



BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Living the mission of Jesus.

November, 2017

Sharing our spiritual heritage in Holy Cross

By BROTHER CHESTER FREEL, C.S.C., PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

The Congregation of Holy Cross was founded by a wise and holy man who had a vision of creating a better future. This was the charism of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau as he brought together a group of lay religious brothers, then called the Brothers of St. Joseph, and a small group of auxiliary priests to form a new congregation that would quickly spread from France to many places around the world.

There was chaos in French society after the revolution, but Moreau believed he could make a difference with a combination of instruction and formation that would transform minds and hearts to create "a future better than our own."

The foundation of that mission rests in relationships, and a strong relationship with God is the most important relationship of all. For generations, the brothers and priests of Holy Cross worked on their relationships primarily within the limits of their houses and ministries. Those religious who lived and worked

together also prayed together. But as more and more of those who share our ministry have learned and interiorized the charism, values and traditions of Holy Cross, they have also shown interest in sharing our spiritual journey.

About 25 years ago the brothers began the Holy Cross Associates. Associates are people who hunger for something deeper in their spiritual lives. Most have had contact with the brothers and appreciate the ministry brothers have provided and the differences they have made in the lives of so many people. Associates have a desire to grow in knowledge and understanding of the spirituality and charism of Holy Cross as they have experienced it in the lives of the brothers.



*Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.
Provincial Superior*

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Holy Cross Associates from all over the United States met at the national conference in 2015 held at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind.

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Holy Cross Associates form relationships with each other and with their religious colleagues by sharing in the spirituality, hospitality, mission and family of Holy Cross. As an example, Mr. Terry Lee of Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, Calif., said, "Being a Holy Cross Associate provides me an opportunity to be part of a group that builds community through prayer, reflection, support and love. It gives another dimension to my ministry as a Holy Cross educator—one that is spiritual, personal and prayerful."

Holy Cross Associates embrace the heritage and charisms of the Congregation of Holy Cross through monthly gatherings with time for prayer, sharing and food. It is a coming together with people who wish to give witness to zeal and hope through a commitment to grow spiritually, to form community by sharing the Holy Cross spirit of family and hospitality, and to minister and serve God's people. Ms. Jessica Plasphol of Akron, Ohio, said, "Holy Cross Associates are people who love community. I heard one of the Associates say that we are people 'with hope and food to bring!' There's food, laughter and prayer. It's just wonderful. It's an all-inclusive package."

Recently the Holy Cross Associates began a group of Student Associates at the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College. They are creating an opportunity to deepen their faith and to enjoy a supportive community while making their spiritual growth a top priority. One student said, "The Student Associate meetings are not



Ignacio Martinez, president of the Holy Cross Associates board, sharing faith with Roberta DeMerit at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, Calif.

just another item on my schedule. These meetings are a time to reflect on and share my experiences with others in the Holy Cross community, and in turn to encourage community members in their efforts to imitate the life of Christ. Together we are reminded of our home in Holy Cross and grow closer with each other and with God. I leave these meetings knowing who I am."

If you would like to keep the Holy Cross spirit alive and well in your area, I invite you to find out how you could be a part of or begin a group. It would involve a monthly meeting, sharing a process to create a supportive community to enhance your spiritual growth in an age fraught with uncertainty and challenge. You could also become a friend of the Holy Cross Associates by receiving information about annual conferences and regional retreats and by supporting their mission.

For more information you can email or write Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C. at csternberg@brothersofholycross.com at Box 776, Columba Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556 or visit www.HolyCrossAssociates.org



Student Associates Kayla Rask, Denis Alexander, Steven Burke, and Brandon Terk join together for prayer in chapel before they go out for a service project.



Over 20 Holy Cross Associates from Phoenix, Ariz., and Coachella and Palm Desert, Calif., gathered for a regional meeting in Phoenix committed to embrace the charisms of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Associates are living witnesses

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, C.S.C., DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

"We are known by the company we keep" is an old expression. Holy Cross Brothers have walked, worked and journeyed with others for many years. Through God's grace and influence, our students, their parents and co-workers in various ministries have been interested and attracted to our spirituality. Thus chapters of Holy Cross Associates have developed.

Brother Carl Sternberg, one of the founders of the Midwest Holy Cross Associates, said, "The Associates play and will play a significant role in being living witnesses at the local level sharing the Holy Cross mission, especially as the number of brothers diminishes." We are happy to share this important story with you.

Our focus in this appeal is for your continued support of the Brothers of Holy Cross as we carry out our mission of educating hearts and minds and creating a future better than our own – serving in our schools in the U.S. and Ghana, working in diocesan ministries, caring for our aged and infirm, improving our facilities, serving as ministers of prayer and volunteering in many areas.

This year we have a goal of \$300,000. Your generosity encourages and sustains us as we continue our journey of service. Thank you on behalf of all the brothers.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your thoughtful gift or contact:

Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C., Director of Development
P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.2928
rsmith@brothersofholycross.com



Moreau Catholic High School Associates renewing their commitments in front of the student body.



Lynn Case making a commitment to spiritual growth, community and service, with Brother Carl Sternberg accepting.

Showing our Appreciation

As a small token of our gratitude for your generosity to the Annual Appeal, we will inscribe your name in the St. Brother André Registry, a book in which the Brothers honor those who support our mission. The registry is prominently placed at the entrance of Columba Hall.

In addition to inscribing your name in the registry, the Brothers of Holy Cross are honored to remember you in our daily prayers.

You will also be recognized in our 2017 Annual Stewardship Report according to the level of support. We do not specifically indicate the amount of your gift. Our annual giving levels are:

Brother Columba O'Neill Club Members

Gifts of \$5,000 and above

Columba Hall Society Members

Gifts from \$200 to \$4,999

Cross & Anchors Members

Gifts up to \$199





Holy Cross Associates



Retired Brothers on Kentucky Derby Day

With the eyes of *FAITH*,

consider the greatness of your mission and the wonderful amount of *GOOD* you can accomplish.



And also consider the great reward promised to those who have *TAUGHT THE TRUTH* to others and have helped form them into justice: "They will shine eternally in the skies *LIKE THE STARS* of the heavens." With the *HOPE* of this glory, we must generously complete the Lord's work.

—Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.



Brothers in U.S. high schools



St. Brother André High School in Ghana



Brothers sharing in music ministry

We invite you to visit our website to keep up to date with our work:
<http://brothersofholycross.com/>