

EDUCATION • PARISH • MISSION

Ave✠CruX



Volume I Issue I | The New Seminarrians

Office of Vocations, Congregation of Holy Cross



Ave Crux, Spes Unica – Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope!

We in the Congregation of Holy Cross profess this truth as the center of our spiritual tradition, and for 175 years, we have worked to bring the hope of the Cross to schools, universities, parishes and other ministries on five continents.

We are men with hope to bring, yet discerning God's will and taking this step in our lives was not entered into lightly or on our own – finding the right next step often comes by reaching out to a vocations director. Our role is to help you hear and answer God's call. Drop us a line and we will help you discover where God's call is leading you.

CONGREGATION *of* HOLY CROSS
UNITED STATES PROVINCE
OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

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The Gift of Hope

Welcome to *Ave Crux*, our re-designed vocations magazine for the Congregation of Holy Cross! I'm grateful for the folks who worked so hard in putting together our new design. We wanted people to immediately recognize that this was a Holy Cross magazine.

In the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross we read: "it remains only for us to find how even the Cross can be borne as a gift." It seems like a contradiction to identify the Cross as a gift, but when we faithfully carry our crosses and follow Jesus we know the joy that comes from being His disciple on the way to His heavenly kingdom.

Twice in these pages you can read that the motto of the Congregation of Holy Cross, *Ave Crux Spes Unica* (Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope), struck a chord with incoming seminarians. While it's not surprising that the Cross of Christ would resonate with those discerning God's call to religious life, it's providential that the new name of this magazine would receive such immediate affirmation!

In this edition of *Ave Crux* you can read about the men who have discerned God's call to be in the seminary this year. They are taking this step to discern His call in a more intentional way. We are all called to discern what God is asking of us, and so we need to ponder, pray, and reflect. And often we find clarity by talking to family, friends, priests, or vocations directors. This dialogue can give you the added confidence to take that next footstep, however small it may seem. And just as surely as religious life may be what God has in store for you, really you won't know until you know, but regardless of where you end up, you'll have strengthened your faith and your relationship with the Lord by the experience.

If you think religious life may be what God has in store for you, please give us a call!

In Holy Cross,



The Old College Freshman

The Old College Undergraduate Seminary is housed in the University of Notre Dame's original building, which was constructed in 1843. It is more than a residential community; it provides a well-rounded life that includes prayer, recreation, conversation and shared meals.

Old Collegians pursue their academic interests as students at Notre Dame or Holy Cross College, while at the same time gain an introduction to religious life in Holy Cross through a process of spiritual formation in the context of community living.



Keenan James Bross
Wentzville, Missouri

When I was a sophomore in high school, I went on a week-long service retreat, where I had an emotional and spiritual experience that sparked God's call and maintained my attentiveness. I had decided, however, that I would discern throughout college but not enter

the seminary until after getting my undergraduate degree.

Then, in my search for academically rigorous midwestern universities, I realized that I could discern as well as pursue an engineering degree through Old College at the University of Notre Dame.

I loved the idea of preaching and ministering the Sacraments, but wanted there to be another element to it - Holy Cross seemed to offer that through an element of service and education. I also felt very at home and at peace with my time spent visiting Old College. Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C., guided me through the discernment process and helped me learn about Old College and Holy Cross in general. Also, the more I read about the beauty of the Catholic faith and consecrated life, the more I felt called to it. A strong prayer life helped me dispel doubts and further understand God's plan for me. I'd encourage anyone discerning to live life to the fullest - and offer it to Christ. Find what you love

about this world and discern the best way to contribute to its betterment.

More about Keenan ...

Family: Fourth of five children of Matt and Janice Bross

Home Parish: St. Theodore Parish, Archdiocese of St. Louis

Education: Saint Dominic High School, 2016; robotics, math team, volleyball, Future Business Leaders of America, peer and youth ministry, basketball; received Martin Luther Model of Justice Award, Glory of Missouri Award: Enterprise, and National Honors Society

Hobbies: Enjoys youth ministry, spending time with friends, board games, outdoor activities, video games, sports and reading



Devin Santiago Dettman

Bowling Green, Kentucky

Right after I was confirmed, the bishop walked up to me and asked if I was considering the priesthood. I didn't blow off the question, but the narrative worked in my head as I continued to fall

in love with the Church. As I continued my discernment, I felt pulled to serve the wider Church. Then I found Holy Cross and participated in the inaugural Summer Seminary Immersion Program (SSIP) last summer. It was a crash course in Holy Cross life. Over the course of a couple weeks, I was taken through a whirlwind tour of the history, tradition, prayer life, charism, and daily life of Holy Cross by interacting with lots of priests and brothers around Notre Dame.

