

CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Holy Cross Priests
Share Their Vocation Stories

Each story is unique



The Office of Vocations team can offer support and perspective as you discern your vocation, and includes (left to right): Fr. Pete McCormick, Fr. Jim Gallagher, Fr. Ralph Haag.

The Congregation of Holy Cross has hundreds of men serving throughout the world. Each brings a unique set of talents and passion to his work and each has a unique story to tell about his vocation journey. And yet there are some things about Holy Cross that are the same no matter where you encounter a member of our community – younger or older, in the United States or across many borders.

The men of Holy Cross serve in a variety of settings – education, parish and mission. We live in community, choosing to work side-by-side with our lay collaborators and to share our lives daily with our brothers. This particular form of ministry allows us to be there when Holy Cross is needed – at midnight in a dormitory when a college student is in distress, in the early morning hours saying Mass to the handful of faithful who were able to make it to church in a snowstorm, during mealtime at a soup kitchen bringing food and faith to those in need.

Perhaps you are called to serve God in this way. Learn more about the vocation journeys of the men of Holy Cross in the following pages. Sometimes life's path can be very clear. Other times, it is a tugging at the mind and heart that awakens the insight to serve.

Let these stories inspire you to remain open to how God might be calling you. The Holy Cross Vocations Team is here to help. Holy Cross priests throughout the country are available to speak with you personally about their experience and to help guide you through your discernment process. Trust in the Lord and learn more about taking that next step.

In Holy Cross,
Fr. James T. Gallagher, C.S.C.
Director, Office of Vocations

P.S. An announcement about the canonization of Bro. Andre Bessette, C.S.C., a Holy Cross Brother from Montreal, will be made soon. Visit vocation.nd.edu for details.

Fr. Thomas Chambers, C.S.C. President, Willwoods Community and WLAE-TV New Orleans, La.

As a grade and high school student, I never gave a thought to becoming a priest. In the days of post-World War II America, my focus was on having a good time, getting a car, finding the love of my life to marry and having my own children. I had three older brothers, and seeing their lives, I knew that my life would be similar.

It was during my high school years that I met the girl who I thought would be my wife. She encouraged me to apply to the University of Notre Dame, as did the bookkeeper who worked for my Dad. I was also looking at Dartmouth and Stanford. I applied to and was accepted by the University of Notre Dame. It was September 1952 when my parents drove me to South Bend to my future life.



While visiting Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at the University of Notre Dame in 1953, Fr. Tom Chambers, C.S.C. received an invitation to consider life as a Holy Cross religious. He has served in many roles since his ordination.

When I think about the many graces that God has given to me, the greatest one was the invitation I received on a cold, late October day in 1953 when I visited Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine after lunch in the South Dining Hall at the University of Notre Dame. It was a tradition for many Notre Dame students to visit the Grotto after lunch, but in following that tradition I found a door opened that I never expected.

After saying my prayers and lighting the candle, I prepared to leave. A Holy Cross priest at the Grotto stopped me and asked my name and he gave me his. In our brief conversation, he asked me if I ever thought of being a priest and my response was that I had not. Interestingly, each time I visited the Grotto, it was the question that I always remembered, "Did I ever think about being a priest?" After some discernment I decided, with the assistance of a Holy Cross priest, that I should apply to the

Holy Cross Fathers Novitiate.

And, as they say, the rest is history. I felt God's calling and took the journey, which resulted in a gift from God – my priesthood.

Entering the Novitiate of the Priests/Brothers of Holy Cross, Indiana Province was a change in my 20-year-old life. The Holy Cross Father who was Director of Studies told me that I would pursue a Master's degree in Sacred Doctrine at Holy Cross College during the summer, and then I would return to Notre Dame to pursue another Master's degree in psychology/counseling. He thought I would teach and counsel at Notre Dame High School for Boys in Niles, Ill. Surprisingly, I liked the choices in which I had no input. God's will be done!

It has been a fascinating and rewarding journey of ministries: as an Associate Director of Vocations; a spiritual director to seminarians; a counseling psychologist; an Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at a university; Vice President of Academic Affairs at a college; a college president; and now, as a president of a TV station that has the daily mass at the archdiocesan cathedral (www.thedaily-mass.com), and a non-profit organization that provides affordable housing and a residence for the elderly.

As I experience life with the many twists, turns, joys, sorrows, surprises, and disappointments, I think about my parents who taught by example to cherish the moment and not to be surprised at successes nor disappointed with failures. One gift is feeling the joy in doing God's work. My choice was and remains the greatest gift of my life.

