



## Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As I meet with educators at Holy Cross schools around the country, I am asked the same question: "What is the Holy Cross Institute?"

**It's a place.** Located at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, the institute will allow Holy Cross teachers, principals and board members to offer support, training and encouragement for one another. **It's a resource.** The institute will provide instruction, research and scholarship, as well as an orientation to Holy Cross, for newly appointed presidents, principals and board members.

**It's a mission.** Or rather, the mission is that of Holy Cross — and the institute is a means for ensuring the Holy Cross mission continues into the 21st century.

Now, your next question might be "What is *InFormation*?" *InFormation* is the institute's official newsletter, and like the institute, it is a resource. Each issue will provide updates about institute plans and programs, like the inaugural convocation scheduled for March (*see story, page 3*). Each issue will also feature a case study and how-to toolkit on an innovative initiative at a participating Holy Cross school (*see story, page 2*) and a first-person perspective about what the Holy Cross mission means (*see story, page 4*).

For all of us at Holy Cross institutions, it is a challenge to be true to Catholic education in the Holy Cross tradition while continuing to grow and more completely meet the needs of students and the church. To this end, I envision that the Holy Cross Institute will be a national anchor of training, research and worship and a spiritual center in the Holy Cross tradition for all of us.

Sincerely,

*Brother Stephen Walsh*

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Front (l to r): Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, Sister Donna Jurick, SND, and Brother Robert Lavelle, CSC; middle (l to r): Brother Jerome Donnelly, CSC, and Michel Larkin; back (l to r): Brother Thomas Dziekan, CSC, Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, and Brother Ken Haders, CSC. Not pictured: Patricia Geister.

## Board of Governors BEGINS WORK

When the eight members of the Holy Cross Institute's Board of Governors met in the spring, they created a vision statement for the institute and planned its inaugural convocation (*see story, page 3*). The goal of the institute, established in 2002 and located on the campus of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, is to promote leadership among all Holy Cross educators — religious and lay alike — and offer resources to help continue the Holy Cross mission into the 21st century. And leading these initiatives, with representatives from the Eastern, Midwest and South-West provinces of the Congregation of Holy Cross and St. Edward's, is the Board of Governors.

### Representing the Eastern Province:

■ Brother Thomas Dziekan, CSC, vice rector and assistant superior, Moreau Seminary, University of Notre Dame. Brother Thomas also serves the Eastern Province as the director of mission effectiveness.

■ Brother Jerome Donnelly, CSC, president, Holy Cross High School, Waterbury, Conn. Brother Jerome recently celebrated 40 years as a brother and has taught and served as a family and personal counselor in Catholic schools in the United States and in Europe.

### Representing the Midwest Province:

■ Brother Ken Haders, CSC, president, Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio. Brother Ken was elected to two terms as councilor to the provincial of the Midwest Province at Notre Dame and has represented the province at the congregation's last two general chapter meetings in Rome.

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# STUDY

Holy Cross High School, Flushing, N.Y.

Mike Genovese knows that education is not only about the mind — it's also about the heart and hands. To teach this lesson to his students at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, N.Y., he created a service learning program in 1973 — and more than three decades later, the program has become an integral part of the school's mission.

First, Genovese's students study a social concern so they understand and appreciate the issue. Next, they put their research into action by serving the community, usually groups with special needs such as the homeless, homebound elderly, children with disabilities, or the physically and mentally challenged. Throughout the project, Genovese provides structured reflection opportunities so students can process what they experience.

Every year, Genovese reevaluates the community's needs and adjusts the project accordingly. Some of the service projects he has coordinated include the Intergenerational Computer Project, which teaches senior citizens how to use computers, especially e-mail and the Internet; the Butterfly Project, which helps hospitalized children with severe illnesses raise painted lady butterflies; and the Welcome to My World project, in which Holy Cross students learn sign language from eighth-graders at a local school for the deaf and, in turn, share music with the deaf students. Genovese's students discovered that by way of balloons, deaf students could experience sound through



the vibrations in the air — and they came up with the idea of bringing the school jazz band to play for the deaf children.

“Young people have a lot to offer, and for them, actions speak louder than words.” Genovese said. “They just need someone to encourage them to identify their skills and share them with others. They need opportunities to live out the Christian ideals they've learned in theory in the classroom and in church.”

Ultimately, Genovese hopes his students will realize that service is more than just performing a good deed — it's “a habit of the heart” that enriches both the giver and the receiver.

## 1 Basic ingredients for starting your own service learning project:

- Select an issue or learning objective for the project
- Utilize the skills and talents of your students
- Identify an unmet need in your school or local community

## 2 Once you've laid the groundwork:

- Approach a community-based organization to be your partner
- Create a written agreement that defines the terms of service for the project
- Prepare your students to serve and provide opportunities for reflection

## 4 Helpful sites include:

- Learn and Serve America: [www.learnandserve.org](http://www.learnandserve.org)
- National Service-Learning Clearinghouse: [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)
- National Service-Learning Exchange: [www.nslexchange.org](http://www.nslexchange.org)
- National Service-Learning Partnership: [www.service-learningpartnership.org](http://www.service-learningpartnership.org)

## tool

## 3 Next, you'll need time, money and transportation — and there are many ways to find resources and creatively seek assistance:

- Check with your local and state government — each state has its own infrastructure for service learning, usually connected with the Department of Education or the Governor's Office.
- Collaborate with colleges near you — most institutions offer service learning projects for their own students and can often provide guidance and resources.
- Contact local churches, community-based and civic organizations, and corporations. Companies like Allstate, Prudential, Kohl's department store and The Home Depot, for example, offer assistance for service learning projects.
- Search the web — try searching under “service learning,” “learning to serve with character,” or “civic education and service learning.”

