



INFORMATION

VATICAN ANNOUNCES Canonization of Brother André

■ By Laura Rivas

Pope Benedict XVI announced in February that Brother André Bessette will be canonized in October of this year. The news is especially significant for the Congregation of Holy Cross because Brother André will become the order's first recognized saint. Brother André, whose works among the ill and poor earned him a reputation as a healer, lived as a Holy Cross brother for more than 60 years.

Word of the canonization comes as no surprise to those familiar with his history, from his early adulthood working in various trades to his campaign to build a chapel to honor St. Joseph who inspired him. Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC, sees the occasion as a resounding affirmation that life in Holy Cross is an effective means of living the gospel.

"It is truly a meditation to me that the first person to be canonized in Holy Cross is a simple and humble man who could barely write his name, who did not have the privilege of much education, who was not immediately seen as an asset to the Congregation because of his poor health and almost no education," Brother Giallanza says. "It is a profound reminder that this life is about our relationship with God, about being holy as God in heaven is holy, about living as Jesus lived and loving as Jesus loved. When these realities become the priorities for our lives, as they did so evidently in the life of Brother André, then all of us will be well on the pathway to sainthood." Brother Giallanza has written a booklet published by the Holy Cross Institute entitled *A Moment of Grace: Preparing for the Canonization of Brother André*.

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TIMELINE TO CANONIZATION

- 1832 The Congregation of Holy Cross is founded
- 1845 Brother André Bessette is born August 9 in Montreal, Quebec
- 1870 Brother André takes the habit of the Brothers of Holy Cross
- 1874 Brother André makes his final vows
- 1904 St. Joseph's Oratory is founded in Montreal
- 1937 Brother André dies
- 1978 Brother André is declared Venerable by the Church
- 1982 Brother André is beatified by Pope John Paul II
- 2010 Brother André to be canonized on Oct. 17 at the Vatican

“Holy Cross Education in the 21st Century: Legacy, Charism and Catholicity”

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE?

Father Thomas Looney, CSC, Addresses Convocation 2010

“In your life, how do your spirituality and your way of being an educator relate to each other?” Father Thomas Looney, CSC, asked the question during his keynote address at the Holy Cross Institute’s Convocation 2010. For inspiration, he turned to Blessed Basil Moreau, whose relationship with God mirrored and inspired his ministry as an educator. “In every case,” the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross told us, “we must conform to Christ.”

TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

Father Looney, provincial superior of the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers, explored the transformative power of this kind of integrated life in his address, *A Spirituality & Pedagogy for Holy Cross Educators*. The educational ministry of Jesus Christ, he said, transformed people by inviting them “to see the ordinary in extraordinary ways.” He encouraged educators to adopt the methods Jesus used:

- Just as Jesus taught through parables, which can confound expectations of how God works, educators can invite students to see reality in new and different ways.
- Jesus rarely directly answers a question. His counter-questions engage people in a process of self-discovery: Who do you say that I am?
- When we live as Jesus lived, our whole beings are engaged in the movement to a deeper life and the deeper truths in life.
- Jesus was fully aware of where he had come from and where he was going. To live out our vocation fully we must know ourselves: Begin by asking: What is it about my way of understanding that shapes how I am in the classroom? Do I live my life as if my colleagues and students are a blessing in my life?
- Jesus grounded his ministry in particular knowledge of the other. Educators must approach each student in compassionate awareness of his or her uniqueness.

EDUCATION INTO JUSTICE

According to Father Looney, Moreau understood that we can only transform ourselves and others when compassion accompanies action. Yet the actions we take sometimes result in criticism and struggle. If we live our spirituality and pedagogy in congruity, he suggests we can live out Moreau’s belief that “the Cross is our only hope.”

As Holy Cross educators we are called to help students to a place where they can negotiate — not avoid or shirk — difficulties. Father Looney recommends we ask ourselves: How did Jesus deal with the reality of the Cross? What will we make of the suffering? How do we bring it to the Lord in prayer?

Moreau acknowledged there is no way around suffering, but new life comes when we engage suffering and share it with others. In the process we create an educational family that is both formative and transformative, one where people beyond our faith tradition find value and feel at home.