Fr. Roberto Gilbo, C.S.C. Diocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life, Diocese of San Felipe Calle Larga, Chile

I feel happy having reached 50 years of religious life in Holy Cross and 42 years of priesthood, entirely lived in Chile. I remember the way I proceeded down the path of my vocation, knowing the hand of God has been present, guiding me through the years and thousands of miles. I think that many times God's plan for us can only really be seen in retrospect, just like appreciating a puzzle box when all the pieces are well placed.

My vocational history is a puzzle box, which began to form itself many years ago in Alpena, a small town in Michigan. At an early age, I had an idea of being a priest. The three parishes in the town were managed by diocesan priests, but Holy Cross caught my imagination.

One day, a priest from the Holy Cross vocational team arrived. He visited the parish school where



In Santiago, Chile, the Congregation of Holy Cross manages two schools, three parishes, two orphanages for homeless children, and a formation program that also serves needs in Peru and Mexico. While economic development continues, old problems persist. A significant number of Chileans live in poverty and are served by Holy Cross priests and brothers.

I was a student. He talked about Holy Cross, showed us some slides of Holy Cross ministries in different places around the world and gave us information about the seminary program.

I wrote to the Director at Notre Dame, who kindly invited me to visit the minor seminary for a week during my summer holiday that year. When I finished the primary school at age 14, I entered the Holy Cross Seminary at Notre Dame. Today, that would not be possible, but in 1954 it was almost normal!



From the moment Fr. Roberto Gilbo, C.S.C. arrived in Chile in 1963, he knew he would spend the rest of his life there. He has served as a pastor, Superior of Holy Cross in Chile and Diocesan Vicar for Pastoral Life.

During my years in Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame, I started working weekends with other seminarians in a ministry with Mexican immigrants who had arrived in South Bend. We visited their houses and taught catechism classes to the children. I began to study the Spanish language to better understand the children. At the same time, many Chilean seminarians from Holy Cross arrived at Moreau Seminary and I immediately established friendships with them.

I never thought that both factors – the apostolate with the Mexican immigrants and my friendship with the Chilean seminarians – would change my life forever.

When I was studying my last semester of philosophy, I was given the chance to study theology in Chile. On October 4, 1963, the airplane landed at the international airport of Santiago and I was certain that I would spend the rest of my life in Chile.

After studying four years of theology during the Vatican II Council, I was ordained a priest in the Seminary Chapel of Santiago. Along with the many changes in the Church at that time, there were also political shifts in Chile resulting in a military dictatorship that lasted 17 years. The Church in Chile had a prominent role in defending human rights and declared itself “the voice of the voiceless.” As all the priests at that time, I had to hide or mobilize to stay safe. Personally, I never suffered

damage from the military but many other priests did and five of them were killed in these activities.

When I look back at my 50 years of religious life in Holy Cross and my 42 years of priestly ministry, as I am about to turn 70-years-old, I can clearly recognize the hand of God, present each step of the way.

Fr. Charles Gordon, C.S.C. Assistant Professor of Theology University of Portland, Ore.

I love Holy Cross because when you sit down to dinner in one of our larger houses there will be someone in the room who knows the answer to just about any question you can imagine. I love Holy Cross because in our community there are conversations (not to say arguments) that have been going on for thirty years or more. Recently, in the course of such a conversation, one priest said to the other, "So, what do you make of the last point I made." The other priest replied, "What should I make of it? You've been saying the same thing since 1975!" I love Holy Cross because the familiar, unprepossessing fellow sitting next to you is sometimes a world authority in his field or has poured out his life in selfless service to the people of God, or both. I love Holy Cross because, in a crisis, a fellow with whom you've had an apparently casual, friendly relationship will be revealed as a well of wisdom and compassion. I love that several hundred good men have my back. I love the way we honor each other's fathers and mothers and families. I love that Holy Cross hospitality is legendary. I love that Holy Cross men seem to know instinctively that you do not have to stand on your dignity in order to have dignity. We spend the greater part of our time together talking about sports or the next movie we want to see, but we are having those conversations with men who have given their lives over to service of Christ and his Church with unqualified generosity. They have known success, and had their share of failures, but they are still here, and still Christ's.

I love spending time with men who are very different than me in the ways the world cares about, but with whom I am in deep agreement on the things that really matter. I love the high regard we have for good, hard work. I love to sing the *Salve Regina* with my Holy Cross brothers. I love the way you often discover, after knowing someone for a long time, that they have a profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I've found over the years that this turns out to be true of most of the best of us. I love the transformation that seems to come over someone you think you know well, and per-



Holy Cross has a vibrant presence in Portland, Ore. The University of Portland was founded in 1901 and has devoted itself to providing an education of the heart and mind by focusing on three central elements: teaching, faith and service. Additionally, Holy Cross serves the community at Holy Redeemer Parish and St. Vincent de Paul Parish at the Downtown Chapel.

haps have taken for granted, when you have the privilege of seeing them minister to God's people, particularly in a moment of tragedy or great joy.



