

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# A Year of Grace

By Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC



Brother Joel, Keynote Speaker, Mission Seminar 2012  
Photo by Brother Nich Perez, CSC

1836 was a year of grace for Father Moreau. That is not to say there were no crosses, there were. He was working to establish the first Holy Cross school in Le Mans, France, and had to deal with innumerable obstacles placed in the way of progress by civil and church authorities. In the midst of all this, not only was he removed from the positions he held at the diocesan seminary, he was asked to move out of his living quarters there.

There were blessings, too. He was offered a place to live. Quite unexpectedly and from an unlikely source, he was offered a piece of property that would become the first home for the school. The school opened as he had planned with only minimal delays.

2011 has been a year of grace thus far — a time of blessing — and it has brought us a share of crosses. This year began with the death of Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, founder and executive director of the Holy Cross Institute. Over the intervening months, it has become increasingly clear how widespread and deep was his influence on educators, colleagues, friends and his brothers in Holy Cross. Also, it has been a year during which the world economy and weather patterns have created a variety of hardships.

There are blessings, too. We celebrate the 175th anniversary of Holy Cross in the ministry of education. This was the focus of Convocation 2011 in April. The Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders in June, for the first time in one location, included students from all the secondary schools associated with Holy Cross in the United States. In July, the Holy Cross Mission Seminar also focused on the 175th anniversary of Holy Cross education and engaged the participants in wide-ranging discussions about their ministry as Catholic educators. Beginning in October, on the first anniversary of Brother André's canonization, the Congregation of Holy Cross will celebrate the "Year of the Brother" to highlight the Brothers' vocation, life and ministry in the church today.

Like 1836, 2011 is a year of grace. It has brought cross and resurrection into our lives. From Father Moreau's perspective this is the surest sign of God's continuing presence and activity among us and through us.

This academic year will be equally graced. It will bring its share of crosses; but we can be confident that they will guide us, our students and our school communities from blessing to blessing, as we continue the "work of resurrection" that is Holy Cross education.

Sincerely,

**Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC**

## INTERNATIONAL MOREAU SCHOLARSHIP PROFILE:

# Natalie Anne Johnston Almeida

Though she will miss the familiarity of her hometown, São Paulo, Brazil, **Natalie Anne Johnston Almeida '15** is already having the greatest time of her life at St. Edward's University.

"I'll miss the comfort level of my family and friends at home, and knowing what I'm doing, where I am, but even though I'm here on my own everything is new and exciting," says Almeida, who was awarded the Moreau scholarship for her academic excellence at Colégio Santa Maria in São Paulo.

Almeida, a Holy Cross student since third grade, credits the basis of that education for making her a "better human being." She says that learning subject matter along with critical thinking skills and the value of her own opinion have made the difference in the kind of student she is. "It's taught me how to think about what I can do to make the world a better place," she says. When she received the call from Sister Diana Cundiff, CSC, director of Colégio Santa Maria, notifying her of the award, Almeida was thrilled that she would continue the same Holy Cross education through her university years. "I'm so grateful to have been chosen and will make the most out of it," she says.

"It's taught me how to think about what I can do to make the world a better place."

Prior to news of the scholarship, Almeida considered majoring in film production in Brazil. Now, however, she wants to take time to explore the many new options before her — but already is interested in Photocommunications. This creative side is not new. Almeida took seven years of theater at Colégio Santa Maria and performed in numerous English-language stage productions, which she believes was a big influence in her receiving the International Moreau Scholarship.

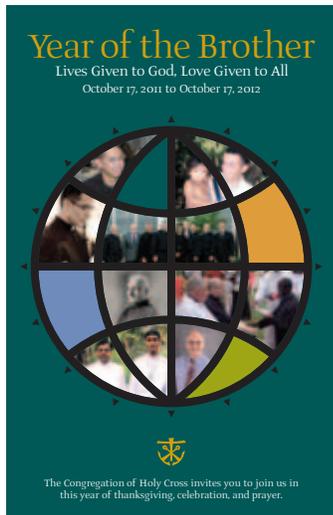
Almeida, a freshman, is new to Austin — and the U.S. — but quickly grew to love the city, life on campus and her new friends. She has developed a taste for the local food and public art, and already has her favorites. She plans to continue exercising her creative skills and during a recent St. Edward's Involvement Fair she made note of several arts-related organizations that she is interested in joining. ☘



### What is the Holy Cross Institute?

The Holy Cross Institute is charged with creating a community among secondary schools, colleges and universities founded and sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross. 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](http://www.holycrossinstitute.org)



## The Congregation of Holy Cross

The Congregation of Holy Cross will celebrate the “*Year of the Brother*” beginning on October 17, 2011, the first anniversary of the canonization of Brother Andre, until October 17, 2012. We invite you to share in this celebration with us.

*Please let us know of any suggestions you have or activities that could be planned which would promote the vocation of the Brother during this year.*

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## Where are the Religious?