Upon entering a Holy Cross school, many say how welcome they feel. That welcome, Father Looney urges us, should not simply extend social hospitality. We are called to be more, “a family that invites people into a place where they can encounter God.”

One of the most hospitable Holy Cross figures is Blessed Brother André Bessette, CSC, whose canonization is planned for Oct. 17, 2010. As a humble doorkeeper at the Collège Notre-Dame in Montreal, then as guardian of Saint Joseph’s Oratory, he made his ministry a way of “helping people encounter God,” said Father Looney. “As we receive people into our communities, we should consider, ‘How do we live that welcome?’ And in living it, we should ask ourselves, ‘Who do we want to be in our relationship with God and the people we serve?’”



“Educators must approach each student in compassionate awareness of his or her uniqueness.”



ASSESSING YOUR MISSION

Discover what you do well, what you can improve and what you need to move forward.

That process describes the mission assessment visit experienced by three Holy Cross schools during the past year. The periodic reviews, required by the sponsorship agreements between the South-West Province and its sponsored institutions, have evolved over time.

The current process “developed out of a WASC visit to St. Francis High School [Mountain View, Calif.]” said Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, South-West Provincial. An accreditation team told administrators, “We know this is a Holy Cross school, but is it Catholic?” In response, Director of Campus Ministry Sal Chavez developed a tool that could assist in the evaluation of mission and Catholic identity. Each school can adapt the assessment tool as needed.

According to Terry McGaha, director of mission outreach at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif., “It’s important to invite every constituency to participate, because everyone is an educator in the mission.” Over two days, the visitors converse with board members, faculty and staff, students, and the Peer Ministry team.

Group discussions focus on best practices and areas for improvement related to the four pillars of the Holy Cross education mission: message, community, service and prayer. Faculty and staff appreciate the gift of time, telling the assessors, “We never have a chance to sit down and talk about what our school is really about.”

“This process has also given Board members an ability to talk about the mission of their schools,” added Brother Donald.

“Our final report has some commendations and recommendations. There are no surprises,” Brother Donald said. One of the goals is to ensure that, “We define what Holy Cross means, that others don’t define it for us.”

If invited to serve on an assessment team, “Embrace the opportunity,” said Angel Cedillo, principal of Holy Cross High School in San Antonio. “It’s a great experience to learn from other institutions and bring that knowledge back to your own.”

■ By Gail Tyson

What is the Holy Cross Institute?

The Holy Cross Institute is charged with creating a national community among secondary schools, colleges and universities founded and sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States. It provides resources, programs and events that educate administrators, faculty, board members and students on the unique Holy Cross educational legacy.

Learn more at www.holycrossinstitute.org.

HAITI AND CHILE EARTHQUAKE UPDATES

Perseverance in the Holy Cross Spirit



“It will be years upon years before the horrific destruction of churches, schools, hospitals, government buildings and houses can be fully overcome ... Your generosity has brought our religious hope and encouragement.”

Images of the tragic earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have been shown around the globe, revealing not only the heartbreak of these tragedies but also the indomitable spirit and strength of the survivors. Among them are the Holy Cross brothers and sisters in service in these areas who endured the catastrophes, and their own personal losses, and who now focus on helping the millions who have lost everything. They are determined to uphold the Holy Cross tenet of community service by being at the forefront of relief efforts and by sending updates to the rest of the world on their ongoing struggles.

In Haiti, more than a quarter of a million people died. This is a conservative estimate. Along with most of Port-au-Prince's structures, the Congregation's provincial house and school were destroyed. Eleven days after the first massive earthquake struck on Jan. 12, Sister Maureen Fuelkell, CSC, regional treasurer for the Sisters of Holy Cross in Haiti, sent an e-mail update amid the aftershocks. “Words cannot express the sadness in our hearts to know loved ones have been lost and beautiful structures have been destroyed. We will never again know or see what we were attached to all our lives. Things will change and let's hope in many ways for the better, but many things will never or cannot be replaced,” she wrote. She described the chaos in the aftermath of the disaster — how most of the population lived and slept outside for fear of collapsing buildings, and the frustration of waiting for aid. Even now, many of the displaced live in tents on Holy Cross properties where at least some of their needs are met.