Fr. Charles Gordon, C.S.C. gives an annual lecture at the University of Portland called "Conversations with Fr. Charlie," which provides an opportunity for him to share some of the richness of Catholic literature.

I love the stories about the old days and the great and colorful men who did so much to make us who we are, but who now sleep in Christ. I love that we remember our beloved dead in prayer by name on the anniversary of their deaths. And when the day's obituary is read by a young fellow who pronounces a name wrong, some old friend of the deceased will later gently correct his pronunciation, and maybe share a tale. I love that a hundred years after I'm gone someone will be mentioning my name aloud in prayer. And if it is in Africa or Asia his tongue may get tangled as he struggles with what might be for him strange syllables. I love being able to visit the community cemetery where I will one day be buried myself. I love being able to work in places where we have been so long that the lifeblood of our community is in the bricks. I love to visit a Holy Cross community and its members somewhere in the world for the first time and feel instantly at home. I love the way that members of Holy Cross parishes feel about their priests. I love to visit our seminary and meet young people who remind me of Holy Cross men who have gone before, almost as if there were some kind of spiritually transmitted Holy Cross genetic code.

I don't know how the world looks through the eyes of a young seminarian. Maybe they are so young that the things I have written about don't mean much. But they won't be young forever!

Fr. Daniel Groody, C.S.C. Assistant Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame, Ind.

Shortly after Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969, he spoke about the significance of making the first human footprint on the lunar surface,

noting that it was not only a personal achievement but also a collective accomplishment for all of humankind.

As I look back at my life in Holy Cross, I remember how much went into taking that initial step, how many questions I had, how many people helped me discern, and how much my life has changed since then. It was January of 1985 and I was a student at Notre Dame. As I made the long walk across the lakes to Moreau Seminary to meet with the vocations director, Fr. Andre Leveille, C.S.C., I had to wade through four feet of snow. There were deep footprints ahead of me, which became a fitting image for those who preceded me in Holy Cross. Their journey inspired my journey, which was rooted in a deep trust that the Lord would guide me and a deep desire to share in the Holy Cross life and work.

At that time I wanted God to give me "the answer," as if I would wake up one day and finally understand life's calling and get some final insight and clarity. More often, I only saw the next step I had to take, which only gradually led me to assurance I was going in the right direction.



Fr. Daniel Groody, C.S.C. serves as a University of Notre Dame Fellow of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and is a Fellow of the Nanovic Institute.

The first steps I took in Holy Cross led me to the candidate year, to the novitiate, and to Chile and Berkeley for theological studies. With each step I grew as a human being. From self-knowledge to spiritual development, and from community life to apostolic experiences, I discovered more about the complex issues of the modern world, the terrain of the human heart, and the challenges of living out the Gospel.

The more I journeyed in this direction, the more ordained ministry seemed like the natural next step, which eventually led me into parish ministry. Because of the men who had walked before me, I was able to enter into Hispanic parishes in Indiana and in California. I was particularly moved



"This college will be one of the most powerful means for doing good in this country."

Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C., founder of the University of Notre Dame.

The University of Notre Dame seeks to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many.

by the retreat programs and evangelization efforts they created to bring healing and empowerment to migrant workers. As I became so fascinated by the spirituality of these migrants, Fr. Bill Lewers, C.S.C. and Fr. Tim Scully, C.S.C. encouraged me to take these experiences and deepen my understanding of them through doctoral studies. This has led me to do theological and spiritual research with migrants around the world.

This step has led me back to Notre Dame as a teacher and scholar, but in the spirit of my larger journey in Holy Cross, it has called me to cross borders of every sort in order to proclaim the love of God who unites all people in His embrace. This ministry finds its deepest inspiration in my life as a priest, my life in Holy Cross, and above all, my life as a disciple following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who alone is the "the way the truth and the life."

As I look back on these years, I never realized how important those footprints were and how much my brothers in Holy Cross have inspired and mentored me in my life of service to the Church and witness to the Gospel message. Above all, it has fostered bonds of friendship with men who have become not only collaborators in work but friends in the Lord and companions in mission.

Fr. John Herman, C.S.C. St. John Vianney Parish, Goodyear, Ariz.