By Brett Lowart, President, Notre Dame High School, Sherman Oaks, California

It always brings a smile to my face when a student, parent or alumnus addresses me with the title “Brother” or “Father.” It’s a natural expectation that the president or principal who just offered the prayer or invocation, is a religious. The 2012 Holy Cross Institute Convocation theme, “Continuing Catholic Education in the Holy Cross Tradition,” begs the question, “Where are the Religious?”

Notre Dame High School has one remaining Holy Cross Brother, Brother Lawrence Skitzki. Two years ago, Brother William Nick departed after an outstanding 18-year presidency, and we recently suffered the transfer loss of Father Joe Moyer. However, the Holy Cross traditions and Father Moreau’s vision are too powerful to cease in the absence of Holy Cross religious.

### **Where are those who will pass on the traditions?**

The answer is very clear. They are in our midst in every Holy Cross school across the country. The Holy Cross laity are carrying the torch. Our Holy Cross Brothers and Priests have trained us well and immersed us in Holy Cross traditions and charisms — and continue to inspire, lead and sponsor us. Holy Cross lay teachers and staff have welcomed this growing responsibility for decades. At Notre Dame High School there are countless teachers, coaches and staff members whose experience and devotion are immeasurable.

The laity, in many ways, must be more deliberate than their religious predecessors in passing on the Holy Cross legacy. Thus, a structured, formal Catholic Identity in the Holy Cross tradition needs to be implemented and owned. Brother Stephen Walsh, CSC, encouraged and applauded our efforts to create a Catholic Identity Statement and we also are grateful to Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC, for his contributions and support during the creation of our Statement. Along with Terry McGaha, I was honored to present it to colleagues at last year’s Convocation. Brother Stephen chuckled at the notion of writing a guiding document, noting: “We were always too busy doing it. I guess we should have written it down earlier.”

The Catholic Identity Statement is not the end all. It is a living and guiding document for other activities. This year at Notre Dame High School we are asking our Campus Ministry program to host all students and parents in a Holy Cross Family Mass. Students teaching Holy Cross to their parents has powerful possibilities. Our faculty and staff are forming a Holy Cross Mission Community and will host a series of 10 First Friday Communion services (with donuts!) and Holy Cross prayer socials. The real Holy Cross spirit, however, happens every day in every corner of our campus for every student. ☩

## RETREAT 2012:

### “Holy Cross Alive! Living the Spirit of Moreau Today”

July 17–21, 2012, Serra Retreat Center, Malibu, California

Blessed Basile Moreau lived and taught a vibrant spirituality of encounter with the living God rooted in a call to become faithful copies of Jesus Christ. During these days of prayer and quiet we will explore and engage key aspects of Moreau’s spirituality that enable us, by God’s grace, to reproduce the life of Jesus Christ “in our own conduct.” Retreat 2012 will build on a general knowledge of the life and teaching of Father Moreau and will seek to provide guidance in appropriating Moreau’s apostolic spirituality for living the Christian life of service today.

The retreat will take place July 17–21, 2012, at Serra Retreat in Malibu, California. This Catholic retreat and conference center provides a peaceful setting in which to reflect on Moreau’s spirituality in our own lives.

*For more information, contact Laura Sanders at [laurads@stedwards.edu](mailto:laurads@stedwards.edu)*

## Mission Seminar 2011

Last July, educators from five Holy Cross schools arrived at St. Edward’s University for Mission Seminar 2011. The seminar provided an opportunity to explore Father Moreau’s spirituality and philosophy of education at both a school level and an individual level. Participants took away a richer understanding of Holy Cross values, knowledge of how to apply them at their schools and in their personal lives and a greater sense of interconnectedness and belonging.

“I had high hopes going into this conference. Not only were my expectations met but they were far exceeded ... Each of the speakers was excellent! They were well prepared, informative and spoke from the heart ... Thank you all!”  
— Marco Clark



“... the lack of rigor in the scheduling of sessions and the comfortable, quiet spaces for downtime allowed me to be ... reflective and thoughtful about the session ... I was able to get a better insight into the mission of Holy Cross.”



Photos by Brother Nich Perez, CSC



“School Group Discussion and Sharing of Ideas was most valuable to me. I learned a lot about how our school can more fully embrace what it means to be a Holy Cross school.”

# Spirit of Service

By Lou Serna, Assistant Director, Campus Ministry, St. Edward's University

On February 19, 2011, students, faculty and staff from Archbishop Hoban High School, Holy Cross High School (Flushing, NY), Holy Cross School (San Antonio, TX), Holy Cross High School (Waterbury, CT), Notre Dame High School (West Haven, CT) and St. Edward's University participated in the first annual Holy Cross Day of Service. Groups of various sizes from these institutions worked simultaneously in their own cities to serve others at such places as Catholic Worker, a Holy Cross parish, and various schools and neighborhoods. Students provided service by working with veterans, beautifying a campus, serving a meal and many other great deeds.

February 19 was chosen for the Day of Service to commemorate the anniversary of St. Brother André Bessette's approval for canonization and to model his faithful service in our world today. It is through this model that we are called to serve our community. Service is a common thread found at each of our Holy Cross educational institutions and a way of action to help students become active and informed citizens.

