



BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Living the mission of Jesus.

Help us provide young men the opportunity to experience the true joy of religious life

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

November, 2014

Dear Friend,

Over the past few years, friends like you have helped us to restore Columba Hall, our residence for elder brothers on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Today, **I am excited to share a new project**, right across the street at Holy Cross College.

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Members of St. Joseph House at Holy Cross College visit with Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Brother Chester Freel, Provincial of the Midwest Province. Front row: Brother Jesus Alonso, Brother Johnathan Beebe, Brother Nich Perez, Steven Storey and Brother Chris Torrijas. Back row: Jacob Eifred, Kyle Fritzsche, Brandon Turk, Bishop Rhoades, Brother Chester, Brother John Paige and Andrew Querciagrossa.

You may know Holy Cross College as the “younger sibling” to St. Mary’s and Notre Dame—the college that gave “Rudy” his start. Today, it is a thriving four-year, Catholic coed liberal arts college in the great tradition of the Congregation of Holy Cross. A number of brothers still teach, work and serve there. Brother John Paige, the former Vicar General of the congregation in Rome, is the current president.

This summer, in a joint effort, the two provinces of Brothers of Holy Cross in the United States (the Midwest Province and the Moreau Province) opened a residence for aspiring brothers. Built to accommodate 12, St. Joseph House has already welcomed five enthusiastic young men to the new program.

St. Joseph House provides the first step for young men to experience the true joy of religious life. They live in community with other discerning men as well as five brothers who work at the college. They pray together in the morning, work together to maintain the house, celebrate a mid-day liturgy at the college with other students and faculty, share meals and conversation in the evenings, and try to live each day of their lives inspired by Jesus Christ.

This joyous new project for the future of the Brothers of Holy Cross needs your help to continue and grow. Operation of St. Joseph House, and related costs of religious formation as these young men pursue discernment of religious life, will be a welcome new

expense for us, but one the burden of which can be lessened through your generosity.

As our faithful friends, you have experienced the blessings that brothers bring to the world. You have seen the difference they have made in your schools, parishes and communities. And I hope you will feel called to support us.

I believe strongly that the world will be a better place with more young people taking vows of chastity, poverty and obedience and sharing the ultimate joy of a religious life. The results of previous annual appeals have supported our aging brothers in their retirement. I now ask you to join in our efforts to provide a home where young men can discern their vocation as Holy Cross brothers.

Thank you!

St. Andre Bessette, pray for us.

Sincerely,



Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

Provincial Superior



Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

What is St. Joseph House?

- ❖ A place for a new generation of brothers to discern their life’s vocation
- ❖ A place to grow and listen to their calling
- ❖ A way for young men to learn and to experience firsthand the joy of religious life
- ❖ A residence designed to help young men aspiring to be brothers to find the joy that comes from listening to their heart and taking the path God intended for them

Exploring the Possibility of Life as a Holy Cross Brother

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

Our focus for this year's annual appeal is to support our new aspirancy program in St. Joseph House, located within Pulte Hall at Holy Cross College. An aspirant is a young man discerning a vocation as religious brother.

We have renovated one floor, creating a new chapel, kitchen, library and private rooms. It is a major joint effort, uniting the Midwest and Moreau Provinces into one formation program, consolidating our mutual efforts into one. The program is for young men exploring the possibility of living their lives as Brothers of Holy Cross.

Members of both provinces make up the formation staff. Recruitment, spiritual direction, board and tuition constitute our primary expenses.

It is our sincere hope that you will join us in prayerful and financial support for this aspirancy program. Your gift will not only affirm the young men in the aspirancy program but will help ensure the future of the Brothers of Holy Cross.

Our goal for the Annual Brothers' Appeal is \$200,000.

Since we continue to rehabilitate Columba Hall, that expense is one option on the enclosed envelope. *Nevertheless, the main focus is the program of St. Joseph House at Holy Cross College.*

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your much appreciated 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

We look forward to your continued support. May the Lord continue to lead us all in the path of life and bless us always, all ways. Thank you from all of the brothers for all you have done, now and in the future.

Donor Recognition Levels

Holy Cross Club Members

Gifts of \$5,000 and above will be recognized by having the donors' names engraved on a plaque as members of the 2014 Holy Cross Club, prominently displayed at Columba Hall, the primary residence for the Midwest Province of Brothers.

Moreau Society Members

Gifts of \$200 to \$4,999 will be recognized by having the donors' names included on a plaque as members of the 2014 Moreau Society, prominently displayed at Columba Hall, the primary residence for the Midwest Province of Brothers.

Cross & Anchors Members

Gifts up to \$199 will have the donors' names recorded in a book of gratitude, which is on display at Columba Hall, the primary residence for the Midwest Province of Brothers.

Small seeds planted with love

We asked how we might follow, and we found many footprints on the road. A great band of men had passed this way, men who had made and lived by their vows, men who had walked side by side in their following of the Lord. They beckoned us to fall in step with them. We wanted to be part of the family they formed in order to share in their life and work.

—**Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross**

BY BROTHER JOHN McMULDREN, C.S.C.

We may not always know how a supportive word, a small act of kindness or the example of a life well-lived will impact another's life, but we do know that small seeds, planted with love and nurtured by God's grace, have the potential to transform the world.

For me and for so many of my brothers in Holy Cross, seeds were planted by the faithful Holy Cross religious who came before us and who inspired us to follow them. The example of these men and women led to many vocations in Holy Cross.

It's a pattern that still exists today and is especially evident at the newly established St. Joseph House, the formation program for men discerning a vocation to religious life in Holy Cross.

Andrew Querciagrossa, a young man in residence at St. Joseph House, offered this brief reflection:



Andrew Querciagrossa

"I was attracted to the opportunity to actively discern my vocation while at the same time living the life of a college student. I saw it as a chance to get to know the brothers both individually and as an order."

Another young man responding to God's call is Jacob Eifrid. He shared his hopes and dreams:

"In coming to St. Joseph House, I sought to develop my prayer life and learn how to live in community with others ...

The most important thing I've experienced in the program is the day-to-day life of the brothers. It has been inspiring to see that they are ordinary people, but who live extraordinary lives, which stem from their vows and commitment to prayer and community life."



Jacob Eifrid

I never knew Father Moreau, nor Father Sorin, nor St. Brother André, but their dreams and the community to which they belonged inspired my vocation and made me into a person with a mission and purpose who can dream even better things to come. St. Joseph House aspires to do the same thing for a new generation of faithful young men responding to God's call.

As a new roof is being raised over our graying heads at Columba Hall, and with heads bowed in gratitude, we can take a measure of hope as we glimpse at the new aspirants at St. Joseph House.

Church to observe Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life. The year starts on the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, 2014, and ends on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016, which is the World Day of Consecrated Life.

The Congregation of Holy Cross is promoting the year along with other religious communities across the world. The goal is for Catholics to celebrate and to learn more about the consecrated life of men and women. Over the last four decades, fewer and fewer men and women have followed the call to religious life. Many church-going young people know little about religious life. It is hoped that this yearlong

celebration of consecrated life will enlighten families and young people about this vocation within the Church.

Across dioceses in the United States, religious communities are organizing the following events:

- ❖ Religious Open Houses on Feb. 8, 2015
- ❖ Day of Mission and Service with Religious in the Summer of 2015
- ❖ Day of Prayer with Religious on Sept. 13, 2015

More information available at:

www.yearforconsecratedlife.com