I found that Holy Cross is incredibly committed to mission and to community life, and every time I visited Notre Dame and interacted with the Holy Cross Community, I felt at home. I quickly developed radical trust in Divine Providence, and for anyone who wants to do anything really challenging, it's essential to be able to fall back on total faith in God's plan, even when it seems like everything is falling apart. I had to have faith that everything that happened or didn't happen was for a reason. There are also a lot of people who want to help you in your discernment and they aren't that difficult to find.

The Holy Cross Vocations team is amazing, but I really have to give it up for my mom. I'd be totally lost without her support. So many people have been absolutely invaluable in my discernment, but I owe the most to her. (Thanks, mom!) Yes, your family likely wants to help you, as well as your friends and parish priest. Discernment to a religious community is truly a process that happens with the help and guidance of a community. So, involve your community and *trust*.

More about Devin ...

Family: Oldest of two children of Matthew and Theresa Dettman

Home Parish: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Diocese of Owensboro

Education: Greenwood High School, 2016

Hobbies: Enjoys fencing, reading, writing and board games



Stephen Paul Kawulicz

Brookfield, Connecticut

Before my freshman year of high school, I went on a retreat. At the end, they had an altar call for all people discerning vocations. At that moment, I felt a deep-set internal urge, like a "punch in the gut"

to go up. The call remains in my mind to this day.

Looking into different seminaries in my college search, Old College stood out. It was the brotherhood of the order and the motto, *Ave Crux Spes Unica*, that first inspired me to apply. This decision was finalized by the charism of the order and the idea that the name originated from Sainte-Croix, a real town with real problems - one that needed teachers and preachers, and the Holy Cross fathers were formed to help them.

To prepare for Old College, I started attending spiritual direction with a priest at my home parish, as well as an internship shadowing a parish priest. The current pastor at my home parish, Fr. Peter Towsley, was very influential in my discernment also, helping me explore the differences between diocesan priesthood and religious order priesthood. Another priest, Fr. Sam Kachuba, encouraged introspection; yet, at the end of the day, each of us has a unique soul that God created for the purpose of a specific vocation, and the greatest place

to find your vocation is in yourself: in your strengths, in your weaknesses, and in your deepest desires.

More about Stephen ...

Family: Youngest of two children of Paul and Toby Kawulicz

Home Parish: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Diocese of Bridgeport

Education: Brookfield High School, 2016; AP Scholar with honor, National Honor Society, French Honors Society, Western Connecticut Superintendents' Award, 2-year varsity football letter, all-conference academic team

Hobbies: Enjoys hanging out with friends and family, hiking, and watching and playing sports



James David Mahoney

Austin, Texas

I first began to consider my vocation when I attended a retreat called, “Cross Training,” the summer before freshman year. While I thought it would be good for any Catholic male to enter seminary

in case he was called to priesthood, I had disregarded pushes or nudges God gave me. Even my parents will be the first to tell you how I didn’t want to consider priesthood, yet a week after my Confirmation, at ND Vision, a 5-day spiritual immersion conference at the University of Notre Dame, when they asked if anyone might be interested in checking out the Old College Undergraduate Seminary Program, I figured, why not go to the information session? I took a card, wrote down my information, and kept in touch with Fr. Jarrod Waugh, C.S.C., who helped me to take it one step at a time.

During Eucharistic Adoration at “Cross Training” the summer before senior year, I felt definitively called to apply to Old College. One thing that further inspired me to apply was the Holy Cross motto: *Ave Crux, Spes Unica*, Hail the Cross, Our Only Hope. I don’t remember when I saw the motto for the first time, but I remember immediately being drawn to it.

I find it helpful to remember that

applying doesn’t mean I will be a priest. It means I am open to what God has in store for me. If you’re a high school student, remember that it’s about ten years until Ordination. That is a lot of time to think, pray, and discern!

More about James ...

Family: Second of five children of Robert and Marjorie Mahoney

Home Parish: St. Ignatius Martyr Parish, Diocese of Austin

Education: St. Michael’s Catholic Academy, 2016; intended major in aerospace engineering with minor in philosophy

Hobbies: Enjoys spaceflight, physics, history, math, photography, thinking, writing plays, poems, or essays, camping, reading, exploring, baking, drawing, dancing, asking questions, acting, talking to other people, cooking, and in general, going on adventures!



