



## Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



After visiting all of the Holy Cross secondary schools across the country, I have developed a unique perspective. My experience has led me to believe that while Holy Cross educators can easily identify what distinguishes their school from others in their area, they're often hesitant when asked to define the characteristics that make them Holy Cross.

The answer is no big mystery: "We begin where students are." I hear so many faculty use that phrase. It sums up our commitment to maintaining diverse student bodies in terms of socio-economic status, ethnicity and ability. But it takes enormous energy and will to accept and celebrate diversity, as Heather Gossart, president of Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. can attest (*see page 3*).

"We begin where students are" is the unifying theme of this issue of *InFormation*. You'll find in these pages stories about mission-driven programs from various schools (*see page 2*): a tutorial program at Notre Dame High School in Niles, Ill., an academic enrichment program at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, N.Y. and an A.D.D. program at St. Edward High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

And the finishing touches have been put on the Midwest Province Student Leadership Conference in Notre Dame, Ind. (*see page 3*), where newly elected students leaders will work alongside Holy Cross educators to learn about how to plan and guide service projects at their respective high schools.

Holy Cross founder Basil Moreau — whose *Christian Education* is available in a newly translated edition (*see page 4*) in anticipation of his Beautification on Sept. 15, 2007, in Le Mans, France — spoke of education as a "work of resurrection." These programs are signs of the transforming hope in our schools. Hope is the characteristic virtue of Holy Cross educators; we do not linger at the foot of the cross as we look toward Easter Sunday.

Sincerely,

*Brother Stephen Walsh*

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(above) Holy Cross School of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.  
(below) An architect's rendering of the new school.

## Holy Cross School REBUILDS

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in August 2005, Holy Cross School closed its doors for the first time in nearly 150 years. Located in the lower ninth ward, the campus stayed under six feet of water for two weeks. A coordinated effort by the Holy Cross Institute and the South-West Province arranged temporary housing and relocation into other Holy Cross-affiliated schools for students, faculty and staff. But the question loomed: Would Holy Cross School ever open its doors again?

The answer was yes. Classes reopened two weeks after the storm at a satellite campus in Baton Rouge and returned to New Orleans in November 2005 at the all-girl Cabrini High. In January 2006, Holy Cross School set up modular classroom buildings on the old campus. During this time, plans were already underway for a new campus on an 18.7 acre site in central New Orleans.

"I have a sense that Father Moreau is driving this effort," says Holy Cross Headmaster Charlie DiGange. "There's a tremendous amount of intervention and intercession that is keeping us going. That we were able to even hold classes again could count as his third miracle."

The rebuilding effort — which will include a replica

*continued on page 4*



# WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE

beginning

## Notre Dame, Niles Tutorial Program Helps At-Risk Students



Around the country, boys are three times more likely than girls to be diagnosed with a learning disability. Thanks to the Brother Andre Program at all-boys Notre Dame High School in Niles, Ill., they don't have to be left behind.

The program began 13 years ago as a way to help at-risk junior high students adjust to the rigors of a college-preparatory high school. In recent years it has expanded to aid struggling students whose learning problems interfere with their academic performance. "It's not a special education program," says Vice Principal and Director of Counseling Chuck Pistorio. "Our goal is to get these students ready for their junior and senior years."

The courses in the Andre program have a slower pace and smaller class size, but they're still college-prep-based. Students take a reading-writing workshop freshman year, along with English classes in lieu of a foreign language. They also attend a moderated study hall at the Andre Center, where they receive individual tutoring in specific courses and help in organization and study skills.

"This program, dedicated to Brother Andre, serves those who need something special in order to succeed at Notre Dame High School," says the school's president, Rev. Michael DeLaney, CSC. "We make the commitment to them and their families to support and help the learning that takes its deepest root in these important years. Like those who came to the Oratory to seek presence and healing from Brother Andre,

we believe it is most fitting to dedicate this important work of Notre Dame High School so that our students now, and in the future, will be able to gain that same sense of confidence, success and belief in themselves, and recognition of God's great gifts for them in their lives as students."

With a grant from the Helen Brach Foundation, Pistorio has developed a questionnaire to find out what other Catholic high schools in the Chicago archdiocese are doing to meet the needs of students with learning and attention disabilities. He hopes to bring in an education expert to further train the Andre teachers and provide recommendations to the entire archdiocese.

"We want to give families an opportunity to choose our school, even if their student needs some extra help," Pistorio says. "People shouldn't have to choose between a faith-based education and a public school that offers these services."

For more information, contact Teresa Connelly at [tconnelly@ndhsdons.org](mailto:tconnelly@ndhsdons.org)



## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT, HOLY CROSS STYLE

### HOLY CROSS, FLUSHING, N.Y. ANDRE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Faced with a competitive college-prep curriculum, some students at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, N.Y. need a little extra help — namely, the Brother Andre Enrichment Program. Like the program at Notre Dame, Niles, the Brother Andre program addresses students' specific academic deficiencies. For some, it's a problem with math. Others have trouble with reading or don't speak English at home. Whatever their difficulty, the students aren't separated from the rest of their classmates for regular classes, since the program is a supplement to their educations. "Our goal is to fit schedules to the students and not the other way around," says Loreen McCarthy, assistant principal for academics at Holy Cross High School. "We want to help them succeed."

