

# BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross

Spring, 2019

## Students learn unique leadership skills

**Integrated. Inclusive. Intentional.** A seed planted in the fall of 2013 is now growing leaders at Hoban. It's about developing habits and attitudes in students, not just for a select few—the born leader, the alpha in the group—but for *all* students. **Integrated. Inclusive. Intentional.**

**S**o intentional is Hoban's administration in reaching every student to encourage good leadership skills, they have integrated a nationally recognized program "Habitudes" from Growing Leaders, Inc., into the curriculum by training instructors across disciplines to teach content which forms leadership habits and attitudes.

Brother Bob Livernois has been interested in developing leadership skills in high school students since the late 1970s. "It always baffled me that just because a student was elected to an office, that student was expected to have all the leadership skills necessary for the role without any training" Brother Bob said. And thus began his quest to find a solid leadership program. For many years Brother Bob drew ideas from a program called Choose to Lead when training student leaders.

When Brother Bob accepted the role of Vice President of Mission and Leadership at Archbishop

Hoban High School, he approached Dr. Todd Sweda, President, about the importance of developing a student leadership program. Sweda was all ears.

"It has always been a real interest of mine to build something of a leadership program in support of the Holy Cross mission," Sweda said.



*Brother Bob Livernois talks with students in his Leadership class at Archbishop Hoban High School.*

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# Developing leaders for better times than ours

Dear Family and Friends  
of the Brothers of Holy Cross,

Blessed Basil Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, saw education as a way to create a better future. He wrote about this in his treatise, *Christian Education*, where he said:

“Hurry then; take up this work of resurrection, never forgetting that the special end of your institute is, before all, to sanctify youth. It is by this that you will contribute to prepare the world for better times than ours; for these students who now attend your school are the parents of the future, the parents of future generations, each one of whom bears within self a family. Influence them, then, by all the means of instruction and sanctification.”

In this issue we share the story of a unique and creative program to train leaders, to create “better times than ours.” This is but one of several leadership programs that exist in each of our schools. Training leaders is integral to our commitment to go beyond the education of the mind, to include the education of the heart. In this way we hope to form men and women with both the knowledge and the values to make a difference in the world.

It is important to understand that our view of leadership is not geared to the few, perhaps the


elite, who find themselves in positions of power and authority. Our Christian leaders are servant leaders who model their lives on the life of Jesus. They are men and women of importance and influence

because they do their part to positively contribute, in whatever way that may be. Everyone is called to participate in building the Kingdom, to help bring God’s ways into our world through knowledge, values and behaviors. The efforts we make to train leaders in the context of our Christian values, is a very intentional decision to do our best to create a better future – to develop “the competence to see and the courage to act” that is part of our fundamental call to discipleship as members of the family of Holy Cross. (Holy Cross Constitutions, 2:14)

I hope you can see this as one more example of the great value of our Holy Cross traditions as they are brought to life in our schools. Thank you for being a part of our Holy Cross family through your prayers and support.

God Bless!

Your brother in Christ,



Brother Ken Haders, CSC  
Provincial



*Brother Ken Haders, CSC  
Provincial, Midwest Province*

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The consensus was—let’s do it right. Let’s not make this just an all-school assembly or an exclusive elective for a select few. Let’s create something that is long-lasting and far-reaching.

# Leaders for tomorrow



Brother Bob learned of a nationally recognized leadership program developed by Dr. Tim Elmore and being used at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. He traveled to Atlanta in the summer of 2014 to hear Dr. Elmore at a Growing Leaders, Inc., conference and learn more about the program. He was hooked. Excited, Brother Bob returned to Hoban armed with materials and the seeds to develop a very intentional plan.

The plan was to pilot the program in the spring 2015 with juniors on a volunteer basis outside the school day. Over 50 students signed up and regularly attended a 90-minute class for 12 weeks. They learned the concept of Habitudes through a specifically designed video series. Brother Bob and Dr. Tym Tagliaferro, Dean of Students guided the students through planned exercises that helped them to focus on self-leadership concepts which aligned beautifully with the 10 Holy Cross values already being taught

to the freshmen and emphasized throughout the four-year experience at Hoban. Using the terminology and images from the Habitudes, the juniors were soon guiding each other in the classroom and in cocurricular activities.