Ellis Kimon Sargeant

Havertown, Pennsylvania

I actually stumbled across the Summer Seminary Immersion Program (SSIP) page by accident when I was looking at the Notre Dame website for the Notre Dame Summer Scholars program. I ended up going to SSIP, and here I am! I had started the preliminary stages

of discernment at that point, but as I read about the program, I knew that I needed to go there to continue. That summer, I spent two weeks living at Old College with nine other high school upperclassmen as seminarians. We prayed the Divine Office, went to daily Mass, lived in community, and took a class on the theology of the priesthood with Fr. Kevin Grove, C.S.C., who was newly returned from Cambridge. It was there that I fell in love with Holy Cross.

Prior to SSIP, I first started hearing God’s call to a religious vocation during a week-long Franciscan LEAD retreat before a Steubenville Youth Conference. My roommate on the retreat was joining the seminary the following year and he told me all about his story. That’s when it all started to click for me. When I attended SSIP here, I loved the vibrant community I found. Everyone knew each other and actually interacted with each other. Coming from a Jesuit school with only four Jesuits, whom I rarely saw, it was such an awesome change. After that, I tried to reorient my prayer life to the topic of discernment. My

parents supported me the whole time, and I have a few friends who are also going through discernment. Being able to talk to them about everything was incredibly helpful. My advice to those discerning? Stick with it. Discernment is hard and so frustratingly vague, but it’s worth it to persevere.

More about Ellis ...

Family: Third of four children of Kimon and Carol Sargeant

Home Parish: Our Lady of Lourdes, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Education: St. Joseph’s Prep, 2016; two time national quarterfinalist in extemporaneous speech

Hobbies: Theater, Shakespeare, and English



Daniel Gregory Simmons

Rockford, Michigan

I remember thinking about a religious vocation at a really young age - dressing up in a bathrobe and having my mom or dad hold up the Holy Bible so I could play priest, then playing altar server.

When I actually became an altar server, the life of a priest really appealed to me.

As time went on, I learned more and more about Holy Cross. A family friend had a son in formation with Holy Cross, and every time the father saw me, he would give me the latest copy of the vocations magazine, and he would tell me all about his son and what he was doing. That first sparked my interest in Holy Cross. Our family had also always been Notre Dame fans, and as Notre Dame is an apostolate of Holy Cross, it made sense to look into it.

When I came to know more about Holy Cross, many aspects of the order appealed to me, but the most distinctive was the genuineness of everyone I met. I realized it was a place I could be myself, and be supported in my faith. Nowhere else have I felt Christ's love so alive. I wanted to be a part of this truly awesome community.

My visits to Holy Cross prior to entering Old College were so helpful. When we arrived, and up until the moment we

left, we were welcomed as a part of the community and shown exactly how the community lives and works. This quelled many of my doubts and made me feel very comfortable. If you have been thinking of discerning a vocation, I'd encourage you to keep the thought in your mind and be honest in your prayer - bring all your doubts.

More about Daniel ...

Family: Oldest of two children of Greg and Colleen Simmons

Home Parish: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Diocese of Grand Rapids

Education: Catholic Central, 2016; John Phillip Sousa Award for band, St. Andrew Award for Liturgical Ministry

Hobbies: Enjoys fishing, reading, leatherwork, playing instruments, and attending concerts



Daniel Xuan Truong Vo

Glendale, Arizona

I found out about Holy Cross when I expressed my discernment to my youth group leader, Joseph, at Saint Raphael. Saint Raphael is run by Fr. Edward Kaminski, C.S.C., a Holy Cross priest.

It was there I received the vocations magazine and other brochures and pamphlets about Holy Cross, and first started to hear God's call. I had an "awakening" and began learning as much as I could about the faith.

At the end of my junior year of high school, I realized just how much I really loved the Church and helping others, and thought a religious vocation is where God wanted me to be. My dad and my youth minister, Joseph, encouraged me to go to the Come and See Weekend Retreat at Old College. Come and See is a weekend visit at Old College on the campus of Notre Dame which introduces you to the daily routine and formation experience of Holy Cross seminarians. My dad and Joseph helped me to reflect and pray about this calling, as they had both once considered religious vocations.

What inspired me, at first, to apply to Holy Cross was the fact that it was the only congregation I really knew about. After visits, however, I came to see the sense of family everyone has with each other as inspiration. Everyone there just

has that sense of Jesus in them. After making the decision to apply to Old College, I prepared myself by praying, reflecting, volunteering and talking to others. If you are feeling the same awakening, talk to your pastor or anyone else you trust. Don't be shy or afraid.

More about Daniel ...

