



CONVOCATION

Who We Are and What We Do

Our identity is rooted in the particular vocation by which God's call has led us into the Family of Holy Cross...In our vocation...whatever our specific responsibilities, we 'contribute to preparing the world for better times than ours.'

Discovering Identity at Convocation



The Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University just completed the annual spring convocation. This year's theme was "Who We Are and What We Do," and was intended to be a further reflection on our identity and charism as Holy Cross schools and Holy Cross educators.

Our keynote was given by Dr. Timothy Cook of Creighton University who has researched and written extensively on the culture and identity of Catholic secondary schools in various congregational traditions. In our vocation as Holy Cross educators, whatever our specific responsibilities, we "contribute to preparing the world for better times than ours" (Christian Education).

Gathered in Austin were educators from the United States, Brazil, Ghana, Haiti, and Uganda. Brothers and priests of the Congregation and a number of the women of Holy Cross from the Marianites and from the Sisters of the Holy Cross were among those gathered along with the committed Holy Cross educators from around the world. We had conferences on strategic planning and advancement, on dealing with student differences, on making sure coaches

and athletics are really a part of a school's program of teaching values, on building Holy Cross leaders among students, on building bridges internationally.

We also heard from two graduating seniors at St. Edward's University—Jacques Mercier des Rouchette from Notre Dame d'Orveau and Luciana Rodriguez from Bishop McNamara in Forestville, Maryland. They each shared their perspective on their Holy Cross education through high school and university and offered great thanks and appreciation for the transformations they find in their own lives and the lives of their friends.

At the closing banquet, Mr. Kevin Makley who is chairman of the Board of Governors announced that Brother Thomas Dziekan has been appointed by Dr. George Martin, President of St. Edward's University, at the request of the Board of Governors to be Executive Director following Brother Donald Blauvelt. This will occur by the time of the next convocation in 2017. The 2017 Convocation can now be confirmed to take place on April 1-2, 2017 at St. Edward's University with a schedule similar to the one for 2016.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and with so many people to move us forward in our understanding and commitment to Holy Cross education. I likewise look forward to working with Brother Thomas Dziekan as he brings his own vision to the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University.

Brother Donald Blauvelt, CSC
Executive Director
Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University



WHO WE ARE

Women of Holy Cross Celebrate 175 Years

■ Brother Joel Giallanza, CSC, Associate Director, Holy Cross Institute

On August 4, 1841, Father Basile Moreau presented four young women with formal religious attire and gave each of them a new name. This simple ceremony during Mass was the beginning of the Holy Cross Sisters. The Brothers and Priests had become the Congregation of Holy Cross just four years earlier. These four women, who would be known as the Marianites of Holy Cross, in honor of Mary, would complete Father Moreau's vision of a religious family of men and women at the service of the church in educational, parochial, and pastoral ministries.

These women were pioneers, their generous response to God's call reflected their share in Moreau's passion to "prepare the world for better times." They were an essential part of the "work of resurrection" that the founder wanted the Family of Holy Cross to accomplish through all its ministries. The 175 years since their foundation have demonstrated clearly the multitude of ways in which they have proclaimed and promoted Moreau's vision and passion.

From their small beginnings in Le Mans, the Sisters would go far beyond the borders of France to serve people in many contexts and cultures. They grew in numbers and ministries, and they evolved within the countries where they served. Part of that growth and evolution was the emergence of two other religious communities which expanded and enriched the Family of Holy Cross. In 1869, the Marianites in the United States became an independent congregation and

are known today as the Sisters of the Holy Cross. In 1883, The Marianites in Canada became independent and are now known as the Sisters of Holy Cross. These three communities of women, with the Brothers and Priests, and their lay colleagues, constitute the Family of Holy Cross today in 20 countries on 6 continents.

In recognition of this celebration, Sister Ann Lacour, M.S.C., Congregational Leader for the Marianites of Holy Cross offered some reflections on the Women of Holy Cross at the recent Convocation.

The Holy Cross Institute at Saint Edward's University extends its congratulation, admiration, appreciation, and especially its gratitude to the Women of Holy Cross for their faithful commitment, generous service, and personal example over these 175 years.



To learn more about the Women of Holy Cross, visit www.womenofholycross.org



TIMOTHY J. COOK, PH.D.
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

Keynote Speaker

*7 Key Strategies for
Sustaining Charism*

IDENTIFY

ALIGN

LIVE

FORM

ASSESS

INVEST

NETWORK



EXTENDED SESSIONS



↑ Left to Right: Dr. Anthony Sims, Lynn Kachmarik, Michael Larkin

“What is one concrete action I can take as an individual to help sustain identity and charism?”



