



# BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

*Living the mission of Jesus.*

November, 2016

## Reflecting on Congregation's 175-year legacy

Dear Friends in Holy Cross,

September 13, 1841, marked the arrival of the first members of the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States. As we celebrate our 175th Anniversary in this country, it is good to reflect on our legacy.

That first group of Holy Cross religious in America was a practical one composed of six Brothers and a priest. Though invited to be educators, the group also included a carpenter, a tailor, and a farmer. That diversity of laborers, especially among the Brothers, has been critical to our sustained success over these many years. The brothers' way of life, like the Mystical Body, has always supported a family of generous and dedicated men sharing a wealth of needed gifts that have contributed to the overall success of our mission as educators in the faith.



Beginning with my first day of meeting Holy Cross Brothers in high school, I have been inspired by their dedication, creativity, and faithfulness. Since that providential day in 1963, I have encountered many more brothers, who have had a profound impact on the life of students like me and on the lives of their families. As provincial, I have heard many of you share stories of brothers who have been nothing short of miracle workers in the ways they have influenced you. Sometimes it was in what they taught, bringing to life academic material that opened new doors and informed your lives. In other cases it was how our brothers interacted with you outside of the classroom. These brothers communicated hope and promise that helped to transform you beyond the classroom.

In this annual letter we share and celebrate the lives of three brother educators who have been and still are active in the classrooms of our schools. They are but representative of the many brothers who have made a difference in



*Brother Phil Smith works with a freshman English class at Archbishop Hoban High School.*

the lives of so many. Today we recognize how these three brothers, like all who preceded them in our 175-year history in the United States, are Men with Hope to Bring.

Yes, the legacy begun here in 1841 continues!

Thank you.

St. André Bessette, pray for us.

Sincerely,

*Brother Chester Freel, CSC*

Brother Chester Freel, CSC

Provincial Superior

# Devoted. Dedicated. Demanding.—Brother Dennis

BY KC MCKENNA '00, VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING & ADMISSION, ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL

Those who know Brother Dennis Bednarz, C.S.C., know he can best be described as passionate and driven, his many loves including his native Chicago, the game of baseball, politics, history, and the Congregation of Holy Cross.

For forty years, Brother Dennis has served the Congregation, with seventeen of those years (1986-1991; 2005-2016) spent at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, as a teacher and coach.

Like many of the Brothers of Holy Cross who came before him, Brother Dennis has served the St. Edward Community in diverse and meaningful ways as theology teacher, class moderator, moderator of the Edsman student newspaper, athletic director, and assistant admissions director. Currently, Brother Dennis teaches AP U.S. History and AP Comparative Politics and is the head coach of the St. Edward freshman baseball team.

“Brother Dennis is a model of Holy Cross servant leadership,” said Dr. Frank O’Linn, the St. Edward principal. “His passion and energy come alive in the classroom and on the baseball diamond as he instills in his students and players the Holy Cross charism.”



“Brother Dennis takes the time to truly know his students and his players—they are not simply another face,” said St. Edward Social Studies Chair Suzanne Fairfield. “He knows ‘their story’ and because of that interest when he insists upon excellence, his students and players never hesitate to give him their best!”

On November 1, 2016, Brother Dennis will represent St. Edward High School in Washington, D.C., as St. Edward High School is honored by U.S. Secretary of Education John King with a National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence. ✚

# We came to

## Holy Trinity welcomes return of Brother James

BY MOIRA WIEDENMAN, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS, HOLY TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

When Brother James Van Dyke, C.S.C. returned to Holy Trinity High School in Chicago, he had been away for nearly 40 years, and Holy Trinity had been without a Brother of Holy Cross on the faculty for nearly a decade. The students, faculty and staff were excited to welcome a brother back to our hallways, especially one with such incredible experiences from his career in law to bring to the classroom.

Brother James teaches Government and Law, World History, and AP U.S. Government at Holy Trinity. He is a favorite among the students, making the often

difficult class materials understandable and relatable to their own lives. He is known among the students as caring, kind and always available for help.