Family: Oldest of two children of Vinh and Mylan Vo

Home Parish: Saint Raphael and Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Diocese of Phoenix

Education: Greenway High School, 2016; Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement and Knights of Columbus; received All Around Award from Regional Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Group Leader Training Camp, as well as Outstanding Freshman in Orchestra, majoring in psychology

Hobbies: Enjoys playing sports, listening to music, and playing video games



Making the Transition

After completing their studies at Old College, seniors traditionally move to Moreau Seminary to begin their Postulant year of formation while at the same time completing their undergraduate studies.



Robert William Ackerman

Burlington, Massachusetts

It was at my Confirmation that I first started hearing God's call to a religious vocation. Bishop Robert Hennessy spoke of his vocation story and what it meant to consider discerning a religious

vocation. Then, during high school, I found out about Holy Cross while doing a summer camp at Stonehill College. It was the year of Br. André's canonization and there were banners all over the campus of him and Blessed Moreau. Being curious, I decided to do research on these two mysterious figures and started to learn more about the Congregation. My subsequent visits to Old College inspired me to apply. There, I was able to witness the community in action and was immediately drawn to the life that I witnessed. Three years in Old College helped me to fall in love with the community even more and prepare me to apply for the Postulant Program.

To prepare for this next step, I've developed a life of prayer at Old College. Before Old College, I would go to daily Mass and "when I could," I would attempt to fit in personal prayer time. Old College gave me the ability to build a stronger relationship with God and Holy Cross, and provide reinforcement for my vocation.

My family, as a whole, has also been extremely influential in helping me to explore my vocation as a Holy Cross brother. They helped to instill within me a deep respect for the faith and the ability to explore my vocation. The men in Old College and the Holy Cross Religious on campus have been the best support system for me and my vocation, keeping me accountable within the Community and allowing me to see what life in Holy Cross is all about. I also found reassurance from my family and even people I did not know. Their reassurance, coupled with prayer, made me feel I was doing the right thing.

More about Robert ...

Family: Oldest of three children of Bill and Elaine Ackerman

Home Parish: St. Margaret's Parish, Archdiocese of Boston

Education: Holy Cross College senior, psychology major

Hobbies: Enjoys fly fishing, reading and baking



Julian Druffner

Hudson, Wisconsin

At about age thirteen, I felt a very strong call to the priesthood through prayer. My parents always encouraged me to keep my mind and heart open to the seminary, and ever since, priesthood has been my goal in serving God and His children. I also had many personal

religious influences in my life – my parish priest, other family priest friends, and my parents have been the biggest for me.

While I had always known about Notre Dame, when I was applying to colleges, I was searching specifically for an undergraduate seminary. I naturally found out about Old College and have loved Holy Cross ever since.

Holy Cross is rife with good qualities, virtues, and ways of life that are attractive to me, like the focus on reaching out to all corners of the world through their works of education. For such a comparatively small religious order, Holy Cross has made some booming effects on the world at large, and I would encourage all young men who are discerning to look into Notre Dame. Old College provides an amazing environment for discernment and developing one's faith, and the resources for development are endless.

While preparing for the seminary, some of the things I found most helpful were

foundational prayer, Mass, and time spent in Adoration. Accompanying these could also be spiritual reading and learning to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. I also learned as much as I could about the order through its many contributing writers, who gave me deep insights into the amazing developments and heroic acts that have occurred since its foundation – from Blessed Basil Moreau to St. André Bessette and Vincent McCauley – God has worked wonders through His Divine Providence.

More about Julian ...

Family: Second oldest of seven children of Mike and Molly Druffner

Home Parish: St. Michael Parish, Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul

Education: Holy Cross College senior, theology major with a minor in studio art and philosophy

Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, bladesmithing, photography, cooking, and horseback riding



James Robert Henke

Greenwood, Indiana

I first learned of the Holy Cross Community during my freshman and sophomore years at the University of Notre Dame, especially through the in-residence priest of my dorm, Fr. Terry Ehrman, C.S.C. Fr. Ehrman struck me as a holy man who truly cared

for the residents around him. I think his welcoming spirit, coupled with a willingness to push me to grow, drew me closer to Holy Cross. We also share a common appreciation of the outdoors, so talking about his love of nature and his research also drew me deeper into discerning with Holy Cross.

While I had primarily been discerning the priesthood, as I met more and more Holy Cross Religious, I became curious about what religious life in the Congregation was like. I began to pray about religious life and entered the Old College program to better understand what that life looks like.

I grew deeper in my discernment through Old College, and I continue to feel that God is drawing me toward life as a consecrated religious. The priests I've met have such great zeal for what they do, whether as a teacher, rector or in the celebration of the Eucharist. They exude joy through their work. These men clearly experience the love of Christ and want to share it with others. Such joy and zeal have inspired me to

take steps in getting to know Holy Cross better. I've spent much time in prayer about the Postulant Program, and I have much to learn, so I pray for openness for all that lies ahead.