Holy Cross Superior General, Father Hugh Cleary, CSC, spent the first part of April in Haiti where he viewed the devastation firsthand. In a letter to the Congregation he wrote, “It will be years upon years before the horrific destruction of churches, schools, hospitals, government buildings and houses can be fully overcome ... Your generosity has brought our religious hope and encouragement.”

Many Holy Cross schools are living as Christ did by reaching out to these needy areas. At St. Edward's University, a committee of student organizations and Campus Ministry organized Hilltoppers Helping Haiti Week, Feb. 22–26. They hosted events each day to educate the community and invite people to donate to the Congregation of Holy Cross.



ANDREW J. WILLARD '11



CHRISTINA WILLAREAL '12

Haiti is not alone in crisis. The magnitude 8.8 earthquake that struck Chile on Feb. 27 also generated a tsunami that devastated a large coastal area. At St. George's College in Santiago, Chile, the damage was not as extensive as in the rural areas to the south and west, which received the worst damage. Like his Holy Cross brothers and sisters in Haiti, Father Joe Tomei, CSC, chaplain for Campus Ministry at St. George's, sends periodic updates about relief and rebuilding efforts — efforts that are about to meet more difficult winter conditions.

According to Father Tomei, "The cleanup and rebuilding are happening but it is slow. In the rural areas of Chile, the people live very isolated. I went to work in a poor rural area this past summer and was amazed by the distance between houses. Some live miles from a neighbor." Towns like Talcahuano, a port town that suffered from the quake and the tsunami, still have no running water. In Santiago, many families continue to live in tents because they no longer have homes. With the weather turning cold and damp, health problems are becoming an increasing concern.

Father Tomei describes how everyone has had to adapt to the lack of privacy. "If the baby in the tent next door cries, you can hear it in yours. The government is putting up temporary housing called *mediaguas*. It is slow going because there are so many thousands of people who lost their homes." St. George's has reached out to several smaller communities where the cleanup and rebuilding are moving even more slowly. Students and teachers have "adopted" the town of Nirivilo after encountering people along the road with signs asking for help: "We have been forgotten. We are also hungry and without a place to live." They set to work collecting donations and working alongside residents. A contingent from the school celebrated Easter with an open-air Mass at the site of a damaged chapel south of Santiago.

Father Tomei asks for continued prayers for "those who still suffer from not having a place to live, water, power and food. We need to pray that people will continue to have hope. They have not been forgotten."

To support relief efforts, please contact a Holy Cross school or the nearest CSC Provincial office.

Opposite page: The Congregation of Holy Cross Provincial House in Port-au-Prince suffered massive damage from the Jan. 12 quake. Provincial Superior in Haiti Father Michel Eugene, CSC, said of two religious who escaped the house unharmed, "Brother André was watching over them."

This page: St. Edward's students responded to disaster by organizing Hilltoppers Helping Haiti Week in February, a series of events that included a bake sale (left) and concert (right) to raise awareness and funds for Haiti relief.

■ By Laura Rivas

Reframing Religious Education

■ By Gail Tyson

As educators implement the catechetical guidelines designed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, they first might assess whether their existing curriculum already covers any of the new elements.

“Out of integrity to your own mission, it would be a mistake to just drop what you’re doing,” said Father Ronald Nuzzi, senior director of the ACE Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame, during a session at Convocation 2010.

Father Nuzzi told educators that the USCCB document, *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*, grew out of concerns of the bishops, including the lack of a standardized curriculum from diocese to diocese, reliance on a variety of source material, and inconsistency in the credentialing and professional development of religion teachers.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Under the *Framework*, six Christocentric required courses are to be taught first. It also recommends that schools offer several electives, such as Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues. Mary Martino, chair of Theology at Academy of the Holy Cross, was positive about the process of restructuring the curriculum. “The *Framework* allows lots of room to add options,” she said. The Academy has also established a goal for all seniors to pass Level 3 of the Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE) test with an 86% average in each of eight domains.