To extend its reach within the school, Hoban sent five staff members to a Habitudes training session in Dallas in February of 2015. These five staff members presented a workshop to the faculty and staff at the start of the school year as part of the faculty/staff retreat. A school improvement grant allowed five more teachers to attend a Habitudes training workshop in the summer of 2016.

As enthusiasm grew among the staff and students, the idea of the Hoban Leadership Institute was born. “It became clear that a good way to better educate the heart as well as the mind of each student was through the Habitudes” Brother Bob said. “By giving students an avenue to learn about their personal leadership style, their self-esteem would improve and they would grow with a more positive self-image.”

“The overarching purpose of the Hoban Leadership Institute is to provide intentional, inclusive and integrated leadership development

opportunities aligned with the charge of our Holy Cross mission,” Sweda said. “The Holy Cross Constitutions state, ‘For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act.’ I believe the Hoban Leadership Institute has helped us do this.”

While the program was first piloted to juniors, the Habitudes are now a part of the curriculum for students at all levels. The focus for freshmen is the Art of Self-Leadership, sophomores concentrate on the Art of Connecting to Others, juniors learn about the Art of Leading Others, and finally seniors study the Art of Changing Culture. An elective semester course for

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

—Holy Cross Constitutions

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seniors includes building on the Habitudes exploring such topics such as Communication Skills, Emotional Intelligence and Portraits of Leadership.

Before graduating a student will have been exposed to all 52 Habitudes in various classes throughout their high school career, instilling lifelong leadership skills in each student.

“I have learned how important



creating good habits can be in my life,” senior Nathan Montecalvo said. “Habitudes help to build relationships, ultimately making us happier. By following the Habitudes, we adopt positive habits that will create success.”

In the elective class for seniors, students are required to give speeches and group presentations. They also learn interviewing skills and meet with community leaders in authentic settings to learn about leadership challenges, decision-making and civic responsibility.

The Leadership seminar, held one day a week outside of the school day, is designed to introduce students to their own unique leadership style and also helps them to join the Habitudes with Hoban’s 10 core values.

Senior Ave D’Andrea found how the Habitudes played a role when

## Leaders for tomorrow



she was leading a Spes Unica retreat. “I stayed true to my beliefs while maintaining an open and relatable attitude,” D’Andrea said. “I took feedback and used it to become a better leader for my group. I made sure to nurture my group and made it a priority to help them recognize their worth and their many talents.”

“The purpose of the Institute is to be a clearinghouse or a headquarters for the activities we want to make available,” Sweda said. “And more importantly at Hoban, we are using this nationally recognized curriculum to connect leadership with our Holy Cross core values, such as integrity, option for the poor and excellence.

“This is what the heart of leadership is about. Leadership isn’t necessarily positional, and this is why we start with the self-leadership concept,” Sweda said.

“Some kids don’t need a leadership class,” Brother Bob said. “The kids who stick with the program aren’t necessarily our elected ‘leaders.’ Some of them are our very quiet kids.

“Take for example senior Erynn Ouellette when she said, ‘I have always been my own harshest critic. Whether it’s about my body, smile or voice. The Habitudes have affected the way I act, the way I treat others, and the way I look at myself. I am eager to learn new Habitudes and apply them to my life because they give me confidence and a better understanding of other’s stories.’”

Hoban’s intentional decision to develop leaders by integrating a deliberate curriculum that is inclusive has proved to have positive results.

“The Habitudes make me consciously think about my leadership style,” senior Kayla Mullins said. “I no longer let leadership opportunities come and go. I look at them distinctly. I have learned the importance of listening and building trust with others.”



*Brother Bob Livernois leads a discussion for students in the leadership seminar held outside of the school day. This semester, Hoban has over 110 students in the seminar. During these sessions, students dig deeper into the Habitudes and leadership styles.*

# Conference highlights guideposts for religious nonprofits

BY: BROTHER ROY SMITH, CSC  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Last fall, I attended the annual National Catholic Development Conference in Chicago, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the organization. Among the many wonderful things I learned or was reminded of during the conference was a list of important guideposts for religious nonprofits. Here are a couple:

❖ *The lines between Nonprofits and for-profits can be blurry. Nonprofits need to stay true to their mission and be who they are unapologetically.*

We continue to tell stories of faithful brothers living the mission of Holy Cross. Our featured story in this newsletter is of Brother Robert Livernois, an educator in the faith. It is a familiar story of our congregation, that of teaching by doing, by example and word, influencing the mind and the heart. We make an effort always, in all ways, to be true to our mission, educating the minds and

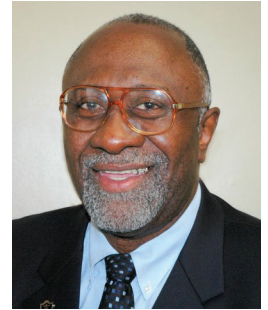
hearts of those we encounter along the way.