TRANSFORMED LIVES

Jacques Mercier des Rochettes



Dear Holy Cross Educators,

Thank you to all of you and to the Holy Cross Institute for this opportunity to represent all of St. Edward's students and my fellow Holy Cross students worldwide. Holy Cross has accompanied me since my freshman year of high school, at Notre Dame d'Orveau in the French countryside, until now, my last semester at St. Edward's University. All this would not have been possible without my family to whom I am eternally grateful. In your presence, dear Holy Cross educators, allow me to thank all committed staff, teachers, and professors who have responsibly undertaken the task of educating the hearts and minds of their students, as diverse as we might be. Thank you.

This education works and here is a sketch of how I have learned, both at my high school and here at St. Ed's. First, I have been led by the example of others, and this has been the most impactful factor of education. In my scientific track in high school, for example, I saw the hard-work of Madame Julienne. She dedicated her best efforts to us, in spite of the well-known reluctance that we students were capable of showing. She was very thorough, and she, dear holy Cross educators, never gave up!! In her I had a model for which to strive. I have also learned from the example of my friends, whose qualities are so numerous I could never understand them all. The enthusiasm of Rémi Potet was something new to me, especially for the sciences. In high school, both Remi, my friend, and Madame Julienne, my teacher, did not

need to tell me what to do; they were showing it to me and God's grace led me to discern in them what was good for me. So I have been led by the example of members of the Holy Cross community.

Secondly, I have learned with Holy Cross, thanks to the excellence of the teaching. Prof. Zanardi, for instance, who teaches Philosophy here at St. Edward's, has for three years shared with me his understanding of the world and given me countless opportunities to expand my horizons well beyond the classroom. In his and other professors' excellent classes, in which the teaching methods were sharply refined, I have taken pleasure in writing papers that interested me and in reading the best authors. So I have learned from an excellent teaching of the best material with the best methods.

Finally and most importantly, the personal relationships that Holy Cross made possible have shaped me into what I am and what I will become. Indeed, I would not have truly appropriated even a fraction of what I have learned, had I not had the genuine relationships that I had with my educators and my friends. When someone who I know loves me tells me something, it matters to me personally. I listen to it carefully, and take the time to fully integrate it. It is the case with friends, as well as professors. In the professors' offices, I have heard some of the most enriching advice and received the most charitable attention, it developed a personal trust very helpful for learning. Similarly, I learned in the company of true friends here at St. Edward's. For example, the humility of Jorge Roque and his genuine outlook on life, work, and philosophy, incredibly influenced me because Holy Cross bound us as friends who would henceforth strive for higher heights together. In my friendship with Jesse, another friend, Jorge recognized in us another form of friendship. He was seeing in us two unpredictable friends who, in spite of many differences, bonded over the search for truth in philosophy classes and through their respective faiths. After inquiring and pondering about us, Jorge decided to receive the sacrament of confirmation. On hearing such news joy filled my heart! As he later announced to me his decision to enter religious life, I in turn learned

from him to truly question my life and to open my soul to God's guidance more authentically. And this is only one example among many. Such friendships are necessary and have transformed me. So this is how my life was changed here: through the example of others, through their excellence and passion for what they do, and above all through the personal relationships that Holy Cross enabled.

Now here are some of the areas in which I have grown over the past 7 years with Holy Cross:

The first and most important one, you might

have noticed by now, is my faith. At my high school, we had multiple opportunities to attend mass, pray the rosary, and grow in our faith every day. The flexibility of these opportunities suited all of my friends, from the most pious one to the atheist. Yet, the opportunities were there and we could at least wonder why some of us would go. It was mysterious,

but also familiar. When an overnight Adoration came with a bonfire, hot chocolate and brioche, the community kindled my faith and lit a special fire in my heart when I most needed it. Here at St. Edward's I have continuously broadened my faith in multiple ways, one of which was philosophy. Some professors showed us how to genuinely seek answers to our questions and I found open fields for my faith to flourish, in the texts we studied, in lectures, and in our authentic relationships.

At St. Edward's, where the Holy Cross mission to educate for service and justice materializes, my faith has also grown through the many service activities. Led by others, I joined service projects and realized the importance of service and community. Through St. Edward's I can encounter my Austinite neighbors and see that, right here, in my neighborhood, there

are endless possibilities to serve. To develop a broader sense of solidarity, I went to Jamaica on a service experience with campus ministry. There we worked with and learned from children with disabilities. As these children were swaying us into their singing and clapping for God, they were shining forth another type of joy. We saw there what it is to live and love simply. Such simplicity and joy work wonders, exactly as our St. Brother Andre did.

Day by day St. Edward's University has expanded my horizons for love and deepened my faith through the loving and faithful work of others. I

now understand the Cross much better. I can now chime in and proclaim, "Ave crux Spes Unica", knowing that it is not only the source of salvation in which I trust, but also the ultimate model of self-sacrificing love.