**Questions?** Contact Mike Genovese at [mikegino@aol.com](mailto:mikegino@aol.com).



COURTESY OF HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Children at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf feel the vibrations from the saxophone played by Holy Cross High School Jazz Band member Terrell Smith following the band's Christmas concert last December.

## Institute Helps Students Affected by Hurricane Katrina

In September, Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, executive director of the Holy Cross Institute, coordinated efforts to relocate students, faculty and staff from Holy Cross School in New Orleans, La., who were forced to evacuate because of flooding and damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Through the South-West Province, Brother Stephen arranged temporary housing and admission into other Holy Cross-affiliated schools, which allowed students to continue their education and seniors to work toward graduation.

Several Holy Cross schools around the United States, including Saint Francis High School, Mountain View, Calif.; Notre Dame High School, Sherman Oaks, Calif.; Holy Cross of San Antonio, Texas; Saint Edmond's Academy, Wilmington, Del.; and others have opened their doors to the displaced students and offered free tuition and housing.

Holy Cross School plans to reopen in January. For more information, contact Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, at [walsh@admin.stedwards.edu](mailto:walsh@admin.stedwards.edu).

## Institute to Hold Inaugural Convocation

Holy Cross educators, administrators and board members will gather in Austin on March 26–28 for the Holy Cross Institute's Inaugural Convocation. At the invitation of the Board of Governors (*see story, page 1*), five to eight delegates from each Holy Cross school will come together to begin building a community of learning and practice.

"As we gather in heart and mind to embrace this new institute, we celebrate a homecoming in a place that honors the past, commits itself to the exciting present, and envisions a promising future," said convocation participant Heather Gossart, president and CEO of Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. "Together as ministers, mentors and collaborators, we embrace one of the great challenges before us — helping the laity become stewards of the mission and charism of our Holy Cross traditions."

In response to these challenges, convocation activities will address the question "What does it mean to be a Holy Cross educator?" Participants will attend presentations on leadership and will have access to resources that help promote schools as learning communities. They will also take part in an opening liturgy, attend "best practice" sessions, meet in small discussion groups led by trained facilitators and get to know each other in breakout workshops.

For more information on the convocation, contact Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, at [walsh@admin.stedwards.edu](mailto:walsh@admin.stedwards.edu).

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### Board of Governors

■ Brother Robert E. Lavelle, CSC, headmaster, Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio. Brother Robert has also served as a teacher and advisor at Archbishop Hoban High School and Sacred Heart Military Academy, Watertown, Wis.

### Representing the South-West Province:

■ Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC, province formation director, South-West Province. Brother Donald served nine years as provincial superior of the South-West Province and has also served as a teacher and principal at various Catholic secondary schools. He serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Edward's University.

■ Patricia Geister, former principal, Moreau Catholic High School, Hayward, Calif. Geister has also served on a Diocese of Oakland task force that developed strategic enrollment plans for Catholic schools in urban Oakland and Berkeley.

### Representing St. Edward's University:

■ Sister Donna Jurick, SND, executive vice president, St. Edward's University. Sister Donna joined the St. Edward's administration in 1988. She belongs to the Ohio Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, an international congregation of more than 2,000 members with ministries on five continents.

■ Michael Larkin, vice president, University Advancement, St. Edward's University. Michael joined the St. Edward's administration in 2003 and is the administrative liaison to the St. Edward's Board of Trustees for the university's "A Special Destiny" comprehensive campaign.

# Living MISSION



PHOTO BY LEE P. THOMAS

## After the Storm By Terry McGaha

When we truly understand and believe in the mission of Holy Cross, it becomes ingrained in every fiber of our being — that has been my realization since Hurricane Katrina rudely entered into our lives at Holy Cross School in New Orleans, La.

While many others were evacuating the city, I evacuated my home in St. Bernard Parish and took refuge in the fourth floor of the school's Andre Hall where I rode out the storm with two of my teacher-colleagues and closest friends, Brother Michael Spencer, CSC, and Tony Rodi. By Thursday morning, the flood water had receded enough for us to inspect the main campus. With heavy hearts, we walked through the 110-year-old Administration Building.

It was saddening to see the damage, but after I picked up a bust of Basil Moreau, which had been washed off of its column by the flood water, I was uplifted by the mission of Holy Cross. It was as if Moreau was telling me everything would be okay — *the Congregation of Holy Cross has been through worse before*, he seemed to whisper to me. It was then I began to remember that the Holy Cross mission isn't about buildings and things; the mission is about people and relationships.

The three of us hesitantly evacuated campus on Labor Day. After the ordeal of returning to civilization, we learned about Holy Cross schools across the country that were helping to care for our New Orleans students and their families. Crises bring out the best and the worst of human beings; that was surely part of my recent experience. But this outreach — so typical of our Holy Cross family network — has also reminded us of the mission we are here to carry out and has strengthened our hearts.

Terry McGaha (above) is campus minister at Holy Cross School in New Orleans, La. Though the school is temporarily closed due to flood damage from Hurricane Katrina, McGaha and other faculty and staff members and students have temporarily relocated to various Holy Cross schools with the help of the South-West Province (see story, page 3).

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The Holy Cross Institute AT ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY



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