



Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In March, more than 170 Holy Cross educators from across the United States gathered together at St. Edward's University for the Inaugural Convocation of the Holy Cross Institute. To simply say it was a success is an understatement. From the opening liturgy and homily by Father Tom O'Hara to the colorful entertainment provided by the university's Ballet Folklórico dance troupe at the closing dinner, the event surged with energy and enthusiasm.

Among the convocation's noteworthy activities were affinity groups chaired by members of the institute's Board of Governors that provided dialogue about common concerns and shared experiences by various Holy Cross schools, colleges and universities. Out of these conversations with school board members, principals, teachers and other Holy Cross educators came two new initiatives: a Mission Seminar at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., on July 8–11, 2007, and a Student Leadership Conference at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Ind., on June 27–30, 2007 (see story, page 3).

The purpose of the Mission Seminar is to strengthen awareness of and commitment to the Holy Cross tradition, to encourage retention and to develop leaders for Holy Cross education. We are planning for 45 participants who have been employed for at least two years in a Holy Cross School, and programs details will be available in early 2007.

The Midwest version of the Student Leadership Conference, sponsored by the institute, will provide training for student government leaders to become well-versed in the mission and heritage of Holy Cross. While St. Edward's has annually hosted the conference (the 10th conference will be held June 20–24), this second conference will make the program more accessible to students in the Midwest and Northeast.

And in September, the Congregation of Holy Cross initiated a year of rejoicing and renewal in anticipation of the formal beatification in 2007 of Holy Cross founder Father Basil Moreau.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these blessed events in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC

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The St. Edward's University Ballet Folklórico dance troupe entertained more than 170 Holy Cross educators at the Inaugural Convocation of the Holy Cross Institute.

Theme Set for CONVOCATION 2007

The Holy Cross Institute's Board of Governors has chosen "Reflections on Christian Education" as the theme for the institute's Convocation 2007. The meeting, to be held March 18–20, 2007, at St. Edward's University in Austin, will draw on Father Basil Moreau's founding text, *Christian Education*, to shape dialogue and other programming. Brother George Schmitz, CSC, former provincial of the Eastern Province, will deliver the keynote address.

Participants will find affinity groupings similar to the sessions from the inaugural convocation in March, along with a special afternoon session entitled "Marketing Your Mission." A panel of professionals in nonprofit marketing will lead a workshop on effective admissions and fundraising communication to alumni, parents and others. Schools that choose to participate in this session will be required to send samples and Acrobat PDF files of their print and electronic communications prior to the workshop. Detailed information about the session will be available in December.

First published in 1856, *Christian Education* was originally written for Holy Cross Brothers who were sent out to establish primary schools in mid-19th century rural France and other parts of the world. Seen for decades as something of a quaint artifact from the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the book has been re-evaluated by Brothers in the past few years as a

STUDY

case

Celebrating the Year of Vocations and Formation



In addition to his other duties as executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, is one of several Holy Cross religious planning the Year of Vocations and Formation.

With help from the donated services of McKinsey & Company, a Chicago consulting firm, the commission came up with a strategic plan for vocation

promotion and awareness in North America:

- Increase awareness of religious life in Holy Cross and become more visible in its ministries and institutions.
- Engage the involvement of all members of the congregation in vocational efforts.
- Focus awareness efforts on youth and young adults to join Holy Cross.
- Collaborate with the laity in promoting the Holy Cross life and mission.

Bednarczyk says the committee encourages each Holy Cross school to commemorate the year in a way most appropriate to its unique identity. Hence, what may work in California may not work so well in Bangladesh. Some of his suggestions include highlighting the special feasts of Holy Cross through prayer and education, inviting a panel of Holy Cross religious to speak about their life with the students, holding a retreat day with the theme of vocational discernment, and commemorating National World Day of Prayers for Vocations and Vocation Awareness Week.

“Father Moreau responded to the need in the church at a unique time,” says Bednarczyk, whose organization is charged with providing vocation and formation resources and training for 1,400 vocation directors in 22 countries. “He wanted his religious of Holy Cross to be ‘men with hope to bring’ and to be ‘educators in the faith’ educating the hearts and minds of the People of God. Although the needs may have changed from post-revolutionary France, our Holy Cross charism is still very much needed in our church. Good vocational discernment is essential for men and women in our church. As St. Paul said, ‘if all members of the body function well, the church is strengthened and made whole.’”

Year of Vocations Resources

tool

1 PRAYER CARDS:

Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French, these tri-fold cards can be ordered in amounts of 100 at \$60 per batch. Supplies are limited. Info: Brother Philip Smith, CSC, at ppsmith@brothersofholycross.com.