The commitment of Holy Cross to community has taught me to love more deeply and broadly, "crossing borders of every sort," as the mission states. Indeed, I have here

sealed friendships that transcend many differences: racial, religious, generational. The friendships of the Brothers have transformed me. I think for example of Brother Larry [Atkinson], with whom we combined physical exercise and reorienting conversation. Brother Muller, very present on campus, shows an astounding loving commitment to every person he meets. As a friend who loves in and through truth each person encountered, he told me so many times to remember: "Service above self!!" It is such authentic relationships that have made this campus my home and taught me to love with an open mind.

As I said, because I could see Christ loving me through professors and through the Brothers, I also learned to seek more. Holy Cross has fostered in me a healthy curiosity, a loving search not restricted to books or to an academic field. Through retreats of



different kinds, through services of different kinds and to different people and with different people, through its excellence in bridging disciplines, Holy Cross has unharnessed my desire to know. It has set me out on a constant search for what is good, which is everywhere. This desire to know led me from Germany to Spain and from farms to universities. In my various sojourns abroad I befriended conspiracy theorists, children, absurdists, ping pong players, atheists, salsa dancers and priests. Thanks to you, Holy Cross educators, I am now ready to learn from everyone, every activity, and every moment. This was simply proposed to me, showed by the example of the others who keep this search alive in themselves.

In all these experiences I have noticed the fascinating unity and riches of different minds, of diverse faiths, of contrasting opinions, but in this multiplicity I could also see many needs, much ignorance and deprivation in comparison with what I had received. So I learned to keep in

mind the blessings bestowed upon me and that such flows of Grace had not yet gone through to some less fortunate than me. But I've seen many of my friends acting: taking on great projects for those people during and after their St. Edward's [University] career. I've also had the chance of witnessing the Brothers, some professors and friends as vessels of love and Truth, working for others, for the neediest. So I think that Blessed Father Moreau's mission is being successfully passed on to my generation, namely, that "disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act."

So again thank you for dedicating your time to us and more than just your time (you could just sit there [and] enjoy the food). No. Thank you for dedicating your whole being to our education; we need it, especially me, and, even if we don't always seem to get it, or even to be grateful, I know of One who is and He'll reward y'all a hundredfold. Thank you.

"Holy Cross bound us as friends who would henceforth strive for higher heights together."

Jacques Mercier des Rochettes

Luciana Rodrigues



Good Evening. I would like to take this opportunity to first and foremost thank every single one of you here tonight. Thank you. When I was offered this chance to speak to you all, the first thought that popped into my mind was how much I want to say thank you. There are so many people who I have to extend thank yous to, for starters, my parents. If it weren't for the endless support from my parents, I can honestly say there would have been several points where I probably would have given up.

So, my connection with Holy Cross and what it truly means to me today did not begin until right before my last year of high school -five years ago at this point-while at Bishop McNamara. I was given the opportunity to attend the Holy Cross

Conference for Student leaders the summer right before my senior year of high school, and I can honestly say that conference changed everything for me. It was the first year they decided to bring all the high schools together from the two provinces together for one giant conference. It was also my first time in Texas, and the first time I had ever even heard about this jewel on the hill, St. Edward's University. That conference taught me that there is so much more to Holy Cross than just a title and affiliation. Being part of this greater Holy Cross family, this community of educators, students, and Brothers, is being a part of a group all dedicated to an excellence in the education of the mind but also in the cultivation of the heart. This community showed me that I have a friend, a brother, a sister, all the way in LA or Detroit - or even New Orleans. Friends that I made at this conference have honestly lasted the years, despite the distance.

It was at the conference that I learned about this commitment those involved in Holy Cross have. It is more than just a commitment to a good education, but it is a commitment to building a stronger heart, because without a good heart, a strong mind leads you nowhere.

Educationally, Bishop McNamara and their commitment to this Holy Cross education left me extremely prepared for college courses. I became an MLA and researching expert because of my English teachers Ms. Wolfe and Mr. Shryock, they were the kind of teachers who would not let me cut any corners and would give me no slack.

I also became aware of the world of religious differences through my world religions course with Mr. Greer, a course that has stuck with me as I have created profound relationships with people from all parts of the globe, coming from all different belief systems. But not only educationally was I prepared for St. Edward's, my heart was as well so much stronger than I ever expected it to be, it was truly in a place I felt it could only be because of this Holy Cross education I had gained from my experience throughout Bishop McNamara but also from the

Holy Cross conference for student leaders. – it wasn't just a classroom education, it was life education

“The competence to see and the courage to act”. There could be no better way to describe the people I have encountered throughout my experience in Holy Cross. For example, I have to once again send a thank you to one of my high school teachers, Mr. Shryock. Upon learning that financial reasons were behind why I was having to transfer to public school, he took the initiative to act, to see what could be done, because he had a strong understanding that there was still so much for me to learn with Holy Cross and at McNamara. Alongside Mr. Shryock,

there was Dr. Clark, who as soon as he learned about the position my family was in, called my father and I into meet with him. Without the help of these two incredible men, I would not have been able to be at McNamara and I probably would not be here today. It was through this experience that I learned the true meaning and mission Holy Cross educators

- every single one of you in this room today - have, a mission and a dedication to your students.