Did I have any idea growing up that I'd one day be a Holy Cross priest? I definitely didn't think it would happen. I had my plan to be a civil engineer, husband and father in my home state of Michigan, but God had other ideas for me. Although I was doing well in civil engineering in college, I started feeling this gnawing question: Is this what God wants me to do with my life? I wondered if God was calling me to be a priest. I knew in my heart that I needed to face and answer this question. Only after five years in the seminary did I finally know with certainty that God was calling me to be a Holy Cross priest. Thanks be to God, I had the support of my family and friends to pursue my vocation to religious life and the priesthood in Holy Cross.

My fourteen plus years of living and serving as a Holy Cross priest have been a great adventure. I didn't anticipate any of the assignments that I've received, but God brought me where I needed to be. After professing final vows and being ordained a deacon, I was assigned to serve at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Ariz. I can't imagine beginning in a more welcoming parish and Holy Cross community. From St. John Vianney, I served at the

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University of Notre Dame as the rector of O'Neill Hall, and as a member of the campus ministry staff before I returned to St. John Vianney to serve as the pastor of the parish. I *really* never expected a second opportunity to serve in the place where I began.



Parish work in Arizona provides Fr. John Herman, C.S.C. an opportunity to celebrate the Sacraments in English and Spanish every day.

I'm blessed to rarely have a dull moment at St. John Vianney and blessed to never wonder if what I'm doing matters. This is a very lively parish, so there is always something happening and something for me to do. I might have an idea in the morning of what my day will be like, but Jesus always breaks into my day in the unexpected needs that inevitably arise. Someone will need the Sacrament of the Sick. Someone will be in crisis and need to talk with a priest. Someone will suffer the death of a loved one. I feel blessed to be here for all of our parishioners often in some of the most important moments of their lives.

Sharing ministry in the parish as well as prayer and meals on a daily basis with my Holy Cross brothers is all very important to me. I cannot imagine being the only priest serving in a parish. I appreciate the give and take of our community life and value the encouragement and the challenge that my brothers offer me. I know that I'm a much better priest and pastor than I would otherwise be because of my brothers in Holy Cross.

Fr. Daniel Kayajan, C.S.C. St. Rita Parish Dade City, Fla.

A homeless man was asking me for money but I was in a bit of a hurry and did not have change so I told him, "No." I then got into a cab that took me up to Capitol Hill where I was going to cover a Senate Banking Committee hearing. I was working at the time as a reporter in Washington, D.C. This moment and many others like this happened to me in our nation's Capitol in the mid to late 1980's.

I began to be annoyed with the homeless for



Parish ministry is a one of the many ways the Congregation of Holy Cross serves the needs of communities throughout the world. In Florida, Holy Cross ministers to hundreds of parishioners at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Viera and St. Rita Parish in Dade City, and in Arizona at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear.

constantly asking for money. All of us who were using the Metro to travel back and forth to work had to constantly step over them or perhaps drop a quarter or two in their cups. One day I took the time to stop and talk with some of the homeless in the Capitol of the wealthiest nation on earth. I did not realize it at the time but this was a step on the journey that would take me to Holy Cross and now to St. Rita's Catholic Church in Dade City, Fla.

What I learned that day and many days since, was the presence of God in the poor and marginalized of our society. I began to feel the deep need to do something for these people, more than just tossing them a coin or two. When I was in college at Marquette University, I had begun to think about the seminary and the priesthood. This was not a crazy idea for me as I had one uncle who was a diocesan priest and another who was Franciscan brother and missionary. Part of the desire to assist the homeless became the desire to look more deeply into priesthood and religious life.



Having a chance to not just serve the poor but to be with and among them as one of them inspires the service of Fr. Daniel Kayajan, C.S.C. at St. Rita Parish.

As I looked into different religious orders and diocesan priesthood I began to realize that I felt called to be in more of a family setting. The Congregation of Holy Cross began with the model of brothers and sisters and priests serving the people of God and serving one another. I found this very appealing. I also very much liked the opportunity to work in a variety of ministries. Most important to me was our founder's charism of being educators in the faith to the poor and the abandoned of society.

Holy Cross has provided me with great opportunities not just to serve the poor, but, as our Constitutions tell us, to be with and among them as one of them. This is different from simply serving the poor or tossing a quarter in their cup. In fact, it is what God did for us in sending his only Son. This is a constant lesson for me in my ministry with the marginalized and poor.

Holy Cross recently assumed responsibility for

St. Rita's Parish in Dade City, Fla. Here we walk with two communities. One is an older English-speaking community with some "snowbirds" in the winter. The other is an Hispanic community that is almost all Mexican. Many have come to the U.S. looking for a better economic life and opportunities for themselves and their children. Although there is a lot of poverty in the Hispanic community, the people have a great sense of God, family, community and justice. This is very similar to Holy Cross.