If you are thinking about discerning a religious vocation, be patient, but don't try to overthink it. I have done much more discernment once I began walking with Holy Cross through Old College. God calls us at different times, so don't rush your discernment. At the same time, I think the best way to learn more about any vocation is to start walking in that direction.

More about James ...

Family: Oldest of three children of Rob and Ellen Henke

Home Parish: Our Lady of the Greenwood, Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.A. philosophy/theology, 2016

Hobbies: Enjoys camping, hiking, rock climbing, reading and basketball



James Andrew Walters

DeGraff, Ohio

During my junior year in high school, I really began thinking about the possibility of the priesthood. At first I would dismiss the idea every time it came up, but eventually I decided that I owed it to

myself to at least explore it. I first learned about the Congregation from my assistant pastor at Holy Angels, but it wasn't until I visited Notre Dame during my senior year that I really became interested in Holy Cross and its mission. As my parish priest at the time was one of the archdiocese's vocations promoters, I began talking with him. The decision to enter formation with Holy Cross as opposed to the archdiocese was a difficult one, but I was lucky to have the support and encouragement of my local clergy.

First and foremost, I was drawn to the deep, family-like sense of community that exists within the Congregation. I was also very attracted to the Congregation's sense of spirituality and inspired by the life of Blessed Moreau and his unwavering trust in Divine Providence. Spending this past semester at Allen Hall Seminary in London has also really allowed me to reflect on my time at Old College and set goals for the coming year at Moreau.

My former parish priest, Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer, and my spiritual director during my freshman year, Fr. Jim King, C.S.C., were both very influential in helping me to further explore my vocation. My piece of advice is this: If you feel like you are being called to the priesthood and religious life, talk to someone about it the possibility. It can be a little scary to make the leap, but the rewards will be great.

More about James ...

Family: Only child of Rodney and Lisa Walters

Home Parish: Holy Angels Sidney, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Education: Holy Cross College senior, theology major

Hobbies: Enjoys traveling, visiting churches, reading, and spending time with friends and family



J. Owen Williams

Avon, Ohio

I first started hearing God's call to a religious vocation when I was in elementary school. As a young student at Holy Trinity School in Avon, Ohio, I would sit in the pew and pay close attention to what the priest was doing during Mass. Later, as a student at St.

Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, a school founded by the Brothers of Holy Cross, the Holy Cross Religious working there bore a great witness and were my first introduction to the Congregation.

Honestly, what inspired me to *apply* to Holy Cross was the community life. I grew up in a very close-knit family, had an awesome experience of community in high school, and when I visited Notre Dame, I felt a strong sense of community among the men at Old College, Moreau Seminary, and the finally professed that I met. Holy Cross is a family - one that supports and inspires each other in all aspects of life.

Since then, the Holy Spirit has led me on a powerful journey of discernment and formation, and my love for Holy Cross has grown each year! After my second year in Old College, I was on the staff of the first Summer Seminary Immersion Program (SSIP) at Old College. During my third year in Old College, I spent the fall semester studying philosophy in London.

My experiences of undergraduate

formation in Old College were certainly a major aspect of my preparation for the Postulant Program, but prayer and good conversations with Holy Cross Religious have also been very helpful for me. My family has also been supportive throughout my entire process, and I am so thankful for their love. Holy Cross priests such as Fr. Pete Jarret, C.S.C., Fr. Steve Lacroix, C.S.C., and Fr. Bill Lies, C.S.C., have also been especially influential in my discernment. Their great witness of living out their vocation in Holy Cross with such great joy has been very meaningful.

More about Owen ...

Family: Oldest of four children of Marc and Mary Williams

Home Parish: Holy Trinity Parish, Diocese of Cleveland

Education: Holy Cross College senior, history/philosophy major

Hobbies: Enjoys golf, football, Cleveland sports, and movies



A New Rector

Fr. John Herman, C.S.C.

In July 2016, Fr. John Herman, C.S.C., officially became the new rector and superior of Moreau Seminary, replacing Fr. Peter Jarret, C.S.C., who completed six years as rector on June 1, 2016. Fr. Jarret is now an assistant provincial residing at the Provincial House.