❖ *Nonprofits that refuse to embrace technology out of cost, fear or uncertainty risk losing opportunities to grow and expand.*

To help us keep connected and to be better stewards of your legacy, we recently acquired a new software package called Donor Snap. We needed to upgrade our system, and Donor Snap proved to be an economical and prudent purchase. This will enable us to keep good record of your contributions and recognize you for your generosity, past, present and future.

Over the years we have seen an increase in donors using Donor Advised Funds to support the Brothers of Holy Cross. Donor Advised Funds are growing in popularity. If you're not familiar with Donor Advised funds, here is how they operate: An individual sets up an account with a charitable sponsor (such as Fidelity or Schwab Charitable) and makes tax-free

contributions to the account. The sponsor takes that money, invests it and grows it. At any time, the holder



Brother Roy Smith, CSC

of the account is free to access their giving fund and recommend a donation or grant be made to the charity of their choosing. One benefit of Donor Advised Funds is that donors can amplify their giving over the years as the funds are invested and grow.

On behalf of the Brothers of Holy Cross, I thank you for your generosity and for your investment in our mission which continues to live and thrive in the hearts and actions of each of us, including you!

Our prayers remain with you. Stay connected to us: [www.brothersofholycross.com](http://www.brothersofholycross.com) Thank you for supporting us as we tell and live our story. ✙

## Remembering our Deceased Brothers in Your Prayers

Brother Bernard Francis Donahoe, CSC  
at the age of 86  
died November 26, 2018  
66 years of vowed religious life



Brother William Leo Schu, CSC  
at the age of 93  
died March 15, 2019  
73 years a vowed religious

# Summer leadership program shares Holy Cross values

**A** shared family. A shared heritage. A shared mission. A shared service. But it means nothing if we don't live the mission.

These are the themes that students attending the Holy Cross Student Leadership Conference each summer will encounter and embrace.

For several years, students from Holy Cross high schools east of the Mississippi have come together for five days at Notre Dame, Ind., outside South Bend. Last year, nine schools attended the conference in late June.

These student leaders learn their

become friends.

Yet it's not all fun and games. The purpose is to learn more about the Holy Cross heritage that serves each school.

"The point is for these students to see the early roots of Holy Cross at Notre Dame and to understand Holy Cross better," said Brother Bob Livernois, director of the conference.

The purpose of Day One is to share the gifts of the Holy Cross community and to create an awareness of the importance of family.

"By the end of the day, during the evening prayer and discussion groups, they are already united," Brother Bob

A key component of the conference is learning the Holy Cross heritage in the United States and how Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin and six brothers founded the University of Notre Dame.

The leadership group participates in a pilgrimage on the campus of Notre Dame. They visit the Log Chapel a replica of where Sorin and the brothers resided in 1842. Also included on the itinerary for the pilgrims is the Old College, the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the Lourdes Grotto, Holy Cross Cemetery and other statues and iconography that tell the story of Holy Cross. At each stop, the pilgrims are asked to write a reflection and say a prayer. The exercise is meant to give the pilgrims a sense that they are a part of this heritage and are being asked to carry on the Holy Cross mission and tradition.

The students meet with the Rev. John Herman, rector of Moreau Seminary, and learn about life as a seminarian and the preparation to serve anywhere around the world as a Holy Cross priest.

A highlight of the conference is lunch with the brothers at Columba Hall, where about 45 brothers reside.

"It's amazing the interaction with the brothers and students," Brother Bob said. "When the brothers learn where the students are from, stories are shared of when they served at the student's school. It's fun for the kids to talk with the brothers."

On the last night, the students again meet with the brothers for dinner. The brothers are invited to stand and share their history. Later,

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"It is important for students and educators to appreciate the legacy of the brothers by sharing time with them."

—*Brother Bob Livernois*

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schools aren't alone. Each school is part of a bigger family—the Holy Cross family, the Holy Cross heritage, the Holy Cross mission and the Holy Cross purpose of serving others.

The conference is designed to encourage networking and an exchange of ideas among students, while they form bonds of friendship.

