



In a spirit of hospitality and dialogue, the Office of the College Chaplains serves the Holy Cross community by providing opportunities to grow spiritually through worship, service, contemplation, conversation, study, and solidarity.

During a year in which many challenges arose, the mission and ministry of the chaplains has continued to support the members of our community in diverse situations and with varied needs. Thanks to the generosity of so many alumni, parents and friends, we have been empowered to imagine new media for our work and service to Holy Cross students. The chaplains have been connecting with the College family through online opportunities for prayer and service, offering virtual pastoral counseling sessions, and we have sought to strengthen a sense of community by bringing students, faculty, staff and alumni into contact with one another even as we are apart. Although we are being called to new and creative methods, our essential task remains to invite all to encounter the God of love and discern how their lives might be a response to that love, especially with the tools of our Ignatian spiritual tradition.

OUR PROGRAMS

- ▶ Prayer and Worship
- ▶ Student Programs for Urban Development (SPUD)
- ▶ Retreats
- ▶ Immersion Programs
- ▶ Liturgical Ministry
- ▶ Small Faith Communities
- ▶ Pastoral Care
- ▶ Interfaith Opportunities
- ▶ Pax Christi
- ▶ Students for Life



*"Thank you for the many ways you have supported our Holy Cross students through the Office of College Chaplains. The many challenges of this year have especially highlighted how important our work as chaplains is. Through it all, the strength and support that our community provides to one another in times of need has been inspiring; it is clear that we were able to be what St. Ignatius called a *communitas ad dispersionem* - a community dispersed, yet one. We couldn't have provided significant ministry and valuable resources without you, and you have our great gratitude."*

— Marybeth Kearns-Barrett
Director
Office of the College Chaplains

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PRAYER AND WORSHIP

FAITH FORMATION

9

students received formation in preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation

2

students were also admitted to full communion with the Catholic Church and received their first Eucharist



Fostering an active community through prayer and worship is an essential part of the Holy Cross mission. Sunday and weekday liturgy are at the heart of the College's life of faith, and, after most students transitioned to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining our bonds of community through virtual opportunities was a high priority. Significant moments in the faith life of the College family this year included:

- ▶ Mass of the Holy Spirit for the Class of 2023 for over 2500 attendees

- ▶ Family Weekend Masses in October with the President of the College
- ▶ 41st Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols
- ▶ Memorial Mass for Grace Rett '22
- ▶ Winter Homecoming Mass
- ▶ Ash Wednesday Masses and distribution of ashes for the entire College community
- ▶ Chapel Artist series recitals featuring Holy Cross Organ Scholars Matt Luca '22 and Michelle Sacco '21, Professor Ezequiel Menendez, and Olivier Latry of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris

2019 – 2020 SPECIAL VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Campion Connects HC – To foster the close-knit atmosphere of students at the College during the distance learning format, the Office of the College Chaplains launched 'Campion Connects HC' as a means of uniting the dispersed community. Employing the social media hashtag [#campionconnectsHC](#), various events and fora were offered, including:

CLOSING THE DISTANCE

In mid-March, the chaplains' office initiated the "Closing the Distance" series of weekly reflections on the Sunday lectionary readings. Over six months, 12 individuals from the chaplains' office and the Jesuit community offered 28 reflections on Sundays and significant feast days.

CAMPION TABLE

The chaplains sought to support an inclusive environment by creating a hospitable space where all students could feel at home, welcome, respected and supported, even at a distance. Students, alumni, faculty and staff were invited to join the Campion Table group to share recipes, cooking tips and helpful food-centric resources during isolated living, rooted in the belief that there is an important connection between faith, spirituality and community in food. Staff even engaged in remote cooking events with live video from Campion House and home kitchens on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the latter half of the spring semester.

PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE FOR THE SICK AND THE DEAD

On Fridays at noon during April and May, the chaplains invited all members of the College community to a virtual service to honor and pray for deceased family and friends. The names of deceased loved ones could be submitted in advance, and then all the names were read in the context of the prayer.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Employing the Examen of St. Ignatius, the chaplains moderated a weekly guided meditation during the month of June to listen to voices from the Holy Cross community as they prayed with various themes. These sessions invited members of the Holy Cross family to notice where God was at work in everyday lives and in history, with particular attention to sorrows, pain, desires, and hope.

VIRTUAL COMPLINE/NIGHT PRAYER DURING HOLY WEEK

Each night during Holy Week, students, faculty and staff gathered virtually to join in the recitation of compline/night prayer, which is the public prayer of the Church that is said at the end of the day. Students and chaplains led the liturgy, and participants joined from across the country.

THOMAS P. JOYCE '59 CONTEMPLATIVE CENTER

The Thomas P. Joyce '59 Contemplative Center offers students an unparalleled context for retreats and occasions of recollection. This extraordinary facility offers members of the Holy Cross community opportunities to deepen their relationship with God and grow in self-knowledge and interior freedom.

Retreats are central to the Holy Cross mission in forming skills of Ignatian discernment and encouraging a commitment to the service of faith and the promotion of justice. In offering a vibrant retreat program we hope that all members of the Holy Cross community will become more deeply grounded in the experience of God's enduring love for each of us, so that we may look to use our gifts and talents in the service of the neighbor.