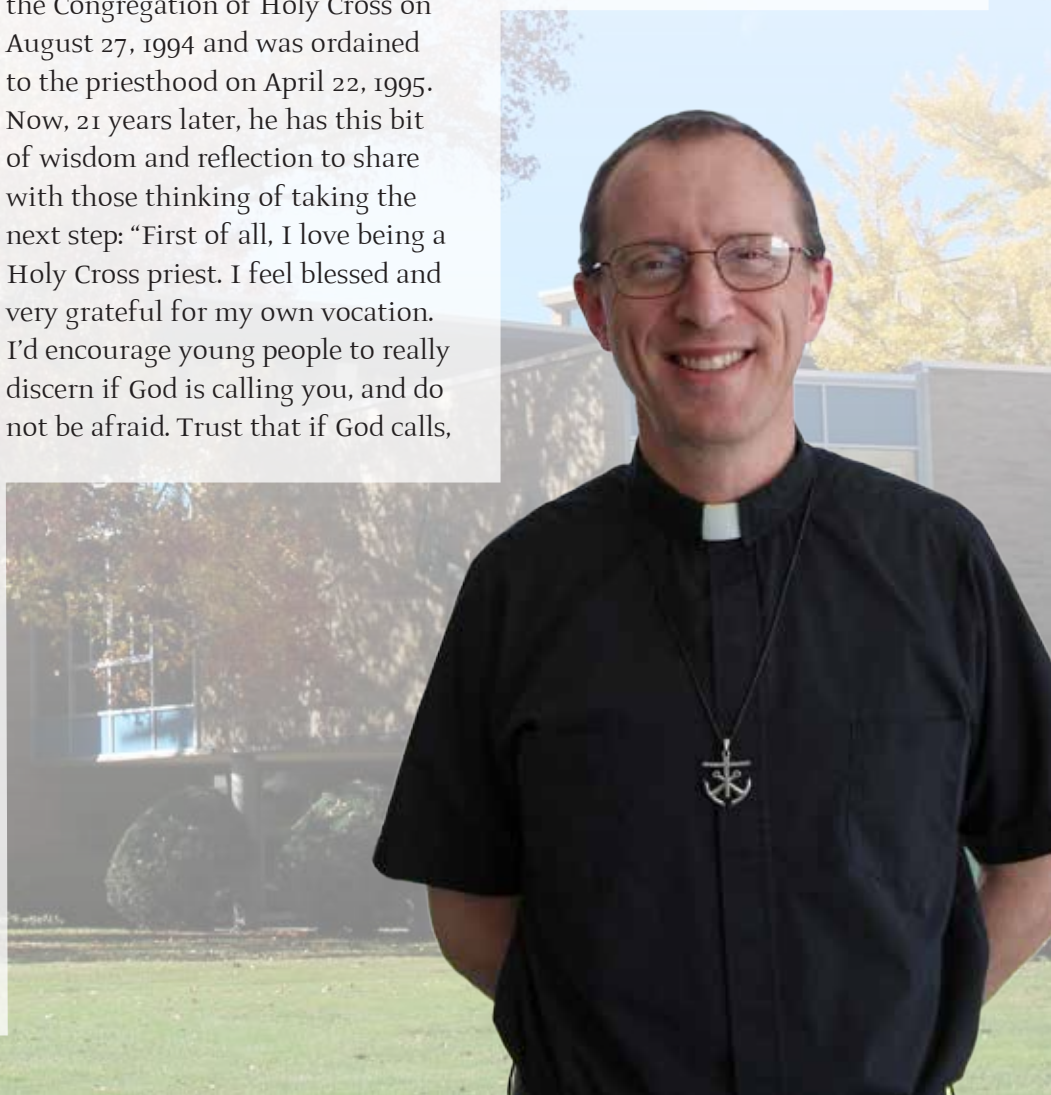
Previously the pastor of Parroquia Nuestra Madre Santísima de La Luz, in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, México, Fr. Herman certainly lends a unique perspective to his new role as rector. "I think I will bring a broad point of view because I came from parish ministry in a different culture, so definitely an international outlook, and maybe one from Pope Francis, too, paying special attention to the poor and how do we think about that - these are not easy questions and I certainly don't have the answers, but I'll bring a perspective on it," said Fr. Herman.

Fr. Herman has been at Moreau Seminary since February gearing up for the transition by shadowing Fr. Jarret and learning the administrative side of things, as well as being a part of formation nights, praying with the seminarians, and getting a sense of who they are. "It's a big change of culture in terms of how my days are filled, but I think I bring a real pastoral perspective because that's what it means to be in parish ministry. In some ways, I'm coming to be a pastor to these men who have very specific concerns. I'll conduct formation

meetings and classes, which aren't formal, but real and formative, as well as one-on-one meetings to talk with them about their lives, how God is calling them, and help them grow in the five pillars of Holy Cross Formation: Spiritual, human, pastoral, intellectual, and community. And also just living with them in community - this is our home and it's a big place. We'll pray together daily and interact over meals, and deal with many topics concerning religious life - together."