“How you respond to challenges in your Catholic identity is a sign of how secure you are,” Father Nuzzi added. “Get out in front of complaints; bishops don’t like to be surprised.”

Peter Shelley, assistant principal of Moreau Catholic High School, adds: “We as Holy Cross educators have that built-in adaptability, so we will make it work.”

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Determine how your curriculum already covers the doctrinal elements and realign as necessary.
- Ensure that teachers of religion have a defensible academic background. “This is a hot-button issue for the bishops,” explains Father Nuzzi.
- Use ACRE for external validation.
- Maintain a portfolio of instruction that archives sample lesson plans, syllabi and student work.
- Cultivate relationships with the bishop, pastors in the diocese and people who understand the ecclesiastical climate, so that the role of the Church in your school extends beyond ‘policing.’
- Make a justifiable selection of catechetical materials.
- Carefully choose guest speakers and honored guests invited to your campus. “The bishops are very attentive to how these choices play in the press,” said Father Nuzzi.

CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following HCI events:

HOLY CROSS CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT LEADERS

Designed to help students develop a wider perspective of their role in society and a greater understanding of the Holy Cross mission and heritage while fostering leadership and planning skills.

► June 23–27, 2010

St. Edward’s University, Austin, Texas

For more information, contact

Terry McGaha at mcgaha@ndbs.org.

► June 29–July 3, 2010

Holy Cross College, South Bend, Ind.

For more information, contact

Casey Yandek at cryandek@sehs.net.

CONVOCATION 2011

► April 3–5, 2011

Theme: “175 Years of Holy Cross Educators: Then and Now — Best Practices”

Keynote speaker

Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC

St. Edward’s University, Austin, Texas

For more information, contact

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**IMAGES:**

Front page: Brother André ready for a visit.

Left: Perpetual Religious Profession, 1874.

Below: St. Joseph's Oratory, 1904.

Images provided by and used with the permission of The Archives of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

**VATICAN ANNOUNCES****Canonization of Brother André**

(Continued from page 1)

In Brother André's birthplace of Montreal, the long-anticipated news is particularly important to the Catholic community he helped shape. According to Canadian Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, "The announcement of the canonization is a wonderful gift which will be received with delight by [Brother André's] numerous friends who have benefited from his intercession and who have been his supporters for many decades. For the religious of Holy Cross, it represents more than ever a source of inspiration, a model of faith and trust in God and in the human condition. He shows us how to envision great things and how to look toward the future!"

The official ceremony will take place in the Vatican on Oct. 17. In Montreal, events will include a Eucharistic celebration to be held at Olympic Stadium on Oct. 30. In addition, pilgrimage tours to Rome for the occasion are being offered by several churches and specialty tour groups.



MOREAU'S LEGACY:

Holy Cross Band Director Receives National Award

■ By Laura Rivas



In April, the National Catholic Educational Association presented a 2010 Secondary Schools Department Award to John Combes, band director and teacher at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif. Combes began his teaching career at the Holy Cross school in 1968, assuming leadership of the all-boys Irish Knight Band. Initially, he planned to move to the public school system after one year but, 42 years later, he has become an institution within the school as director of a program he expanded from 28 boys to more than 100 boys and girls who participate in marching, jazz and concert bands. Combes also recently received a Knights of Honor Award from Notre Dame, in recognition of his longtime service to Holy Cross education.

“The Holy Cross educational tenet of educating both the heart and the mind, as defined by Blessed Basil Moreau, has remained at the forefront of our approach to music education,” says Combes. “Father Moreau had a band at his first school in France and the band tradition has remained strong in Holy Cross education ... Music is universal, band is international, and the body of skills and knowledge will support the students throughout the rest of their lives, no matter where their vocations may lead them.”

Led by director John Combes, the Irish Knight Marching Band has performed in more than 450 consecutive football games and has won several awards at prestigious band reviews. The band has been a part of the Notre Dame High School tradition since 1947, making it the oldest extracurricular activity on campus.