

Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

Volume 4

Article 6

10-1-1993

In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: College of the Holy Cross

Editorial Board

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations>

Recommended Citation

Editorial Board (1993) "In Deed: A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission: College of the Holy Cross," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 4, Article 6.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol4/iss1/6>



O'Kane Hall, dedicated to the memory of Rev. Michael A. O'Kane SJ, president of Holy Cross from 1889 to 1893, was constructed in 1895.

In Deed

A Survey of Programs and Activities Related to Identity and Mission

College of the Holy Cross

Worcester, Massachusetts

This year the College of the Holy Cross is celebrating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding in 1843. Bishop Benedict Joseph Fenwick SJ, the second bishop of Boston, purchased the land for the college, oversaw its construction and entrusted its direction to the Jesuits of the then Maryland Province a century and a half ago.

Holy Cross is nationally known as a highly selective, Jesuit, undergraduate liberal-

arts college and respected as one of the finest schools in America. Its graduates in great numbers have well served both the Church and American society. In the former they have been bishops, priests, religious, missionaries and lay women and men active in their local dioceses and parishes. In the latter, the professions of law, medicine, government, business, public service, and education have all experienced the influence of Holy Cross

graduates. In its statement of mission, the College affirms its place as a Jesuit college.

As such, it seeks to exemplify the long-standing dedication of the Society of Jesus to the intellectual life and its commitment both to the service of faith and to the promotion of justice.

The Cultivation of Mind and Spirit

The curriculum at Holy Cross, with its emphasis on language, religion, the exact sciences, music, art, mathematics and philosophy, is very Jesuit. What the Society of Jesus sought for its stu-

dents four hundred years ago is not alien to what Holy Cross seeks for its students today: clarity of thought, precision and even eloquence of expression, mature awareness of history, culture, scientific endeavor and the richness of their Catholic faith. As a purely liberal-arts college, Holy Cross is exceptionally faithful to its Jesuit education origins.

Religious life on campus finds a major expression in the work of the college chaplains, both Jesuit and lay. The chapel with its magnificent altar, windows, and recently installed and

acclaimed organ accommodates one thousand worshippers. Daily and Sunday Masses are scheduled mornings, at noon time, and late into the evenings. Students who find themselves called to the Church receive instruction as they are prepared to receive the sacraments of baptism and confirmation and the Eucharist at the College. The very special Ignatian charism of finding God in all things and of developing a solid, personal, and intimate relationship with Christ is the desired outcome of the Spiritual Exercises which are offered five times each year. Approximately three hundred students make them annually.

A Faith-and-Justice Dimension

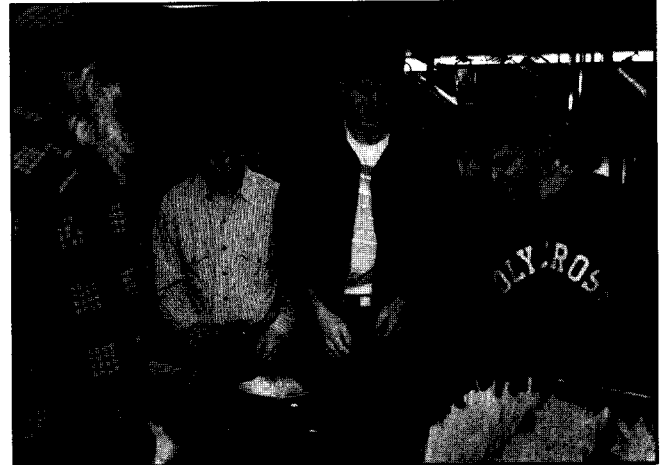
Several special programs at Holy Cross have been developed to bring a faith-and-justice dimension to the curriculum. They are called concentrations and provide students an opportunity to organize their course work

outside of their majors around areas of social as well as academic significance.

■ Peace and Conflict Studies is a multi-disciplinary effort which allows the student an opportunity to study the forces in our society which have a direct bearing upon peace, conflict, justice, and human dignity. The concentration also sponsors a Forum on War and Peace each spring.

■ African American Studies, by the attention which it gives to the history, culture, literature, and experience of African-American, Caribbean, and African peoples and regions, serves as a forum for black and white students to study together their mutual heritages and concerns.

■ International Studies offers the students at Holy Cross an opportunity to direct their attention to specific regions of the world, for example; Latin America, Russia/Eastern Europe, Africa, the



At the Mustard Seed, a soup kitchen founded by Holy Cross students 25 years ago, today's students continue to serve Worcester's hungry and homeless.

Middle East, Asia, or to look at global perspectives which allows students to study issues of worldwide application. Foreign-language study is an important component.

■ Women's Studies—by an examination of the woman's experience as it is reflected in the scholarship of the humanities, social sciences, and the exact sciences—presents a variety of intellectual frameworks in which women's studies as a field are reshaping thoughts about women, men, and society.

Liberal Studies and Service to Others

At Holy Cross liberal studies are pursued in an academic climate which links knowledge to service and personal advantage to sharing. Students at Holy Cross take seriously Father Arrupe's invitation that they be men and women for others. Work with the needy of Worcester, children as well as the elderly, is the most subscribed of all extracurricular college activities. Some seven hundred students volunteer annually to work as tutors for local students, in soup kitchens, as

“big brothers and big sisters,” as visitors to prisons and hospitals, in construction projects, and in Appalachia, as CCD instructors in local parishes and in countless other programs and projects. Also, the College of the Holy Cross is a leader in the number of its graduates who sign on each year to work in the United States and abroad with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

The celebration of its sesquicentennial honors the Jesuits and lay persons of the past who have brought the College to its present esteemed position in American higher education. It is also a time for giving thanks to God as Holy Cross takes stock and prepares for its future.

“Youths Exploring Science” (yes) find direction and help from Holy Cross students.

