, charism, and spirituality of Holy Cross. In total, there are thirty-five postulants in the District of East Africa in formation at André House for the 2019-2020 academic year.

St. Denis Ssebugwawo Chapel in Konge Lukuli, Kampala, Uganda, was installed as a new parish of the District of East Africa. The chapel, located in the Kampala Archdiocese, was built on the spot where St. Denis, one of the Uganda Martyrs was speared in 1886. A parish blessing is scheduled for February 21, 2020. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Cyprian K. Lwanga and Papal Nuncio to Uganda, Archbishop Michael A. Blume.

Rev. Francis Mukasa, C.S.C., a former novitiate staff member, is the pastor of St. Denis.

FAMILY THEATER PRODUCTIONS

AVE MARIA PRESS
The Ave Explores campaign kicked off on October 15 with several well-known Catholics sharing prayer, ministry, film, femininity, and family through the series that ran each Tuesday from October to November. The resources are also available for classrooms and parishes.

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
The U.S. Province welcomed Mr. Brian T. Lohr on November 11, 2019, as the new director in the Office of Development. Most recently, Brian worked in Admissions at the University of Notre Dame, beginning his career with the MBA program at the Mendoza College of Business and then transitioning to Undergraduate Admissions, a tenure spanning 22 years.
“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish ... My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”
— John 10:27-29

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 recently.

“In Memory”

For more information on the life and ministries of each Holy Cross religious on the right, please visit 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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