



BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Men with hope to bring

Annual Appeal, 2024

Your giving provides ability to take care of needed repairs

BY BROTHER KENNETH HADERS, CSC, PROVINCIAL

Since I am on the board for almost all of our schools, I often hear the term “deferred maintenance.” It refers to repairs to infrastructure and assets that get delayed and backlogged because of budget limitations and lack of funding. I want to thank you for all you do to help us take care of needed maintenance at Columba Hall, because the reality is that we cannot defer fixing or maintaining what breaks in a building that has been our home for about 125 years.

Before it was called Columba Hall, after one of our brothers who we hope may be on his way to becoming a saint, the current brothers’ residence on the campus at Notre Dame was called the Community House. At one time almost 80 Holy Cross religious lived there. Today, 30 religious call it home, including a handful of men from other communities who are studying at the university.


Because the brothers are elderly, and some very frail, we cannot allow things to go without repair. We want to take good care of our elder brothers, so let me say thank you for all you do to allow us to take care of this historic building.

Your donations allow us to do what we need to do to keep our home functioning and comfortable. Thank you for the gutters and downpipes we replaced, for the leaking pipes we replaced, for the drains we opened, for the freezer we replaced,

the tuckpointing and masonry repairs we had done, for the new carpeting installed on the main stairwell, for the fresh paint on the chapel walls, for the repairs to the sprinkler system for fires, for the pipe insulation replaced, for the asbestos removed, for the hot water pump and the heating pump that were replaced, for the repaired water main and much more that has been done and that will need doing in the future.



Brother Kenneth Haders, CSC Provincial

Your generosity allows us to take care of our historic home and to keep it a wonderful place to live. In this issue’s feature story about the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders, you see how visiting our brothers in their home on campus is a highlight of the students’ activities during their time together. They love meeting the brothers and hearing their stories almost as much as our brothers like hearing what is happening at the schools where they may have served decades ago. Hospitality has always been a hallmark of Columba Hall and your donations allow us to make it a home worthy of the brothers and their guests. 



It was a week to remember for over 80 students from Holy Cross schools across the Midwest and East as they attended the annual Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders in late June. The students participated in many team building activities learning about the Holy Cross heritage.



Students and chaperones from 11 Holy Cross schools from the Midwest and East gather outside Columba Hall during their visit to Notre Dame as participants at the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders. The conference is held annually at Holy Cross College. See page 2 for story.

The Holy Cross values that so many of us have learned, lived and treasured are being instilled in so many different ways in the Holy Cross schools across the United States.

One very purposeful way this is being done is through the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders (HCC4SL), held annually the last week of June at Holy Cross College. The Conference draws students from the seven Holy Cross schools in the Midwest and four from the East coast. Typically each school sends four to eight students plus chaperones. This year students came from Archbishop Hoban HS (Akron, Ohio), Bishop McNamara HS (Forestville, Maryland), Cathedral HS (Indianapolis), Gilmour Academy (Gates Mills, Ohio), Holy Cross HS (Flushing, New York), Holy Cross HS (Waterburg, Connecticut), Holy Trinity HS (Chicago), Notre Dame College Prep (Niles, Illinois), Notre Dame HS (West Haven, Connecticut), Reitz Memorial (Evansville, Indiana) and St. Edward HS (Lakewood, Ohio).

The program over the course of five days provides students with an immersive experience dedicated to leadership development and community building within the Holy Cross tradition.

The HCC4SL originated when the schools of the Southwest Province began meeting at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. After Brother Ken Haders, Hoban's president at the time, arranged for Hoban students to join this group, Kevin Hillary, a former teacher and vice principal at Hoban was asked to initiate a similar program at Holy Cross College for the schools in the Midwest and East in 2010.

Since 2013, Brother Bob Livernois has been the driving force behind the conference, dedicating countless hours to organizing and coordinating every aspect of the event. His efforts are meant to ensure every detail contributes to a meaningful experience for all participants. A key element of the conference's success has been the ongoing support of returning chaperones.

"The Holy Cross Conference for Student Leadership is



Brother James Spooner enjoyed having lunch with his friends from Hoban at the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders. Brother James recently retired from Hoban after many years of service as an administrator. Students attending the conference shared a meal with the Brothers at Columba Hall.

Annual Holy Cross Conference helps to form Student Leaders in schools

BY MARY ANNE DEGENZO, EDITOR
PHOTOS BY: CHRIS FAHEY

designed to inspire and educate students from Holy Cross schools, fostering a deeper understanding of the congregation's roots and shared traditions," Brother Bob said. "The conference aims to empower students to see themselves as leaders, both within their own schools and as part of the broader Holy Cross community."

The goal is to have students engage in meaningful discussions and collaborative activities, so they can learn from one another's experiences, gain insights into the Holy Cross legacy, and leave with a renewed commitment to uphold and advance these values in their schools.

"Students enjoy talking with each other and learning how similar the culture of all the schools are," Brother Ken Haders said. "They like to share their ideas about how they bring Holy Cross and their own school's traditions to life every day at their school. They share a lot and learn from each other. And all the while the chaperones are listening to gain ideas they too can take home and use."

Each Holy Cross school has its own selection process for inviting students to the HCC4SL, reflecting the honor of being chosen. Some schools select only rising seniors, while others invite students from various grade levels or leadership roles, such as members of the student council. This tailored approach ensures that each school sends student representatives who embody the spirit of leadership within their communities.

The HCC4SL is specifically designed for students, with adult chaperones accompanying them throughout the program. While the primary focus is on student engagement and leadership development, adult participants often leave reinvigorated by witnessing the students' growth in understanding the Holy Cross mission and their own leadership potential. Though adults are active participants, this is truly a conference centered on empowering students as emerging leaders within the Holy Cross community.