For my part, I am grateful that I don't take cabs anymore. When someone approaches me for money my response is far different than the one I gave when I was working on Capitol Hill. The Congregation of Holy Cross has helped me to live the life that God has called me to live. In Holy Cross I have been given the tools and the family support to be an educator in the faith to the poor and the abandoned.

Fr. Peter Logsdon, C.S.C. Parróquia Nuestra Madre De La Luz Archdiocese of Monterrey, Guadalupe, Mexico

Every Holy Cross priest and brother that I know has a "Passion for Ministry." Our Constitutions say: "As disciples of Jesus we stand side by side with all people" (Con. 2:12). Let me try to explain why, many years ago, I chose the Congregation of Holy Cross and what I've been doing in my ministry.

In my childhood and in my teenage years, our family never missed Mass on Sunday. It was just something that was part of our heritage.

In high school I started thinking seriously about being a priest. My parish priests were Jesuits at Gesu Parish. They were real role models – kind, dedicated, smart and spiritual. I loved the Jesuits. But I loved Notre Dame more. My older brother Bill was studying at Notre Dame during those years and he introduced me to another group of great priests – the Holy Cross Fathers at Notre Dame. I was a little nervous about joining Holy Cross. Like the Jesuits, the Holy Cross Fathers run universities and I wasn't sure that teaching was my passion. But I signed up and have never regretted my decision.

My seminary years went by quickly and suddenly, it seemed, I was kneeling before a great Holy Cross Missionary, Bishop Lawrence Graner, C.S.C., in Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame. On that day, June 8, 1968, I promised to be a priest forever. It was a wonderful day.



The Congregation of Holy Cross runs a parish and several ministries in Monterrey, a rapidly growing city in northern Mexico. Here, Holy Cross serves the needs of the community, with a preferential option for the poor and a focus on the issues of poverty and justice.

The next day it all started to sink in. I would have the great opportunity to "stand side by side with all people" and try to make a difference in some people's lives. But, of course, I have come to realize that others would make a great difference in my own life.



Fr. Pete Logsdon, C.S.C. brings his passion for ministry to the communities in the Archdiocese of Monterrey in Northern Mexico.

My first assignment was as Associate Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in the heart of New Orleans. And my first pastor was so good to me – Fr. Gene Dore, C.S.C. He showed me by example what it meant to serve all people. Sacred Heart Parish, like many inner city parishes, was a mixture of Anglos, African Americans and Latinos. Soon, we would be joined by immigrants from Viet Nam.

After six years, I became Pastor of Saint Ignatius Parish in Austin, Texas. Moving from an older city like New Orleans to a boom-town like Austin was kind of a shock. But I was doing what I loved, working in a parish with several thousand families. After six years, there was an election of a Provincial Superior in the Southern Province of Holy Cross. Not knowing what I was getting into, I agreed to stand for election. And for eight years I tried to do my best for Holy Cross, mostly visiting and helping out in our seventeen Holy Cross parishes in Louisiana and Texas.

Finally, in 1990, I got the opportunity to return to my first love – working in a parish. Instead of returning to parish life in the United States, I was asked to serve in our Holy Cross Parish in the Archdiocese of Monterrey in Northern Mexico. Even though I was 49 years old, I was eager to learn Spanish and serve wherever I was asked to go. I jumped in. I learned about ministry in Mexico from a great Holy Cross pastor, Fr. Jack Keefe, C.S.C. Once again, I was lucky! Or was it just God's plan?

Our parish in Mexico grew and grew and, after five years, it was divided. I was asked to be pastor of the newly formed parish. And I am still here in Mexico. So, more or less, I have spent 20 years of ministry in the United States and 20 years in Mexico. What a great life this is!

Fr. Anibal Niño Loarte, C.S.C. Formation Director Lima, Peru

My road to Holy Cross began the day when my mother asked me to take a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the parish to be blessed. In the announcements at the end of Mass that day, there was a note about music workshops being offered for young people. Encouraged by my friends, we all enrolled. I would say that my new journey in the Church through Holy Cross began at that moment.

Music became the door through which I came to know the mission of the priests of Holy Cross. Through music, I discovered the Holy Cross commitment to education in schools, in parishes, in health programs, in soup kitchens and in their strong work with and formation of lay people, youth and adults, and other religious congregations also committed to the preferential option for the poor. It was the whole pastoral approach which motivated and excited me to be part of this group.



Music was the way Fr. Anibal Niño Loarte, C.S.C. came to know of Holy Cross' commitment to education in schools and parishes. He now serves in as Formation Director in Lima, Peru.