Fr. Herman professed Final Vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross on August 27, 1994 and was ordained to the priesthood on April 22, 1995. Now, 21 years later, he has this bit of wisdom and reflection to share with those thinking of taking the next step: "First of all, I love being a Holy Cross priest. I feel blessed and very grateful for my own vocation. I'd encourage young people to really discern if God is calling you, and do not be afraid. Trust that if God calls,

God will also provide what is needed and see you through. It's not easy. I had an idea of where my life would go, and thought that I would use my civil engineering background, but that is not what God was calling me toward. It's interesting how God calls us and the paths we take, and the great diversity of experiences men bring that you'll see here in formation. The path I've taken has been filled with many, many blessings and many surprises that I wouldn't have otherwise experienced. God called us and here we are!"



Moreau Seminary

Postulant Program



The Postulant Program at Moreau Seminary, located across St. Joseph Lake from the Golden Dome at the University of Notre Dame, is a one-year, pre-novitiate program. It is designed to immerse men, ages 21 to 35, in Holy Cross Community life, while continuing their personal discernment, spiritual development and growth in knowledge.

These men have pursued their college studies in various places and have been exploring their religious vocations, often aided by ongoing contact with the Office of Vocations and other members of Holy Cross.



David Thomas Cargill
Papillion, Nebraska

I first learned of Holy Cross while working as a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) Missionary at Arizona State University after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2014. FOCUS teaches recent college graduates,

trains them in the teachings of the Church, Scripture and practical aspects of leadership, and sends them out in teams of four or more to serve on college campuses, where they foster vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

As I began seriously considering entering the seminary, I met with Fr. David Halm, C.S.C., who spoke of his experience with Holy Cross. We prayed a Holy Hour every day, and when I finally ran out of things to talk about and asked God what He desired me to do with my life, I trusted in His goodness and plan for my life. The mission, charisms, along with the brotherhood and lifestyle of the order ... I was sold.

Since applying and being accepted into the Postulant Program at Moreau Seminary, I have prepared myself by staying close and participating in the Sacraments. I attend daily Mass and regularly participate in Confession. Constant prayer and recalling the consolations that God has given me during this whole process has helped remove any uncertainty. If you have

even the slightest inclination that this might be what God is calling you toward, pray and meet with a spiritual director, then take the chance - if it's not, then you just received great formation that will prepare you for whatever it is that God is calling you toward! You'll never have to look back and ask, "what if?"

More about David ...

Family: Second of five children of Rod and Rebecca Cargill

Home Parish: St. Columbkille, Archdiocese of Omaha

Education: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, B.A. accounting/economics, Spanish minor, 2014

Hobbies: Traveling, athletics, reading, making new friends



Ian Oliver Johnston
Jackson, Wyoming

I came to Notre Dame as a freshman in the fall of 2009 not knowing much about the university's history. As I progressed through my freshman year, I had the opportunity to meet several of the Holy Cross priests that served as rectors, administrators, professors, and campus

ministers. Through them, I learned more about Holy Cross, its relationship to Notre Dame, and the work the community does outside of Notre Dame.

Fast forward to 2014 - after completing my master's degree in accountancy at the University of Notre Dame, I worked as an accountant/auditor at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Detroit, Michigan and also obtained my CPA license (Certified Public Accountant).

After discerning a vocation for about a year and a half, I made plans to visit Moreau Seminary. I was able to observe the house for a weekend, meet the guys in formation, and see what life was like there. Getting to know both the priests and the men in formation on that trip was a huge part of my decision to apply. I had great conversations with Fr. Lou DelFra, C.S.C., Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., and Fr. Neil Wack, C.S.C. They were all welcoming and I could tell from walking the halls that there was a true community among them. In addition, I really liked the fact that the Congregation was composed of such a diverse group of men, but that each man's gifts and talents

are put to use toward the mission of the Congregation.

Two things I would advise to those discerning: 1) Carve out 10 minutes each day for prayer to keep discernment on the forefront of your mind; and 2) Get in touch with the vocations office. They can answer a lot of the questions you think may be dumb (don't worry, they aren't) and can give very helpful advice concerning your own personal discernment.

More about Ian ...