Ben Paoelli, director of campus ministry at Notre Dame College Prep is one inspired chaperone.

"The HCC4SL is a fantastic formative experience for both the youth from our school as well as for myself," Paoelli said. "For the students, they gain a deeper understanding of our Holy Cross values and heritage, while learning valuable lessons on leadership. For the adults, the opportunity to make connections with others in our field and discuss best practices is so beneficial, and it sets the stage for further partnerships between our schools in the future."



Students from Gilmour and Hoban served breakfast at Our Lady of the Road Mission Center for the unhoused and food insecure. The center offers breakfast every morning as well as clothes, laundry service and haircuts to those in downtown South Bend. Groups from each high school completed service projects one morning in different locations around town.

The Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders offers a dynamic blend of talks, discussions, and interactive activities, all designed to deepen students' understanding of Holy Cross values and leadership. The conference sets a welcoming tone as it opens with a day of engaging icebreakers, games, prayers, and introductions. On the second day, students embark on a pilgrimage across the historic Notre Dame campus, exploring significant sites where the first Holy Cross Brothers walked. This experience includes lunch with the Brothers at Columba Hall, a visit to the Holy Cross cemeteries, and insights into the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

"The Brothers of Holy Cross play a warm and inspiring role at the conference by welcoming students into their home at Columba Hall and sharing a memorable lunch together," Brother Bob said. "Each student group is thoughtfully paired with a Brother, often someone who has served at their school, fostering meaningful connections and conversation. Brother Phil Smith captivates students with the story of Brother Columba's life, sharing insights into his dedication and legacy. The Brothers, all of whom are retired, genuinely enjoy just knowing the students are visiting Notre Dame and are willing to serve as leaders in our schools. Following lunch with the brothers, students met with Holy Cross Father Drew Clary who spoke about the ministries of the Holy Cross priests throughout the world."

Mid-week, students participate in a "best practices" session, sharing ideas from their respective schools and engaging in

discussions to gain fresh ideas for positive change. A dedicated day of service follows, as students and chaperones work together in local service projects, returning in the afternoon to Saint Mary's for an introduction to the Sisters of the Holy Cross and their global impact. The evening concludes with a lively talent show, where each school showcases their unique talents. The final morning of the conference brings participants together for morning prayer and a heartfelt departure, closing the experience with reflection on their growth as leaders in the Holy Cross tradition. Throughout the week, the conference integrates focused lessons and discussions on leadership, leaving students inspired and equipped to return to their schools to make meaningful contributions in their schools and communities.

Gilmour junior Blake Baskin was particularly touched by the dedicated day to service.

"One of the most eye opening things I took out of the conference was the service we did at the homeless shelter," Baskin said. "I was so blessed to experience that and talk to the people. I realized humanity has so much to offer that we all take for granted. Just hearing the stories of other people can change someone's perspective. That is my way of understanding Blessed Basil Moreau's motto, 'The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart.'"

Following the conference, Dr. Tym Tagliaferro, Director of Sponsorship and Mission Integration for the Midwest Province and a long-time collaborator with Brother Bob, emphasizes the importance of translating the experience into meaningful action within students' schools and daily lives. Tagliaferro actively follows up with participants through e-mail and in-person visits, providing ongoing support and encouragement.

Many students have taken the initiative to lead their schools' Holy Cross Identity Clubs, coordinate retreats, and incorporate the charism of the Brothers into various clubs, sports, and activities. This commitment reflects their desire to embody the values and teachings of the Holy Cross community, ensuring that the impact of the conference resonates long after it concludes.

Also, with social media, the students stay connected with each other and continue to develop the bonds, based on Holy Cross, that are formed at the conference.

Tagliaferro will assume leadership of the conference with Brother Bob continuing to provide guidance and support to ensure continuity and success. The conference aims to expand its reach by welcoming students from Brazil and possibly Montreal, fostering a more diverse and global Holy Cross community of young leaders.

Hoban senior Mary Hottinger summed up her experience like so many of the other participants, "I was so glad to be a part of the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders! The talks and activities really resonated with me and inspired everyone in the room to connect more deeply and make the most of our time at HCC4SL." ✠

Brothers are grateful for your support

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, CSC, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

As I reflect on the year 2024 two groups of people come to mind. One special group of course would be our donors. Again, you were so generous and responsive to our requests for health care and retirement needs of our brothers which includes keeping our home at Columba Hall in good shape.

The other group that I am indeed mindful of are the students who come each summer to the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders. When the students come to the Notre Dame campus they always have lunch with the Brothers who reside in Columba Hall. That gives us an opportunity to meet them in small groups at table and have personal conversation. What strikes me is the students awareness that they either are already leaders or they know that they are being asked to accept positions of leadership in their schools.

In October, I was invited to speak to experienced teachers from our Holy Cross schools at a workshop held at the LaPorte Center in LaPorte, Indiana. One becomes aware of how very intentional the leadership of our province wants the faculty and students to embrace and live out the Holy Cross Core Values.

You, our donors, have been connected with Holy Cross as former students, as parents of students, as friends or as relatives of the brothers. It is well documented that people give because they are asked for specific needs. Please be assured that your gift is carefully being utilized where you want it to make an impact and is the most effective.

On behalf of all the members of the Midwest Province, I wish to say THANK YOU for your generosity that empowers us to continue to support, educate and develop the minds and hearts of our students and all those we come into contact with through God's grace. ✠



Brother Roy Smith, CSC
Director of Development



A group of students attending the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders get their photo taken with the famous "Touchdown Jesus" as a backdrop. Students were from Holy Cross schools in the Midwest and East.



Students attending the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders had time to grow spiritually through prayer services.

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

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574.631.2928
rsmith@brothersofholycross.com

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 2024 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

