



BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Men with hope to bring

December, 2020

Brothers honored so many choose to walk with them

BY BROTHER KENNETH HADERS, CSC, PROVINCIAL

I believe in the mission of the Brothers of Holy Cross, and so do many others. Most of you know the brothers because you encountered us through one of our schools. In our heyday, there may have been over 40 brothers working at the school you attended.

When I was in high school in the late '60s, brothers did everything from changing light bulbs to running the school. Most were teachers, and most of the teachers were



Students at Cathedral High School write notes to residents in senior care facilities in the Indianapolis area to lift their spirits during the pandemic.

moderators of some club or team. Their mere presence in the life of the school made a difference—made things special. This is not true today, but I would say that

the schools are more aligned with the Holy Cross charism, values and traditions than when I was a student. Our schools are still special.

In the old days, you just did it the brothers' way. You did not think about it or try to name it. Now, we have pillars, charisms, core values and such to name and define who we are and what is important in the culture of a Holy Cross school. Most of the words we use come from the writings of Blessed Basil Moreau or from congregational documents like our constitutions. In order to maintain and expand our heritage, to continue what was special, we have become quite deliberate about the language we use to describe the attitudes and behaviors we cultivate among our Holy Cross educators, students and families.

We believe Holy Cross schools are different and special, and our fellow Holy Cross educators are committed to preserving and nurturing Holy Cross education—an education of the heart as well as the mind. It is our life work, and we brothers are extremely honored that so many have chosen to walk this path with us and to continue and go beyond our current limits. If you ever have an opportunity to visit one of our Holy Cross schools, you will see multiple signs, symbols and other reminders that will clearly signal what is important to the life of the school.



Brother Kenneth Haders, CSC Provincial

With this annual appeal request, I ask you to remember the brothers. Though most of us are now doing more praying than working, your generosity keeps us safe and vibrant and shows that you too believe in and support the mission of the Brothers of Holy Cross.

Thank you for all your support.



Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio, has dedicated a room in honor of the Brothers of Holy Cross. The Holy Cross Room serves as a meeting room, and its walls are lined with the history of the school, Holy Cross artifacts and a composite of the brothers who have served at Hoban. The refurbished meeting tables came from LeMans Academy, where many brothers made their novitiate.

The six thriving Midwest high schools sponsored by the Brothers of Holy Cross boast a rich history of the charisms embedded by the brothers who founded them. There was a time at each of these schools when there may have been more than 40 brothers educating the hearts and minds of countless students. Today any one of these schools feels blessed to have one or two brothers.

Several years ago, the leadership of the congregation saw the dwindling numbers of its religious and made a concerted effort to make sure the faculty and administrations in each of these schools would be educated to carry on its Holy Cross traditions.

Today, these schools have not skipped a beat. Although the brothers are greatly missed, these lay educators embrace and celebrate the legacies the brothers left behind. At each school great emphasis is placed on Holy Cross values in all facets of learning and development.

Dr. Emily Ramos is principal at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron.

“According to Blessed Basil Moreau,” Ramos said, “the foundation of a Holy Cross school is one in which education and instruction should always be placed side by side. The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. As Holy Cross educators, it is our responsibility to prepare our students to be change agents within our society.”

Each year, Hoban proudly selects one Holy Cross educator who lives out Moreau’s vision of inspiring hearts and minds and follows in the footsteps of the many brothers who have educated generations of Hoban students. Inaugurated in 2018 and named after its first recipient, the Brother James Spooner Holy Cross Heart and Mind Award was created to remind all Holy Cross educators of the example they are all called to follow.

“The award recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions in support of Hoban students through their teaching, leadership and service,” Ramos said. “Their tremendous work is an inspiration to other Holy Cross educators.”

Cathedral High School states in its newly revised mission statement—“Cathedral, a premier Catholic high school in the Holy Cross tradition, transforms the hearts and minds of a diverse group of students to have the competence to see and the courage to act.”

Grace Trahan-Rodecap is Cathedral’s director of marketing.

“The pandemic has presented challenges for us,” she said, “but it has not stopped us from living our mission.”

Although many service opportunities were canceled, students still found ways to serve the community by



Holy Trinity starts every day at 7 a.m. sharp with an administrator at the school’s main doors welcoming students, faculty and visitors with a warm smile and—in pre-Covid times—a hearty handshake.