Though I come from a traditional Catholic family, I had never thought about being a priest. Experiencing the Holy Cross mission made an impression on my life. I decided to become a music teacher, since the arts had always been appealing and enjoyable. More and more my plans began to connect with the mission of *Señor de la Esperanza Parish* in Canto Grande. God had other plans for me. He called me by my name.

I entered Holy Cross in 1993 and since then I have had different experiences of service: youth ministry, liturgy, catechism classes, popular religion, family rosary apostolate, publications, education, musical projects and currently am working as the formation director for the Congregation. Holy Cross has known how to help me develop and use the gifts God has given me. Each member of the Holy



The Congregation of Holy Cross in Peru operates one of the largest parishes in the world — over 250,000 people — serving needs of the poor living in nearby small villages. Holy Cross also runs a school for children in the area and has a special ministry to reach out to children with severe birth defects.

Cross community has different gifts, and all are welcomed, developed and promoted, for better service to our mission.

As “educators in the faith” we are called to develop the “ability to see and the courage to act.” It is for that reason that every Holy Cross member receives a good academic and Christian formation, so as to develop a constructive, critical spirit.

Currently I am studying literature to prepare myself for advancing our education mission. I am also doing post-graduate work in counseling to make my work in formation and as a priest more effective.

Looking back, I realize that it all started with the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. What continues to inspire me is that our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, consecrated the community to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This has been my experience since I gave that answer 16 years ago: “Yes, Lord, here I am”.

Fr. Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C. President, King's College Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

“Our mission sends us across borders of every sort. Our broader experience allows both the appreciation and the critique of every culture, the disclosure that no culture of this world can be our abiding home.”

As a Holy Cross religious, this section of our Constitution has profound significance for me for two reasons. First, Holy Cross has provided me with the amazing opportunity to cross geographic borders and savor the privilege of living within cultures different from mine. Secondly, Holy Cross has challenged me to stretch my own personal borders of preconceived ideas, ways of thinking, methods of ministry and perception of others. The two “border crossings,” geographic and personal, are so interwoven in my life.

It began when I was a seminarian at Moreau Seminary and the Holy Cross community in Bangladesh asked for a few seminarians to spend time there. I had the opportunity to cross borders half way around the world to work with incredibly dedicated Holy Cross members and especially the dedicated Missionary Sisters of Charity, the sisters of Blessed Mother Teresa. My own challenges were numerous: to live for the first time in my life in a non-Christian culture; to be confronted by the tragedy of individuals dying of malnutrition; and, for the first time, to live in a country of political instability.

Years later, I crossed borders to an American culture relatively unknown to me — working in an African American and Latino parish in Brooklyn, New York. For the first time, I was confronted with living in my own country but living in a sub-culture that was very different from what I had known.

I had to learn a new language to communicate with many of the parishioners whose first language was Spanish.

A third significant crossing of borders for me occurred years later when teaching as a political science professor at King's College. At that time, I left for two years to teach at the Philosophy Center of Jinja, Uganda, and to serve on the formation staff of the Holy Cross Candidate house in East Africa. This two-year assignment challenged me to move beyond my preconceived Western ideas and try to understand the yearnings of those who don't yet feel their concerns matter to first world countries.



The role of President of King's College provides Fr. Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C. a chance to draw on a lifetime of diverse experiences around the world as a Holy Cross priest.

The most painful stretching for me was to be in Rwanda shortly after the genocide. Confronting the horrors of that tragedy and being part of a Holy Cross team trying to ascertain the nature of the murders of young Holy Cross Brothers and the status of Holy Cross properties in that war-torn country changed me forever.

Now I find myself as President of King's College, my alma mater and a school I deeply love, a school steeped in the Holy Cross mission. I have served as professor, as administrator and now as president. I bring to my present ministry all the borders I have crossed both geographically and personally. I am filled with pride when sons and daughters of the parish in which I served in Brooklyn now attend and graduate from King's. I count among my closest friends those from the Brooklyn parish whom I grew to know and love. I revel in the fact that nephews and nieces of Holy Cross from Africa whom I taught and Holy Cross from Africa with whom I lived have come to King's as students and professors.

Bangladesh, Brooklyn, and Uganda all were geographic settings that provided me with an incredible opportunity to "cross borders" as a Holy Cross religious, and see the world in a slightly different way. I am deeply blessed by my Holy Cross community.



King's College in Pennsylvania has a strong sense of community and challenging academic programs. Students of all faiths and backgrounds benefit from a caring and nurturing environment where students learn about responsibility and commitment, and how to lead a life of purpose.

Fr. Ronald Raab, C.S.C. St. Vincent de Paul Parish Portland, Ore.