Service comes in various sizes, shapes and goals, and although we are separated by distance, this day is a way for us to be closer as a Holy Cross family. While

the Second Annual Holy Cross Day of Service in 2012 is still in its early stages of development, there are no "requirements" in order to participate in the event. We are hoping that all Holy Cross educational institutions will take advantage of this flexibility and respond to the needs of their specific community while still being mindful of institutional resources. For some schools, an existing student club or organization may host a service project. For other schools, service can be a drive to gather goods or funds for the needy in the community.

Although we are separated by distance, this day is a way for us to be closer as a Holy Cross family. "This is the seed." Please, help us plant it and nurture it through building a just society. According to Blessed Father Basile Moreau, it is through social action and reflection that we contribute to "preparing the world for better times than ours". In the hopes of beginning a wonderful tradition in the Holy Cross community, we would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in the 2nd annual Holy Cross Day of Service next spring.

*For questions or inquiries about the 2nd annual Holy Cross Day of Service, contact Lou Serna at 512-448-8537. We look forward to having you join us.*

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## Introducing the Holy Cross Institute Board of Governors

Comprising lay and religious, men and women, this leadership team embodies the collaborative spirit that has imbued our educators from the beginning. Drawn from Holy Cross schools, colleges and universities, the

governors represent the Institute's Charter Sponsors — the Midwest Province, the Moreau Province (formerly the South-West Province and the Eastern Province of Brothers) and St. Edward's University:

### Moreau Province

- **Gail Belluci**, campus minister, Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Connecticut
- **Patricia Geister**, former principal, Moreau Catholic High School, Hayward, California
- **Kevin Makley**, president, St. Francis High School, Mountain View, California
- **Brother John Paige, CSC**, president, Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana



Photo by Jessica Attie '04



# CALENDAR

## Midwest Province

- **Brother Ken Haders, CSC**, president, Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio
- **Brother Robert E. Lavelle, CSC**, headmaster, Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio

## St. Edward's University

- **Sister Donna Jurick, SND**, executive vice president and provost
- **David Hollier, PhD**, director, Master of Arts in Teaching program

## Our Program Development Committee

The following individuals are involved in planning Holy Cross Institute programs to meet your needs. Please feel free to contact one of them if you have suggestions for programs or improvements:

- **Gail Bellucci**, Director, Campus Ministry, Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Connecticut
- **Teresa Billings**, Dean of Studies, Holy Cross High School, New Orleans, Louisiana
- **Marco Clark**, President, Bishop McNamara High School, Forestville, Maryland
- **Henry Galindo**, Principal, Holy Cross School, San Antonio, Texas
- **Martie Giammatteo**, Director, Student Activities, Holy Cross High School, Waterbury, Connecticut
- **Terry Lee**, President, Moreau Catholic High School, Hayward, California
- **Yvonne Saunders**, Director, Middle School, Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio
- **Mike Speckman**, Director of Admissions, St. Francis High School, Mountain View, California

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar for the following Holy Cross Institute-sponsored events:

### HCI BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY

► November 13–14, 2011

### HCI CONVOCATION, ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY

► March 25–27, 2012

Theme: "Continuing Catholic Education in the Holy Cross Tradition"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. George Martin, President, St. Edward's University

*An event website with schedule and online registration will be available in December.*

### HOLY CROSS CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT LEADERS (HCC4SL)

► June 6–10, 2012  
St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas

► June 27–July 1, 2012  
Holy Cross College, South Bend, Indiana

This conference is designed for student leaders in Grades 10-12 and student activity directors from the Holy Cross secondary schools across the United States. School teams are limited to eight students each. An event website with additional details and online registration will be available in the Spring.

### HCI RETREAT SERRA RETREAT CENTER, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA

► July 17–21, 2012

Retreat Director: Father Tom Looney, CSC

This new event focuses on how to apply Holy Cross spirituality in one's personal life. Participation is limited to 40 people. Registration fee for the 5 day/4 night retreat is \$520/person.

*(Details on page 4)*

*For more information, contact Laura Sanders at [laurads@stedwards.edu](mailto:laurads@stedwards.edu).*

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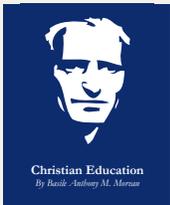


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## New Holy Cross Institute Publications



**Christian Education Abridged—2011 Edition** *NOW AVAILABLE! \$4.50 each*

This edition maintains the size and text of the familiar 2006 Sesquicentennial Abridged Edition, offering Part One and excerpts from Parts Two and Three of Father Basile Moreau's 1856 edition, plus a reader's guide to bringing Holy Cross principles into daily professional life. A new layout provides additional room for note-taking and the wire-o binding allows all pages to lay flat.

### **Gravitating Toward God: Thoughts for Each Day from Basile Moreau**

Expected publication date: November 2011. *Price to be announced.*

This little book provides a short quote from Father Basile Moreau's writings for each day of the year. A help for personal prayer and meditation in the Holy Cross tradition, this book will make a great gift for co-workers, friends and family members. Spiral-bound and sized for easy portability.

*Please contact the Holy Cross Institute to order or to request a publications order form.*