The Congregation of Holy Cross at King’s College 2015-2016

Holy Cross Education

A Catholic education in the Holy Cross tradition transforms minds and hearts with zeal in communities of hope.

Transformation: Our colleges and universities offer intellectual, moral, and spiritual formation of the mind and heart that honors the integration of faith and reason.

Zeal: Zeal is the sacred fire that enkindles transformation in us and ignites the desire to act boldly for the good of neighbor, society, and the global community.

Community: Formation and transformation flourish in communities of faith and scholarship marked by unity of purpose, collaboration, and familial concern for every person.

Hope: Together we strive to instill hope in the face of suffering and foster participation in works of resurrection on our campuses, in the church, and throughout the world.

Holy Cross Service Today

King’s and the local Holy Cross Community are entering their 69th year. Currently, 15 “C.S.C.s” (the Community’s Latin name is, “Congregatio a Sancta Cruce”) serve at King’s and in the Wyoming Valley. Of those, 11 minister at the college, four others work locally, residing on campus or in the area.

In addition to their roles at the college, the Holy Cross Community members are actively involved in Northeastern Pennsylvania religious, civic, and service organizations. Many of our priests also assist at area parishes on weekends.

Vocations & the Holy Cross Community

College is a time for exploring career and vocation, and ministry in the church is one sure possibility. Many graduates of King’s have gone on to become sisters, brothers, and priests. Holy Cross welcomes the opportunity to help students with this discernment. We invite students to get to know our common life more closely by sharing prayer, conversation, and table with us at the Holy Cross residence on campus. Students should contact Fr. Dan Issing, C.S.C., or Fr. Tom Looney, C.S.C., or any Holy Cross priest or brother you know on campus for further information.

Holy Cross Candidate and Semester Residential Program

This is a two-semester residential program for college graduates who are seriously interested in pursuing a vocation as a Holy Cross religious. The Holy Cross Candidate Program is situated at the University of Notre Dame. Participants share daily prayer and meals, volunteer in a ministry and take courses in theology and philosophy while exploring various aspects of religious life and the sharing of faith. Candidate Program is situated at the University of Notre Dame. For more information, you may speak to Fr. Dan Issing, C.S.C. or visit http://www.holycrossusa.org/vocations/

Holy Cross A Brief History

The Holy Cross Community was founded at Sainte Croix (“Holy Cross”), France, in 1837 by Fr. Basil Anthony Moreau. He envisioned a religious community of priests, brothers, and sisters who would assist the diocesan clergy, teach at all levels of education, and respond to other pressing needs in the church.

In 1841, the first Holy Cross priests and brothers came to America. Late in November of 1842, Fr. Sorin and the brothers arrived at what is now South Bend, Indiana, and began building what would become Notre Dame University. Since that time, three Holy Cross Congregations of priests, brothers, and sisters have founded nine colleges and universities.

University of Notre Dame 1842: Notre Dame, IN
St. Mary’s College 1844: Notre Dame, IN
St. Edwards University 1885: Austin, TX
University of Portland 1901: Portland, OR
Our Lady of Holy Cross 1916: New Orleans, LA
King’s College 1946: Wilkes-Barre, PA
Stonehill College 1948: North Easton, MA
Notre Dame College 1950: Manchester, NH (closed)
Holy Cross College 1956: Notre Dame, IN

Holy Cross has ministered for more than 170 years in the United States in parishes, educational institutions and as chaplains in hospitals, the military service, and elsewhere.

Celebrating A Saint

Brother Andre Bessette, CSC, beatified in 1982, was canonized in Rome in October, 2010. He had served for over 60 years at the College Notre Dame and later at the Oratory of Saint Joseph in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Bro. Andre faithfully greeted visitors and extended hospitality daily. Because of his concern for them, many people went to him for help and healing. Some were cured through the intercession of his prayers.

Blessed Basil Moreau
Founder of the Congregation

Blessed Basil Moreau (1799-1873), a priest from LeMans, France, founded the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1837. He envisioned priests, brothers, sisters and laypeople working in close collaboration to transform society, especially through the ministry of education. Placing his confidence in God’s love he chose the motto, “The Cross, Our Only Hope,” for his new congregation and entrusted Holy Cross to the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows as its patron. Moreau was declared “blessed” on September 15, 2007.
Rev. Genaro P. Aguilar, C.S.C., comes originally from San Antonio, Texas. He received a B.A. from St. Mary’s University there; an M.Th. from the University of Notre Dame, and an M.Div. from Boston College. Fr. Genaro has worked in the college’s Counseling Department. He now serves as the Athletic/Alumni Chaplain at King’s. His interests include travel and sports, and Fr. Genaro resides with the Holy Cross community at Moreau Court.

Rev. Anthony Grasso, C.S.C., from Boston, is professor of English and Campus Advisor of Delta Epsilon Sigma. Fr. Grasso is also the national chaplain of the Delta Epsilon Sigma honor society and serves on the Northeastern Regional board of the Conference on Christianity and Literature. He teaches a variety of Core and literature courses from Introduction to Literature, Social Media, British Literature, and Urban Literature to Poetry Writing Workshop. He enjoys reading all types of literature, music, walking, and writing poetry. In 2014, Fr. Grasso received the Rosen Award for Faculty Excellence. He lives at 185 N. Franklin St.