People suffering in poverty are no longer strangers to me. A man from Louisiana still enduring the aftermath of Katrina quietly tells me the story of his deep depression after he lost his family and home. An Iraq veteran weeps as he tells me his violent story in our daily hospitality center in our urban parish, the Downtown Chapel in Portland, Oregon.

Homelessness strikes even closer to me because of the day I met up with my old friend Dan. He sought me out one morning when our parish was open for clothing and hygiene products, food and friendship. He heard that I was at the parish and told another staff member that we had been high school classmates. We met again after the distance of 35 years and 2,300 miles from our childhoods. We reminisced that morning over coffee and his story of the tragic deaths of his wife and daughter. We were able to sit together and stare into the unknown future because we shared not only a past but faith in God's care for us.



The Holy Cross community, including Fr. Ronald Raab, C.S.C., serves those suffering from homelessness, poverty, addiction and mental illness at the Downtown Chapel in Portland, Ore.

I realize every day that the issues of homelessness, poverty, addiction and mental illness are not theoretical or distant from my faith, my past, and my priesthood. Even though I cannot fix people or change their lives, I came to relying on my faith and the depths of the Gospel during these years serving among people suffering in poverty.

In nearly 27 years of priesthood, I have served in nine different Holy Cross ministry settings. I have served in parish ministry in Indiana, Colorado, Illinois, California and Oregon. I directed the Fatima Retreat Center at Notre Dame for two years. I also served in the Office for Divine Worship for the Archdiocese of Chicago as the Director of the Rite

of Christian Initiation for Adults. I see clearly now how each place and each year brought me closer to my call to prayer and service within the Church.

For the past eight years I have served as the Associate Pastor of the Downtown Chapel in Portland. I often reflect on my past experiences and opportunities with Holy Cross with gratitude and find that in this place, among the people suffering loss, I find my real self. I now realize the true beauty of my education, formation and life of prayer. The various roads of my years of service have led me not only to people in need but also to a deeper awareness of my own life and my reliance on God. In this ministry, my life in the Church shapes me, changes me in ways I least expect. I find a home in the depths of my priesthood among people experiencing suffering and who have been cast to the margins of society.

I have come a long way from when I first met Dan in high school. I never dreamt that my life in Holy Cross would mature into serving people who sleep outside or befriending those who live with mental anguish and drug addiction. I learn every day to trust God more deeply, to pray more authentically, and to live more honestly. My priesthood changes me radically. I grow more humble each day and less possessive of false goals and ideals.

The Congregation of Holy Cross gives me the time, ministry and setting to grow into my priesthood. I am grateful for years serving in varieties of ministries and places, changes and struggles, commitment and prayer. I am still learning and growing, still sorting out my gifts, and always learning how to love. Now, I am no longer a stranger to people living in poverty and no longer a stranger to myself. Each day brings deeper gratitude for my life in God living and serving among the members of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Fr. Kevin Spicer, C.S.C. Associate Professor of History Stonehill College, Mass.

In 1983, I first met Holy Cross religious at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland. Before I began my freshman year, Brother Armin Demeute, C.S.C., invited me to come over to the Brothers' residence to interview for a possible job in their kitchen, which involved helping serve and clean-up after dinner. He had received my name from my elementary school. The interview went well and I got the job and over the course of the next four years I met many Holy Cross brothers and priests. I remember how much these religious men impressed me by their faithfulness and fidelity to prayer, their intelligence and dedication to



Stonehill College in Massachusetts, founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross, is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person. Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts, and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

teaching, and their kindness and service to others. Their example led me to apply to the candidate program at Stonehill College in my senior year of high school. Over the course of the next nine years, I made my formation journey in Holy Cross as a history major at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass., as a novice at the Holy Cross Eastern Province Novitiate in Waterford, New York, as a budding theologian and seminarian at the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, Canada, and finally as a deacon at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York.



Fr. Kevin Spicer, C.S.C. was ordained in 1992. After earning a doctorate in modern German history in 2000, he joined the faculty at Stonehill College.

Since ordination in 1992, I have been in the apostolate of higher education. After earning my doctorate in modern German history from Boston College in 2000, I joined Stonehill's faculty. My research concentrates on church and state affairs under National Socialism. I have focused much of my work on examining Catholicism's contributions to antisemitism over the centuries and its connection with the Holocaust. Though a challenging topic that is often filled with difficult history and haunting memories, I tackle it nonetheless because it is so imperative for me to help Catholics know and understand this history. When some religious and their communities might wish to avoid facing the institutional Church's often difficult past, I find my Holy Cross brothers always willing to, especially as I uncover it and report on my findings. My community has always been supportive of my work.