RETREAT PROGRAM OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

- ▶ The Spiritual Exercises, a five-day silent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, offered four times annually
- ▶ Manresa, a student-led weekend retreat
- ▶ Ignatian spirituality and yoga retreat
- ▶ Retreat for LGBTQ+ students and alumni
- ▶ Athletic team evenings of reflection
- ▶ Montserrat class evenings of contemplation
- ▶ "Eat, Pray, Study" retreat during finals study period
- ▶ Faculty and staff meditation retreats
- ▶ Ignatian Alumni Retreat
- ▶ SPUD leaders retreat
- ▶ Immersion leaders retreat
- ▶ Liturgical ministers retreat

NEW THIS YEAR:

- ▶ Ignite retreat for first-year students to foster community as well as dialogue skills
- ▶ Communitas online retreat for students during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ▶ Virtual Ignatian spirituality and yoga retreat, a three-day program open to students and alumni
- ▶ Horizons '24 online retreat for first-year students



"The Ignatian spirituality and yoga retreat allowed me to find God within myself, with the participants and leaders, and in nature. I learned about how to look more closely for God in my life and take care of myself and others."

—A retreat participant

"The entire retreat experience creates an environment where you have the time and the desire to begin asking yourself those deeper questions that you may have thought of briefly in class or with friends, but never had the time to truly explore."

—Christine Church '20

"When leaving campus five weeks ago I wondered if God was really there at all in that moment and struggled to have faith in those difficult moments. Communitas helped remind me that God is in the people, and in each and every moment of our lives."

—A Communitas online retreat participant

Sincere thanks to the Joyce Family and all those who have provided major support for the Joyce Contemplative Center and retreat programming. The Holy Cross mission and the ties that bind our community have been strengthened because of your generous investment.

"It's a structure into which you fit your own program, so it's as applicable to an 18-year-old freshman as to an 84-year-old alum."

—Tom Beecher '56, P



STUDENT PROGRAMS FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT



482 students participated in SPUD at 41 sites during fall 2019

"St. Francis is a 137 bed, skilled nursing facility in the Grafton Hill area of Worcester. Over the course of the last two semesters, I've had the pleasure of getting to know the residents that live there. Every time I went to St. Francis, I was greeted with smiles from the residents."

—Stephanie Jackson '22

This academic year, SPUD volunteers commenced their work in diverse settings throughout the city of Worcester, from working at food pantries, to tutoring children, visiting the elderly in nursing facilities, playing basketball with youth in detention, or being present with those in hospice, much like so many years before. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, though, many community partners ceased the programming that our SPUD participants offer. Holy Cross students, never to be deterred, sought to continue to serve in ways that were possible from a remote location. Students organized several initiatives, including sending notes and artwork to nursing facility residents, and collecting activity books for children at the Worcester Housing Authority.

SPUD concentrates focus on four areas:

- ▶ Children and Youth:
 - Tutoring and Mentoring Programs
- ▶ Poverty and Hunger
- ▶ Programs for Women and Girls
- ▶ Health Care and Elderly

Generously supported by William M. Burke, M.D. '60, Elizabeth A. '83 and Kevin D. Cox '81 P, Jacqueline H. and George A. Paletta, Jr., M.D. '84 P and Barbara and Don Taggart P



ARRUPE IMMERSION PROGRAM



The chaplains at Holy Cross continue the long tradition of immersion programs, which are faith-based experiences with the mission to develop a well-educated solidarity for our students in the Jesuit tradition. With both domestic and international opportunities, the emphasis of these experiences is not on "making a difference" in the lives of those in the communities, but, rather, our students travel as guests and focus on learning from the perspective and experience of

those whom they visit. In this way students witness the faith, relationships, and daily realities of the host communities. Participants return to campus with a deeper appreciation for accompaniment, mutual relationship, and the injustices that exist in our world.

While so much in the life of the College was disturbed by the COVID-19 pandemic, thankfully, almost all immersion programs had been completed before courses and activities were shifted to a remote format.

INTERNATIONAL IMMERSIONS OFFERED A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR 26 STUDENTS:

14 HAITI*
12 COLOMBIA

*Haiti group began formation meetings, but did not travel due to COVID-19.

"My immersion experience was certainly life changing, and easily the best thing I've done at Holy Cross, if not the best week of my entire life."

—An immersion program participant

During the academic year, 240 students (70 seniors, 43 juniors, 95 sophomores, 32 first-year students) participated in fall or spring break immersion programs to over 25 sites in the following cities:

Mobile, Ala. (8)
Alamosa, Colo. (11)

Washington, D.C. (5)
Jacksonville, Fla. (6)
Chicago, Ill. (9)
Louisville, Ky. (11)
McKee, Ky. (11)
Whitley City, Ky. (10)
New Orleans, La. (12)
Haverhill, Mass. (8)
Ware, Mass. (5)
Worcester, Mass. (8)
St. Louis, Mo. (15)
Camden, N.J. (10)

Syracuse, N.Y. (6)
Baren Springs, Va. (11)
Fries, Va. (10)
Glasgow, Va. (8)
Ivanhoe, Va. (12)
Narrows, Va. (7)
Newport, Va. (8)
Roanoke, Va. (9)
Beards Fork, W.Va. (10)
Bluefield, W.Va. (10)
Wheeling, W.Va. (20)

Significant support for immersion programs has been provided by John B. Fisher '79 and Diane Medeiros Fisher '80, James R. Menza P, Kathleen A. Paul P, and Michael and Susan Stuart P