Legacy of Brothers and valued Holy Cross traditions are brought to life in schools



Notre Dame College Prep (Niles, IL) is the largest all-boys high school in Illinois and a proud Holy Cross high school. Its storied past is full of members of the Congregation of Holy Cross who served Notre Dame and inspired its Dons for over 65 years. A Don is a gentleman of Mary—a young man of faith, scholarship and service.

cleaning up the neighborhood surrounding the school and writing to residents in nursing homes. The tradition of collecting items for food pantries before Thanksgiving break continued.

“In 1918 the Spanish flu did not stop Cathedral High School from opening its doors, and COVID-19 is not keeping our school from living its Holy Cross values in 2021,” Trahan-Rodecap said. “We are proud of our tradition of educating hearts and minds and ask for God’s blessings as we live our Holy Cross values for the next 100 years.”

The Brothers of Holy Cross have been impacting the lives of young people at Gilmour Academy since 1946 as they carry out the Holy Cross mission to educate the mind and heart of every student. Kathleen Kenny is Head of School.

“Gilmour has chosen to immortalize the impact of one Holy Cross Brother in particular as he epitomized the Holy Cross charisms of zeal, hospitality and inclusiveness,” Kenny said. “Brother Richard Keller worked at Gilmour for 37 years, serving in campus ministry, as director of the residency program and as director of food services. Every interaction he had was done with a smile or a heartfelt exchange.”

To ensure that Brother Richard’s spirit lives on for future generations of Gilmour students, the school has named an award after him. The Brother Richard Keller Award recognizes the witness that Brother Richard made by living out the Holy Cross core values and reaching out to those in need within the Gilmour community and the greater community. The award is presented annually to two student leaders who demonstrate that same zeal, hospitality and inclusiveness.

Gilmour also renamed its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive after Brother Richard Keller. This campus-wide initiative brings to life the school’s mission statement “to develop the competence to see and the courage to act in creating a more humane and just society.”

“Brother Richard was one of the most faithful food drive volunteers and it is only fitting that the event be named after him,” Kenny said.

Shortly before he died, Brother Richard said, “Life is about reaching out, helping those in need, being a good listener, a comforter, and a healer.”

Timothy Bopp is president of Holy Trinity High School in Chicago.

“One of the first things we learned from the Brothers of Holy Cross was the welcoming spirit they provided to all,” Bopp said. “Holy Trinity, like all the Holy Cross schools I have been to, prides itself in fostering that spirit with a welcoming attitude and a friendly environment for all. Holy Cross schools feel different the minute you step inside the main entryway. In the feedback the school has received, visitors tell us that they feel special when visiting Holy Trinity, that our students, faculty and staff treat them with genuine respect and interest.

“Inspired by this legacy, along with the brothers who served at Holy Trinity and the life of St. André Bessette, Holy Trinity starts every day at 7 a.m. sharp, with an administrator at the school’s main doors welcoming students, faculty and visitors with a warm smile and in pre-COVID times, a hearty handshake,” Bopp said.

“The message to faculty is one of great admiration for the effort they exert each day for our students, and to our visitors that this is a special place, and we are delighted that they have decided to spend some of their valuable time with us. The message to students is that this is a place where they are loved and respected, and where each is an important member of the Holy Trinity family.

“There is no better way to start the day than to be reminded of our Holy Cross spirit of welcoming, and we are proud to continue its legacy,” Bopp said.

At Notre Dame College Prep in Niles, Ill., one of the most important Holy Cross values is “inclusive diversity.” Shay Boyle is president at NDCP.

“In the spirit of St. André Bessette and in recognition of the priests and brothers who have served at Notre Dame, the school has a long history of ensuring there is an opportunity for all young men to attend high school here regardless of academic and financial needs,” Boyle said. “Each student is valued as uniquely gifted, special and important.

“Notre Dame features diverse learning programs for all of our students, including our Father Hesburgh Honors Program for students seeking honors and advanced placement classes,” Boyle said. “We also offer the St. André Program for students that require academic accommodations or extra academic assistance. We are one of the only high schools in the country to offer our Burke Scholars Program for students with mild to severe cognitive disabilities such as Down syndrome, autism, etc.” Boyle said.