“YOU COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE”:

Produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in English and Spanish, this 17-minute, \$10 DVD (also available for \$15 on VHS) was released this summer to assist parishes, youth groups and others in promoting vocations. The program comes with a brief study guide to facilitate discussion. Order at: www.usccb.org/vocations/makeadifference/index.shtml, or write to: USCCB Communications Department, Vocations Video, 3211 Fourth St., N.E., Washington, D.C., 20017-1194.

3 RESOURCE GUIDE:

A guide created by the Brothers of Holy Cross Midwest Province contains helpful information on preparing for the Year of Vocations and Formation. Info: Brother Philip Smith, CSC, at psmith@brothersofholycross.com or www.brothersofholycross.com.

4 HELPFUL SITES:

- Vocation FAQ, Brothers of Holy Cross Midwest Province: www.brothersofholycross.com/vocations/ask.htm
- National Religious Vocation Conference: www.nrvic.net
- Holy Cross International Congregation: www.holycrosscongregation.org
- Midwest Province, Notre Dame, Ind.: www.brothersofholycross.com
- South-West Province Austin, Texas: www.holycross-sw.org
- Southern Province, Austin, Texas: www.southernccsc.org
- Eastern Province of Brothers, New Rochelle, New York: www.holycrossbrothers.org
- Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers, Easton, Maine: www.holycrossbrothers.org
- Indiana Province Notre Dame, Ind.: <http://vocation.nd.edu>



Student Leadership Conference Inspires Midwest Spin-off

On June 27–30, 2007, the Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders takes its show on the road. Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind., will host a version of the meeting for student leaders popularized by the South-West Province.

Designed to teach student leaders from Holy Cross schools the basics of Holy Cross heritage, a deeper understanding of charism and legacy, and the opportunity for prayer and reflection, the South-West Province's conferences have attracted an average 40 to 50 students since they began nine years ago.

The conference typically draws attendance from four South-West province schools and occasionally from other schools outside the region. The week typically starts on a Wednesday afternoon and lasts until noon the following Sunday. Students join in a variety of activities — from icebreakers to group projects to recreation — geared to learning about the history and mission of Holy Cross.

Each year, the meeting focuses on one of four themes that represents the Holy Cross mission: building respect, educating hearts and minds, being family and building hope. After concentrating on the theme at the conference, the student leaders bring what they've learned to their schools. "It's not just another leadership conference, because there are a lot of such things for student government leaders," says Terry McGaha, assistant to the president at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif. "What we're doing is a conference for established student leaders in schools. The purpose is to help them become Holy Cross leaders."

The South-West conference's 10th anniversary is tentatively set for June 20–24.

For more information on the conference, contact Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, at walsh@stedwards.edu.



A few of the more than 40 attendees at the 2006 Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders at St. Edward's University.

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useful source of ideas and teaching methods that transcend time and place. Available in November, a new translation of the book will include a reading guide and resources for further reflection.

Looking ahead to the future, the board has defined the themes for upcoming convocations in 2008 and 2009: "Holy Cross Education and Catholic Social Teaching" and "Holy Cross Education: An International Perspective." Visit www.holycrossinstitute.org for more details on both programs as they develop.

New Members Named for Board of Governors



Gail Bellucci,
director of
Campus Ministry,
Notre Dame High
School, West
Haven, Conn.

Appointed by the Eastern Province to replace Brother Thomas Dziekan, CSC



Robert Lueger,
associate provost,
St. Edward's
University, Austin,
Texas

Appointed by the university to replace Michael Larkin, vice president for Advancement

Living MISSION



Kevin Makley is serving his 10th year as president of St. Francis High School in Mountain View, Calif. He's worked at the school for 21 years as an administrator, teacher and counselor.

An Anchor in Holy Cross By Kevin Makley

The Holy Cross Mission comes alive at St. Francis High School through our faculty and students. Our school-wide theme, "Educating Hearts and Minds to Serve the World," is taken seriously. Our students participate in service projects in which they are offered the opportunity to live out what they have learned in their religious studies classrooms. Our Immersion Program also affords students the opportunity to interact with and work with people living and dealing with poverty. Whether they choose to go to Chile, Brazil, El Salvador, an Indian Reservation in Arizona, or downtown San Jose, Calif., our students and teachers always return "richer" from their experiences. They develop a much deeper understanding of how others cope with hardship and they experience the concept of "serving the world."

We are blessed in many ways at St. Francis High School, and we recognize that our success is anchored in the teachings of Holy Cross. When the Brothers of Holy Cross founded this school over 50 years ago, they established a living legacy that focused on the spiritual development of the students. The Brothers taught us that the "education of the heart" takes precedent over all else that we do at our school. We know the importance of carrying on this legacy and that the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University is the best possible means to achieve this goal. It is clearly part of our mission to ensure that Father Basil Moreau's vision of Catholic education is always available to students in the Silicon Valley. Our board of directors knows the importance of the Holy Cross mission, and like me, they want to protect and proclaim this salient educational philosophy.

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- Case Study: Year of Vocations
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