



First-Year Student Convocation Class of 2028

St. Joseph Memorial Chapel
Monday, August 26, 2024

PROGRAM

PRELUDE

Fantasia in G major, BWV 572, Johann Sebastian Bach
Jessica Nguyen '28, organ

PROCESSIONAL

Yonder Come Day, Georgia Sea Islands Spiritual,
arr. J. David Moore
College Choir
Katie Gardiner, Director of College Choirs

WELCOME

Elliott Visconsi '95
Provost and Dean of the College

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2028

Members of the Class of 2028

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Salena Ibrahim and Omondi Andrew
Chaplains for the Class of 2028

ACCEPTANCE OF THE CLASS OF 2028

MUSICAL OFFERING

Polonaise in C# Minor, Op. 26 No. 1, Frederic Chopin
Logan Sherwin '28, piano

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Vincent D. Rougeau
President

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jean's Reel, Bobby MacLeod
Music for a Found Harmonium, Simon Jeffes
John Hannagan, accordion

SENIOR ADDRESS

Brendan Rogers '25
Sociology

COVENANT PLEDGE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2028

We commit ourselves to be learners to the fullest extent possible -

To take intellectual and creative risks, to recognize that ambiguity and uncertainty are part of learning, to abide by the rules of academic honesty.

We commit ourselves to grow spiritually -

To ask deeper questions about meaning and purpose, to be reflective about who we are and how much we have been given, and to work as women and men for others to improve the world

We commit ourselves to shape a community of respect at Holy Cross -

To behave in ways that show respect for ourselves and all those we encounter, no matter what our differences, and to support and positively challenge one another in all that we do from this day forward.

ACCEPTANCE AND AFFIRMATION OF PLEDGE

Robert Bellin
Dean of the Class of 2028

MUSICAL OFFERING

Be Thou My Vision, arr. Alice Parker
Jessica Nguyen '28, organ

CLOSING

Michele Murray
Senior Vice President for Student Development and Mission

POSTLUDE

Sonata VI (Variation 4), Opus 65, Felix Mendelssohn
Jessica Nguyen '28, organ

MISSION OF THE COLLEGE

The College of the Holy Cross is, by tradition and choice, a Jesuit liberal arts college serving the Catholic community, American society, and the wider world. To participate in the life of Holy Cross is to accept an invitation to join in dialogue about basic human questions: What is the moral character of learning and teaching? How do we find meaning in life and history? What are our obligations to one another? What is our special responsibility to the world's poor and powerless?

As a liberal arts college, Holy Cross pursues excellence in teaching, learning, and research. All who share its life are challenged to be open to new ideas, to be patient with ambiguity and uncertainty, to combine a passion for truth with respect for the views of others. Informed by the presence of diverse interpretations of the human experience, Holy Cross seeks to build a community marked by freedom, mutual respect, and civility. Because the search for meaning and value is at the heart of the intellectual life, critical examination of fundamental religious and philosophical questions is integral to liberal arts education. Dialogue about these questions among people from diverse academic disciplines and religious traditions requires everyone to acknowledge and respect differences. Dialogue also requires us to remain open to that sense of the whole which calls us to transcend ourselves and challenges us to seek that which might constitute our common humanity.

The faculty and staff of Holy Cross, now primarily lay and religiously and culturally diverse, also affirm the mission of Holy Cross as a Jesuit college. As such, Holy Cross seeks to exemplify the longstanding dedication of the Society of Jesus to the intellectual life and its commitment to the service of faith and promotion of justice. The College is dedicated to forming a community which supports the intellectual growth of all its members while offering them opportunities for spiritual and moral development. In a special way, the College must enable all who choose to do so to encounter the intellectual heritage of Catholicism, to form an active worshipping community, and to become engaged in the life and work of the contemporary church.

Since 1843, Holy Cross has sought to educate students who, as leaders in business, professional, and civic life, would live by the highest intellectual and ethical standards. In service of this ideal, Holy Cross endeavors to create an environment in which integrated learning is a shared responsibility, pursued in classroom and laboratory, studio and theater, residence and chapel. Shared responsibility for the life and governance of the College should lead all its members to make the best of their own talents, to work together, to be sensitive to one another, to serve others, and to seek justice within and beyond the Holy Cross community.