“This school was founded by the Brothers, so I think



it's so cool to have one as a teacher," Viviana Alcala, Class of 2017, said. "He brings an energetic light to the classroom, like a ray of sunshine, and he makes the class fun and exciting."

Having a brother back at Holy Trinity has given the students a visible representation of the charism of Holy Cross that is often discussed. Students, faculty and staff appreciate the gentle wisdom Brother James provides both in the classroom and out.

"One of the things I love most about Brother James is that he is a living model of what it means to be Holy Cross," Principal Marianne Lynch said. "The students relate to him and appreciate him, and when they read

Holy Cross material and the writings of Blessed Basil Moreau, they can immediately connect those ideas to Brother James and the way he teaches and lives."

"Holy Trinity has changed my life twice. First, when I was a new teacher (1970s and 1980s), and again when I returned in 2014 (to present)," Brother James said. "The secret? The unique bonds in the Holy Trinity family of students and staff and its dynamism continues to shape my life, so I hope I am doing something to pay it back."

The Holy Cross mission is brought to life most vividly in the actions of the brothers at each school, but each school reflects that mission and gives back to every brother. We can all be very grateful. ✚

## Brother Phil—the relentless rehearsaler demands the best

BY MARY ANNE DeCENZO, DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS & MARKETING, ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL

He just loves coming to school every day. And most mornings for Brother Phil Smith start around 4:30 sitting at his desk at Archbishop Hoban High School grading papers, preparing for his classes and plotting out the school play in the quiet of the

Brother Phil arrived at Hoban in 2006, after serving for nearly 20 years as a teacher, director of development and president at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago. He was asked to build a steel drum band at Hoban where a traditional marching band never seemed to gain momentum. He had no experience with steel

to serve others

morning. This has been his work ethic for many years.

Born in Gary, Ind., Brother Phil entered the Congregation of Holy Cross out of high school in 1965 and graduated from St. Edward's University in 1969. He has taught English and music and has directed school plays, musicals and bands.



drums, yet after a one-

week introduction to them, Brother Phil grew the popular band at Hoban.

"I am known as a "relentless rehearsaler," Brother Phil said. "I challenge kids to meet my expectations. I have an ethical responsibility to give these kids what their parents are paying tuition for."

Today, you will find the multitasking Brother Phil teaching two AP English classes and three senior College Prep English courses along with directing the fall play. After school he might be helping a student prepare for an audition in the local symphony orchestra and at night he crochets countless afghans and scarves for the school auction.

"Rarely have I met a teenager I do not like. I tried retirement," Brother Phil said. "It didn't work." ✚

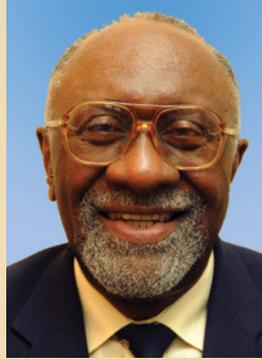


# Past, Present and Future

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

For almost 10 generations Brothers of Holy Cross have been, as expressed by our Constitutions, “educators in the faith.” We have used our gifts in various ministries, always with a focus on educating the hearts and minds of those we serve, and sensitizing them to the need for justice and peace.

Many Brothers exercised their ministry by sharing their gifts and talents as teachers in our schools. We have been blessed to influence the lives of many. In this letter three of our brothers presently teaching are highlighted.



We have all been given many gifts, and our vocation has called us to share them in ways that build the Kingdom of God. For 175 years as educators in United States we have helped to create disciples with the competence to see and the courage to act to bring God’s ways into our world. We are asking you to support us in this mission.

Our goal for the Brothers’ Annual Appeal is \$300,000.

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

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

Your gifts past, present and future are appreciated by all the brothers.  
Thank you!

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

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Brother James Van Dyke lectures at Holy Trinity High School.



Brother Dennis Bednarz teaches a history class at St. Edward High School.

## 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 2016 Annual Stewardship Report according to the level of support. We do not specifically indicate the amount of your gift. Our annual giving levels are:

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### Brother Columba O’Neill Club Members

Gifts of \$5,000 and above

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### Columba Hall Society Members

Gifts from \$200 to \$4,999

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### Cross & Anchors Members

Gifts up to \$199