Students arrive at Holy Cross College, and comfortably move from being students from individual schools to being 65 high school kids having fun with each other.

Through ice breaker activities to ice cream shops, grassy fields with Frisbees, pizza shops, talent shows and prayer time, these students soon

said. "They talk about their school and what Spes Unica means to them. They begin to understand why they are there. The adults sit back and say, it's Divine Providence. It's the Holy Spirit at work."

When Brother Bob took over the program seven years ago, he looked at Blessed Basil Moreau's vision of the Congregation of Holy Cross being like the Holy Family. Included in the conference is the added piece of meeting with the priests and sisters, as well as the brothers.

"We visit with the Sisters of the Holy Cross at St. Mary's College, and the students are led on a tour of the archives," Brother Bob said.



*Students attending the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders in June met in front of Columba Hall at Notre Dame, Ind. for a group photo. After only four short days these students formed a tight bond with their fellow Holy Cross friends from the Midwest and Moreau Provinces.*

the Columba Hall Singers, a group of 10 brothers, entertain everyone with songs of the past.

“The kids love it. It is important for students and educators to appreciate the legacy of the brothers by sharing time with them,” Brother Bob said.

When Maribeth Cloud, enrollment coordinator at Indianapolis Cathedral High School, was asked to chaperone a group of students at the conference, she agreed because she was available, not because she thought it would help her as a Holy Cross educator.

“I consider the start of my Holy Cross journey at Cathedral to be unique and special. I believe God put me in that location at that time for a reason,” Cloud said. “The conference was for students, but I was amazed by the new information I learned and

the bonds I made with other Holy Cross educators.”

Students and educators are asked to share how the mission of Holy Cross is being lived at their schools. It might be school spirit, service opportunities or fundraising opportunities.

“The conference naturally inspires our students to embrace the information and provides them with the desire to share it with their peers,” Cloud said. “The first group I chaperoned was so inspired that the members began the Holy Cross Council of Students at Cathedral. The council began with 15 students in 2016 and we currently have over 50 students.

A week of learning about Holy Cross values would not be complete without a service opportunity. Participants volunteer for several

hours around the South Bend area at various service organizations such as soup kitchens and victory gardens.

Each school sets its own criteria for students attending. Schools usually send three to eight students.

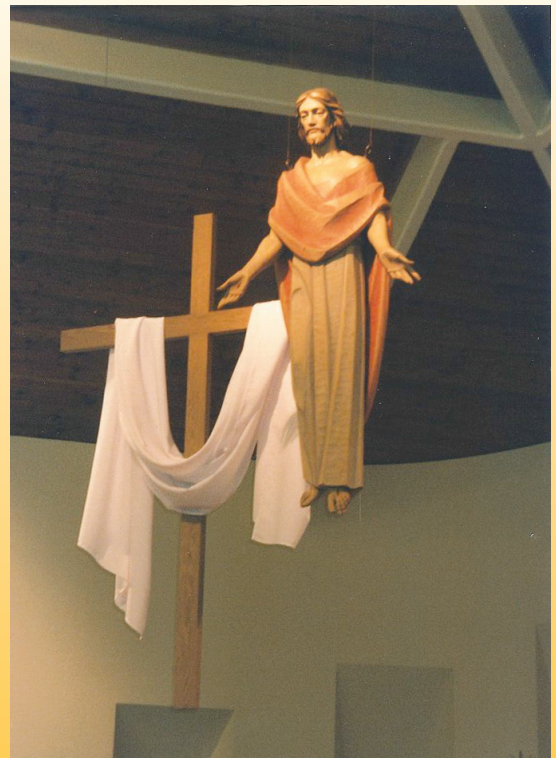
“We invite rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders based on recommendations from Cathedral educators,” Cloud said. “Typically the students have displayed some sort of leadership potential.”

“Under the guidance of the Cathedral’s Holy Cross mission integration team, the Holy Cross council educates and practices the Holy Cross core values with their peers through various activities, events and trips.

“The Holy Cross Leadership Conference has had an extremely positive impact on me and on our students,” Cloud said. ✠

*“The Savior gently rebuked His apostles for being so slow in believing the Resurrection. He then opened to them a vast field for their zealous efforts. He promised them He was going to remain with them and with all of His future disciples until the end of time.”*

*—Blessed Basil Moreau*



*Our Lady Chapel at Gilmour Academy  
Gates Mills, Ohio*