St. Edward's has been my home for the past four years, and through and through I have seen how much Holy Cross has affected my journey. It has not been an easy journey, by any means. But I see the kinds of people Holy Cross creates, the kinds of boys and girls that become men and women after four years at any Holy Cross high school, and I see just how special these men and women are. My closest friends here, all four years, all come from Holy Cross backgrounds. Angela and Tim from Hoban and St. Edward's High in Ohio (something about you Ohio-ians).

And my best friend Matt, who I always jokingly say followed me to St. Edward's, and who now is continuing in this mission of Holy Cross with the ACE program at [University of]Notre Dame. All three individuals who have grown in the Holy Cross traditions into incredible human beings, alongside all the individuals, all of you here today, you know what it means to foster an education which does not come at the expense of the heart.

“It is with the smallest brushes that the artist paints the most exquisitely beautiful pictures.”

Luciana Rodrigues

By no means was I, or am I, a perfect student, I don't get all A's and I have struggled a lot academically and spiritually, but I also see myself as an extremely strong individual because of the experiences I have gained from going through my most transformative years here within the Holy Cross tradition. I am able to succeed because of people like you all, in this very room. People who no matter what, do not give up because they feel within themselves this mission of Holy Cross has true meaning and value. Trust me when I say, it's special. Coming to St. Edward's, I was immediately able to form strong connections with people because of this special tradition, and I mean, I have the cross and anchor tattooed on my back for a reason. (laughter) True story, I do.

Holy Cross has given me so much, honestly much more than I can share in an 8-minute speech. It has taught me to have the competence to see and the courage to act, especially in issues of social justice. It has taught me to cross borders. Last year alone, I was able to travel and lead a group to Bangalore, India to work at Abhayadhama, a Holy Cross orphanage and school for two weeks. I was able to travel then, just a few weeks after that, as a part of a study abroad program to Lyon, France, and while I was over there traveled to two more countries. I know that if my heart was not formed in the way it has been formed today, through a Holy Cross

tradition, I know for a fact I would never have been able to cross borders, both geographically with travel but also mentally and spiritually within myself.

Holy Cross is special. It is a connection and it is a body of individuals who all share a mission that focuses on the heart and also, importantly, the mind. I could not be more thankful for this community and I know I will always have a special connection, not only to my High School or my University, but also to every single one of you here in this room today. I'd like to leave you with a quote by St Andre Bessetté, one that I have heavily believed and focused on when I felt personally that what I was doing did not mean anything:

"It is with the smallest brushes that the artist paints the most exquisitely beautiful pictures." Each one of you educators and administrators make a difference, even if you feel that it is only a small difference, remember it is an exquisitely beautiful difference in the life of any one of your students, like me.

Thank you, once again, for not only allowing me to speak to you today and represent my fellow Holy Cross peers, but also for all the work, time, effort, and energy you have all put into this amazing institution. Thank you.



CONVOCATION 2016



CALENDAR

HOLY CROSS CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT LEADERS

St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas:
June 15-19, 2016

Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana
June 22-26, 2016

2016 INTERNATIONAL SESSION IN HOLY CROSS SPIRITUALITY (LEMANS PILGRIMAGE) FOR HOLY CROSS EDUCATORS

June 18 - June 25 (Registration has closed)

Location: Le Mans, France, at The Solitude, root of the Congregation of Holy Cross

VOICES OF ISRAEL: ISAIAH AND MICAH: JUDEAN PROPHECY IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY B.C.E.,

Friday, November 18, 2016, St. Edward's University

This conference is jointly sponsored by St. Edward's University, the Katholischen Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, and the Holy Cross Institute

HCI PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

October 22, 2016

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

November 14, 2016

Mark your calendars for the following HCI events:

CONVOCATION 2017

April 1-2, 2017

St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas

For the latest on events go to holycrossinstitute.org/events.

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Thank you for sharing your creative skills!



THE BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

EXTRAORDINARY LIVES, BRINGING HOPE TO OTHERS

holycrossbrothers.org

The Brothers of Holy Cross are a community of religious brothers who live extraordinary lives in service of others. From the founding of the University of Notre Dame to ministering in East Africa and Latin America, the Congregation has encouraged hundreds of men to develop their gifts and talents – all with the singular mission of bringing hope to others.



The mission of the Holy Cross Institute is to build a community of educators by providing:

- information about Holy Cross vision and values;
- formation in those values; and
- application of those values for board members, administrators, faculty and staff to promote the transformation of students.

Learn more at holycrossinstitute.org