Family: Oldest of three children of Chris and Lisa Johnston

Home Parish: Our Lady of the Mountains, Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.A. business administration/accounting, 2013; M.S.A., 2014

Hobbies: Skiing, rock climbing, hiking and basketball



David Andrew Slonkosky
Minster, Ohio

Prior to entering the Postulant Program and pursuing Liberal Studies at Holy Cross College, I spent a year as a teacher's assistant at the Culinary Institute of America teaching an artisan breads course. After finishing

culinary school, I was given a once in a lifetime opportunity to start a bakery in Middleburg, Virginia. It was during this time I felt God place the desire for religious life in my heart. I was about to make a huge commitment to my career, which was my life-long dream. However, through many hours of prayer, I did not feel at peace about proceeding with the bakery.

One particular night, I asked God to give me the strength to turn down the opportunity and to follow Him. After more prayer, I knew the only commitment I was ready to make was to pursue the priesthood. Sometimes God takes everything away in order to lead you to Him. For me, He gave me everything and allowed me to choose.

While I was searching for a religious order I had made a list in my head of what I envisioned my ideal order to be. After visiting Moreau Seminary and meeting the seminarians, priests, and brothers, I realized that Holy Cross was matching each point on my list. They had a strong emphasis on communal

prayer and they sang a lot during these prayers. I love to sing. The other attraction was the importance they held for community. Community wasn't just an ideal but it proved to be a lifeline for Holy Cross, a fundamental expression of their religious life.

More about David ...

Family: Youngest of seven children of Casey and Mary Slonkosky

Home Parish: St. Augustine Parish, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Education: The Culinary Institute of America, 2014; currently pursuing Liberal Studies at Holy Cross College with a minor in baking and pastry arts

Hobbies: Plays the ukulele and enjoys art and hiking



Bradley James Stalcup

Ashburn, Virginia

A call to a religious vocation has always sort of been in the back of my head, however, I never really shared it with anyone. It became an interior discourse. After getting a spiritual director and sharing my

thoughts (or rather, the promptings of the Holy Spirit) with my family, my calling felt a lot stronger.

Through Notre Dame, I was exposed to Holy Cross spirituality and charisms, and as I progressed as a student, I came to know, understand, and appreciate them. Then, last year, I had an incredible opportunity to spend time with a Holy Cross Community in Santiago, Chile, at Saint George's College. It was really remarkable to see Holy Cross Religious interact with people of all backgrounds.

My spiritual director, Fr. Lou DelFra, C.S.C., had the biggest impact on my decision to discern at Moreau Seminary. He encouraged me to be bold despite my doubts, and it has certainly helped me along the way.

Also reassuring was how close family and friends reacted when I told them. The fact that nobody was surprised was a great consolation to me. I knew that this was the right decision for me. If you think it might be the right decision for you, pray about it, and keep some time in prayer to listen. Do something about it! Don't let it exist solely

in your mind. Make it real! It's far too easy to convince yourself one way or the other when you keep it trapped inside your head. Don't let that happen. You'll be surprised how much support you get if you start sharing the idea with others.

Since being accepted to the Postulant Program, I've prepared for it through prayer, prayer, and more prayer. I'm fully of the opinion that if God wants me to do this, He's going to have to show me how. And there's no better way to do that than with faithful prayer.

More about Bradley ...

Family: Third of six children of Dana and Cindy Stalcup

Home Parish: St. Theresa Parish, Diocese of Arlington

Education: University of Notre Dame, B.S., cum laude, computer science, 2015; resident assistant, Fisher Hall

Hobbies: Enjoys racquetball, spikeball, music and video games



The measure of our generosity will be the sincerity, the simplicity and the sensitivity of our welcome.

(Holy Cross Constitution 4:40)

Final Vows

The Congregation of Holy Cross joyfully celebrates the Final Vows of two men.

Rev. Mr. Ryan Pietrocarlo, C.S.C., and Rev. Mr. Michael Palmer, C.S.C., made their Final Profession of Vows on Aug. 27, 2016, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.

During Final Vows, a Holy Cross religious professes the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience forever according to the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In this, they make the final and complete commitment of their lives to the communal work, prayer and life of Holy Cross.

After becoming finally professed members of Holy Cross, they were ordained as transitional deacons on Aug. 28, 2016. Their Ordination to the priesthood is planned for the spring of 2017.

You can learn more about Final Vows and view pictures, videos and other materials at vows.holycrossvocations.org.

To learn more about all of our seminarians and take a photo tour of Old College and Moreau Seminary, check out our web page at seminarians.holycrossvocations.org.





CONGREGATION *of* HOLY CROSS

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Front Cover Photo: Robert Lisowski, C.S.C., welcomes new Postulant Ian Johnston to Moreau Seminary.

Back Cover Photo: Fr. Tim Mouton, C.S.C., poses with friends and family after his making his Final Profession of Vows, fall 2014.