Similarly, my religious life in Holy Cross also serves as a means of nourishment for my apostolic life. For example, though teaching is a communal enterprise where professors and students interact on a regular basis, research and writing are often strictly solitary exercises, conducted with significant discipline and reflection. However, I engage this academic enterprise freely and willingly. Still, it is always comforting to know that after a day spent

in quiet study and reflection, reviewing old documents or reading newly published works, I have my religious brothers to turn to in order to renew my spirit and refresh my soul through prayer and common table. Religious life offers me the spiritual nourishment and brotherly support that I need in order to continue my apostolic life. I know that even when I am teaching or researching alone, I am undertaking a common work of my religious community, bound in fellowship with my Holy Cross confreres.

The Congregation of Holy Cross allows an individual to become part of a common entity while at the same time maintain his individualism. One may easily see the beauty of this in the numerous apostolates to which Holy Cross ministers in society: institutions of higher education, secondary schools, Holy Cross Family Ministries, parish ministries, chaplaincies, and missionary work abroad, to name just a few of the opportunities available to those who choose to follow in Father Moreau's footsteps. It is a rewarding journey for me and I hope others will consider walking this journey and learning what we all can do together to minister to God's people.

Fr. Leopold Temba, C.S.C. **Vocations Director** **Nairobi, Kenya**

I was born in November 1976 in Moshi, Tanzania, the youngest of ten children. I attended Primary Education in Moshi, Tanzania, from 1985 to 1991. From 1992 to 1998, I did my Ordinary and Advanced Levels of Secondary Education in a Franciscan Minor Seminary in Moshi and Don Bosco Minor Seminary in Dodoma, respectively.

After being in the seminaries for almost seven years, I decided to take time out from my studies. I taught in a Girls' Secondary School in Moshi until July 2000. It was at this time that I had a big challenge in making the decision either to continue with further studies at the University of Dar es Salaam or to continue with studies for priesthood.

While teaching at the Secondary School in 1999, I began to correspond with a Holy Cross Vocations Director – Brother Alan Harrod, C.S.C. I also applied at the same time to the Congregation of Holy Cross and the Dominicans. I didn't have any prior knowledge of the two communities. Fortunately, both of them accepted my applications. So I was again in a dilemma to choose between the two because both of them invited me to their formation program at the same time. In 2000, I decided to join Holy Cross because the name "Holy Cross" inspired me. In July 2000, I started in the



In East Africa, the Congregation of Holy Cross encourages each other and those we serve to express the Gospel through all aspects of our rich cultures. Here we focus on parish ministry and education in schools as priorities, giving preference to service among the poor and the neediest.

Holy Cross Candidacy program in Jinja and learned so much about the Congregation. The more I learned about Holy Cross and the community's ministries, the more I felt the desire to become a Holy Cross priest.

In 2003, I decided to enter the Novitiate and I pronounced my first vows in 2004. I continued my formation in Holy Cross while doing Theological studies in Nairobi, Kenya. I made my final vows in August 2008 and was ordained priest on August 2, 2009 in Nairobi. The entire time I was in the Holy Cross formation program, I didn't have any regrets about my decision to join Holy Cross and I am strongly convinced that I was led to Holy Cross by the Holy Spirit.

My ministry in my first years as a finally professed religious of Holy Cross has been as the Director of Vocations for the Congregation of Holy Cross in the District of East Africa. I took up this responsibility in February 2009.

The happiest moment in my life was the day of my ordination to the priesthood. As I received the fulfillment of my heart's desire, I felt the grace of God working in me. It is this sense of fulfillment that motivates my work in the Vocations Office and brings zeal and conviction to my work sharing information about Holy Cross with young men. Whenever I go out to meet young people, they always ask me to share my journey to religious life. Whenever I retell my journey to religious life, I strongly feel the conviction of God's call in my life.



Fr. Leopold Temba, C.S.C. serves as Vocations Director for the Congregation of Holy Cross in the District of East Africa.

During my life in formation, I had never thought of becoming the Vocations Director. My daily prayer was to become an instrument of the Lord such that through me many young people may listen to God's call and respond to it by choosing a lifestyle that pleases Him. I consider myself blessed to be working with young people, sharing the story of my call to religious life and listening to how God is working in their lives.

Where do you belong?

Your family and friends have helped shape you. Your faith has sustained and guided you. Now is the time to find where you belong. You can live out God's call and make a difference in the world. The men of Holy Cross are *educators in the faith*. They form character by educating both the mind and the heart in education, parishes and missions throughout the world. Consider a vocation as a Holy Cross priest or brother.

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