### ST. EDWARD, LAKEWOOD, OHIO A.D.D. PROGRAM

Each fall at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, Consulting Counselor Brother James Everett, CSC, searches through the files of incoming freshmen. His goal: to identify students with A.D.D., Attention Deficit Disorder. Once the students are identified, he oversees their academic progress and any subsequent tutoring that's needed to make sure they stay on top of their academics. Brother James estimates that 65 to 70 out of 900 students at St. Edward have A.D.D. "The program's been around for six years now and we're having great results," he says. "We want to give them all the support we can. If they're not doing as well as they should by midterm, we try to identify where the breakdown is occurring."



## A Gift Beyond Measure A Reflection on Diversity in our Holy Cross School



**By Heather Gossart**

Bishop McNamara High School serves a student population of approximately 55 percent African American, 10 percent Filipino, 25 percent Caucasian, and 10 percent “other” (Asian/Pacific, American Indian and multi racial students). Not to be outdone by our students, our faculty is as racially and culturally diverse as the young people they teach.

It takes a lot of hard work, dialogue and considerable humor to be part of our school family. We do not think it at all strange that our Irish Dance Club has an African American presence that gives it a little extra pizzazz or that among our

African American dancers and drummers you see blond hair and blue eyes dancing in rhythm to the tribal drums. The Filipino Club has taught our Latinos to love some of its more exotic dishes, and members accept that some of their increased membership may be there more for the

food than for the culture.

In our community, made up of so many wonderful colors, textures, languages and traditions, we talk about stereotypes, fears, and misconceptions. At a senior retreat one year, a young African American man shared that until he came to Bishop McNamara, he had harbored a distrust and even fear of many white people. He went on to say with great emotion that after his experience in our Holy Cross community, he could never again make generalizations about a group of people as if they had no individual hearts and souls.

There are so many stories that capture the spirit and joy of the diversity that is the

bedrock of this school. On Sept. 11, 2001, Saiedah Khalili, a native-born Iranian and devout Muslim, was teaching her chemistry class here when news of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks stunned our community. That night, she found vile graffiti on the walls of her home and the windows of her car were smashed. The next day, the resignation she offered having been categorically refused, she found herself engulfed and embraced by students during a mass of remembrance for the victims in the gym.

Each year as our seniors approach graduation at the beautiful National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in our nation's capital, they cling to each other and pledge to love and stay close to each other forever. In that moment, we remember Saint Paul's words and see among these faces of many colors, lands and customs the “image of God imprinted within like a sacred seal.” And we rejoice that we have been called to be family.

*Heather Gossart is president of Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md.*

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## PLANS SET IN MOTION FOR MIDWEST STUDENT Leadership Conference

In late June, 35 to 50 high school students will converge on Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind., for the first Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders, sponsored by the Midwest Province.

During the four-day conference, students will be involved in a mixture of activities including learning about the history and mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross, developing leadership skills and reflecting on past service projects. In addition, each represented school will prepare and bring a video presentation to share about how it lives out the Holy Cross mission.

On the last day, students will engage in “Live the Mission,” an activity led by Jack Rampulla, a teacher at Holy Cross

High School in Flushing, N.Y. Students will develop an action plan about how to enhance an existing program at their school or create a new one.

“Most of these students are elected into their leadership positions in the spring and we work with them in the summer,” says Archbishop Hoban High School Vice Principal and conference organizer Kevin Hillery. “By the time school starts in the fall, they will have some new skills to incorporate at their schools.”

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## Holy Cross School Rebuilds

*continued from page 1*

of Main Building, a middle school, a high school, a performing arts center and a chapel — will be costly, running from 25 to 30 million dollars, says DiGange. However, it's not a solo effort. Along with insurance and grant money, other Holy Cross schools from around the country and the world have contributed to the rebuilding effort through the Holy Cross Hope Fund, started by the South-West Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross. And DiGange says that they've even received checks from students who've held their own fundraisers.

"We've received a lot of encouraging e-mails and support from all over," he says. "I believe that this is what Moreau was talking about when he told the Brothers who wanted to abandon the school in the 1850s that this would be a 'place of great blessing.' And it is."

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### VISIT THE HOLY CROSS INSTITUTE ONLINE

Learn more about the mission and heritage of the Holy Cross Institute by visiting [www.holycrossinstitute.org](http://www.holycrossinstitute.org). You'll find helpful information on members of the board of governors, contacts for Holy Cross-related schools and institutions around the world and information on educational efforts like the service-learning program at Holy Cross High School in New York.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can now view a newly translated version of Father Basil Moreau's *Christian Education* online at the institute's web site, [www.holycrossinstitute.org](http://www.holycrossinstitute.org). Originally written in 1856 for Holy Cross Brothers, the new translation includes a reading guide and resources for further reflection.

### "MARKETING YOUR MISSION" AT CONVOCATION 2007

Participants of the 2007 Holy Cross Institute Convocation will learn about "Marketing Your Mission" at a special afternoon workshop session. Led by a panel of professionals in nonprofit marketing, the workshop will cover effective admissions and fundraising communication to alumni, parents and others. Panelists include Paige Booth, vice president of Marketing at St. Edward's University; Kathy Cain, managing partner, creative director and principal strategist at Zehno Cross Media Communications; and Gail Tyson, senior marketing communications consultant at Zehno Cross Media Communications.

The Holy Cross Institute AT ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY



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