Just inside the door of St. Edward High School’s entrance is a stunning two-story mural telling the story of both the Congregation of Holy Cross and St. Edward’s.

Notre Dame students come from 35 cities, 50 zip codes, and over 160 elementary schools all across the Chicago area. Its families speak over 30 languages and represent over 30 different faiths.

“Our alumni and donors very generously support the financial needs of our families that require tuition assistance as well. All are welcome at Notre Dame College Prep, and we are committed to educating the hearts and the minds of our students inspired by the Holy Cross tradition each year,” Boyle said.

At St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, the Brothers of Holy Cross built and sustained a legacy rooted in a warm and welcoming hospitality and a commitment to educating the hearts and minds of every student inside and outside our classrooms.

Jim Kubacki is president at St. Edward.

“Brother James Everett, who served St. Edward for 38 years, would welcome students every morning at the front doors of the school,” Kubacki said. “His oft-repeated phrase, ‘a warm Holy Cross welcome to you,’ now greets all visitors to our campus, affixed above the doors of our newly opened Marilyn and David ’64 Palisin Commons, the formal entrance to our campus.”

Just inside those doors, guests will find a stunning two-story mural telling the story of both the Congregation of Holy Cross and St. Edward High School.

“Additionally, we honor and remember the monumental academic and co-curricular legacies of so many brothers, highlighted by the Brother Bennet Nettleton Museum and Classroom, containing artifacts Brother Bennet collected over his nearly five-decades of service to St. Ed’s, and highlighting our commitment to his educational legacy,” Kubacki said. “We have also named our annual Robotics Award after Brother David Martin, showcasing his many years of service to our science department, and this vital co-curricular program, as well as naming a classroom after storied English teacher Brother Joseph Chvala.”

Through the dedication of these trained lay Holy Cross educators, the charism and traditions of the Congregation of Holy Cross continues to be strong and enduring in its schools.

Proud to be part of “this band of men”

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, CSC, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

When the question of where would I attend high school was brought up in our family, it was an easy choice. I wanted to follow the lead and example of my two older brothers, William and Joseph, who attended Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. What I did not know is I would meet a number of Holy Cross Brothers, who inspired me, in the words of our constitutions, to “fall in line with that great band of men, walking side by side with each other.”

Before entering Cathedral I knew of Brother Roland Driscoll when I saw him at the CYO Field where the football team practiced. Bill Roseman and I would go out there to see our older brothers practice. It seemed as though Brother Roland did everything—from being athletic director, to preparing the uniforms, cutting the grass, arranging transportation and—oh yeah—teaching several classes.

In many ways the brothers were every place the students had activities, programs or contests.

The brothers inspired me to say to myself, “I’d like to work with students in hopes that I could encourage, teach, support, challenge, give good example and show concern and interest the way I felt the brothers responded to me.” The entire faculty appreciated and valued the students. This was, shall we say, part of the school culture.

Coach Joe Dezelan Sr. supported me in my decision to enter the Brothers of Holy Cross as did the brothers. There was definitely a spirit of community, a sense of family, back in my day as is the case in our Holy Cross schools today.

During a meeting at Cathedral several years ago, Steve Helmich, former president of Cathedral, said, “What is it that the brothers did when they were here?” He acknowledged that he did not know what it was, but it was good, *very good*, and he wanted to know and understand so he could better serve his school. This led to his meeting and developing a relationship with Brother Pedro Haering.

As Director of Development, I see many notes expressing gratitude to the Brothers. Kenneth N. Jaszczor, a Holy Trinity graduate from the late ’50s said recently: “My Christmas prayer is for a special blessing upon you and all the brothers, whose guidance made my life better and more spiritually oriented, because of their committed dedication to helping others like me.”

These types of notes make me very proud to be a part of “this band of men” called the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Our goal for the brothers’ annual appeal this year is \$330,000 and will be used mainly for the safety and security of our elder brothers.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your thoughtful gift or contact:
Brother Roy Smith, CSC, Director of Development
P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556
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Brother Roy Smith, CSC
Director of Development



A proud moment for Brother Roy Smith as he is part of this four generation photo of Holy Cross brothers: From Left to right: Brother Edwin Mattingly taught Brother James Everett who taught Brother Roy who taught Brother Chester Freel.

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. 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 2020 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