Rev. Richard Hockman, C.S.C., originally from Cambridge, Massachusetts, has a professional background and extensive work in special religious education. He assists the Diocese of Springfield and Providence, Rhode Island in parish based special religious education programs. Fr. Richard also serves as chaplain to the Men’s Basketball Team, the Cantores Christi Regis choir, and has supervised student teachers. Fr. Richard has also done formation work, religious education, and parish work both in the US and Canada. He lives at Moreau Court’s assist in local parishes, and maintains the Moreau Court garden.

Rev. Daniel Issing, C.S.C., a native of College Park, Maryland, is an associate professor in the Theology Department. His doctorate is in theological ethics with a specialization in Catholic social teaching which he received from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, which is a unique setting for interreligious and ecumenical dialogue. He also has a licentiate in sacred theology. His scholarship pursues the role of Catholic ethics in institutions of Catholic higher education, particularly in terms of infrastructure and decision-making, as well as academic and student life curriculum. While Fr. Dan can usually be found in the classroom teaching moral theology and social ethics, he is also chair of the Faculty Council, chair of the Moreau Lectures Committee, and Spiritual Director of the King’s Encounters Christ Retreat. He regularly presides at the Eucharist in local parishes and offers retreats and days of reflection throughout the diocese.

Rev. Charles Kociatkiewicz, C.S.C., hails from Jersey City, New Jersey served in the Air Force and worked in the business world before entering Holy Cross. He has an MBA from Notre Dame and taught in a number of Holy Cross Brothers schools in New York and Delaware. Brother Stephen is a member of the Moreau Province and resides at Moreau Court.

Rev. Brent Krugan, C.S.C., from southern California, is assistant professor of Theology. His degree is in Biblical Studies from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He brings to his classes a broad range of experience, especially from his six- and a half years at the André House of Hospitality—a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Phoenix, Arizona. There he oversees a Core Community of ten members and a volunteer base of 2,000 people, helping them to engage in the Corporal Works of Mercy and to reflect theologically on their experience. He lives at Moreau Court.

Rev. Thompson Looney, C.S.C., born in Brooklyn and raised in Oisville, New York, previously served at King’s as a member and chair of the Theology Department. Presently he is the Director of Campus Ministry and College Chaplain. He serves on the board of directors of Stonehill College, Renew International, and the Fr. Peyton Centre in Atwater, Co. Mayo, Ireland. He enjoys facilitating retreats on the spirituality of Basil Moreau, founder of Holy Cross, Fr. Looney resides in Holy Cross Hall on the 10th floor.

Rev. Eric Schimmel, C.S.C., is from Pittsburgh, PA. He met Holy Cross as an undergrad at Notre Dame and entered formation upon graduation. After serving in three different parishes staffed by Holy Cross, he became the Director of André House of Hospitality. In his six years at André House ministering to people experiencing homelessness, Fr. Eric met many people from King’s College. Some came for a week via King’s WinterServe, others served for a year as part of the André House Core Community. This experience made it easy for him to enthusiastically accept the opportunity to come to King’s College and work in both the McGowan Hispanic Outreach Program and Campus Ministry. He lives at Moreau Court.

Rev. Stephen “Chase” Peppern, C.S.C., is from Huntsville, AL. He received his BA in political science from Seton Hall University in 2007 and his M.Div. from Notre Dame in 2014. Before entering Holy Cross, he worked for two years in Philadelphia in Campus Ministry at Temple University, and he was just ordained to the priesthood in April 2015. This is Fr. Pepper’s second year at King’s. He works in Campus Ministry, resides as RC on the ground floor of Flood Hall, and teaches in the Theology Department. Fr. Pepper’s second year at King’s.

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Rev. Joseph Long, C.S.C., ’54, a Wilkes-Barre native and King’s College alumnus, spent 12 years in secondary education and more than 30 years in the health care ministry. He continues to serve in this capacity as well as serving inparishes both in the Wilkes-Barre area and Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Rev. Robert Losinski, C.S.C., a former campus chaplain at King’s, has been involved in parish ministry in several places. After completing a term as pastor at our Holy Cross Community’s parish in Bennington, Vermont, Fr. Bob is now the pastor of St. Michael’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Danmore, Pennsylvania.

Rev. Brother Stephen J. LaMendola, C.S.C., is a native New Yorker. As a member of the Education Department, he is a college supervisor of student teachers and is the college’s liaison to its early childhood centers. Previously he taught and administered at Holy Cross schools in New York and Delaware. Brother Stephen is a member of the Moreau Province and resides at Moreau Court.

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Rev. James Martin, C.S.C., from Latrobe, Pennsylvania, serves at King’s as the religious Superior of the Holy Cross Community. He has taught in high schools of the Holy Cross Brothers in Connecticut, New York, Maryland, and Texas. His parish ministry has been in Kileen, Creedmore, and Austin—all in Texas. He is a graduate of St. Edward’s University, the University of Notre Dame, and the Oblate School of Theology. Fr. James is also a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Brother James Miller, C.S.C., ’74, hails from Baltimore and is a member of the Theatre Department. Bro. Jim has worked at a variety of theatres from Baltimore to D.C./Arae Stage, the Folger Shakespeare Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre in Massachusetts, and the Cultural Council for the City of Philadelphia. Over the years, Bro. Jim has received awards for excellence in teaching and for service to the college. He resides at 185 N. Franklin St.

Rev. John Ryan, C.S.C., from Wilkes-Barre, is a President of the College. Fr. Ryan’s background is in business and accounting, and prior to his election as president, he served as dean of the McGowan School of Business for several years. Before entering Holy Cross, he worked for engineering and consulting firms. Fr. Jack enjoys playing golf and walking, and he lives at Moreau Court.