

CHOICES

FROM THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3



NEW CANDIDATES
2008-2009

BLESSED BASIL MOREAU'S VISION LIVES ON



The Holy Cross Vocation Team: Rev. Peter Mc Cormick, C.S.C.; Rev. Edwin Obermiller, C.S.C.; and Rev. James Gallagher, C.S.C.

As we begin this new academic year, I find myself reflecting on the beatification of Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, which was celebrated one year ago in Le Mans, France. Father Moreau had a clear vision for the Congregation. In 1856 he wrote, "Zeal is that flame of burning desire which one feels to make God known, loved, and served."

For me, Father Moreau's passion is even more evident since his beatification. The Congregation of Holy Cross continues to live out his original vision through the tireless efforts of more than 2,000 Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters worldwide.

In this edition of CHOICES, you'll meet some of the men who share Father Moreau's zeal and who have entered Holy Cross seminary programs. Perhaps you'll find something in their stories that tugs at your own heart. These are men of varied backgrounds from around the world—students, athletes, musicians, and volunteers—just like you.

The Holy Cross Vocation Team is here to help you discern your own calling. We thank Fr. Kevin Russeau, C.S.C., for six years of service to our Holy Cross vocation efforts. He has mentored hundreds of men and has worked hard to guide their discernment of how best to serve God. This year Fr. Pete McCormick, C.S.C., and I will be joined by Fr. Jim Gallagher, C.S.C., most recently on staff at the University of Portland. We offer a diversity of experiences and backgrounds that can help you learn more about what life is really like as a Holy Cross religious. And, to help further your coming to know the Congregation, we welcome a chance to connect you with one of 18 Holy Cross mentors across the country.

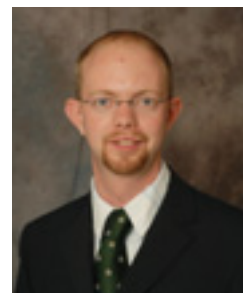
Let us all pray to Father Moreau for insight, patience, and grace as we strive to listen to the voice of Jesus in our lives.

In Holy Cross,

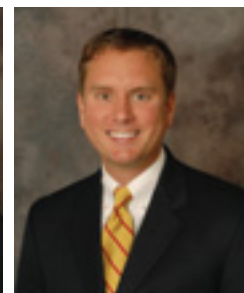
Rev. Edwin Obermiller, C.S.C.
Director, Office of Vocations

MOREAU SEMINARY...

Candidates live at Moreau Seminary, across St. Joseph Lake from the Golden Dome. The one-year prenovitiate program is designed for men between the ages of 21 and 35 who are prepared to immerse themselves in Holy Cross community life while continuing their personal discernment, spiritual development, and growth in knowledge.



Adam D.
Booth



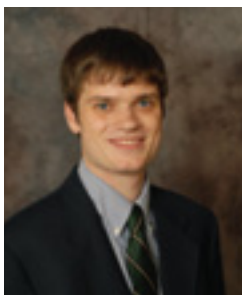
Joseph B.
Desciak

Adam D. Booth. Adam comes to Moreau Seminary via a path that extends from his youth in Great Britain to a math degree at the University of Oxford in 2004 and a master's degree in math at the University of California at Berkeley in 2008. He took the position of acting instructor at Berkeley and was named outstanding graduate student instructor in 2007; Adam also served as a college math instructor at San Quentin Prison. He says he is attracted to Holy Cross as an international community with a focus on education that goes beyond the classroom. His interests in possible Holy Cross apostolates include the support systems for academic communities—administration, campus ministry, or ministry in residence halls.

Joseph B. Desciak. Studies at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, brought Joe into contact with Holy Cross as he joined priests on service trips and project teams, and he sensed their passion to "make God known, loved, and served." After graduating from the Holy Cross-sponsored King's College in 2004, he earned a master's degree in higher education administration at Marywood University in Scranton. "I see myself most drawn to higher education," says Desciak, but he likes the fact that Holy Cross' trio of principal ministries—education, parish work, and the missions—allows different people to serve God to the best of their ability. Joe

is thankful to the Holy Cross community at King's College and to his family for the encouragement they have offered in his discernment process.

Jonathan D. Maten. While studying philosophy and math at Albion College in Michigan, Jon met Rev. Michael Heppen, C.S.C., who was the first person to ask if Jon had ever considered a vocation to the priesthood. He visited Notre Dame for a weekend and saw first-hand the "sense of community" and "strong spirituality" among the Holy Cross priests on campus. Since his 2007 graduation from Albion, Jon has been preparing himself for the candidate program at Moreau Seminary in various ways, including praying the Liturgy of the Hours each morning and evening. "The discernment process deserves a prolonged period of reflection and meditation," he says. "Discerning your vocation is a holistic look at your relationship with God," not based on a single experience or period of time.



Jonathan D. Maten



Peter J. Mueller

Peter J. Mueller. Peter, who hails from Washington, D.C., became president of the Notre Dame Glee Club while earning his degree from the Program of Liberal Studies at Notre Dame. He also won the club's spirit award, and he says the spirit that he saw among Holy Cross priests—"their energy and deep spirituality"—attracted him to the Congregation. Peter especially acknowledges the influence of Rev. Tom Eckert, C.S.C., and Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C., but he notes that these priests did not encourage him to join Holy Cross so much as they encouraged him to "find out what my life's true calling is." Fact is, that discovery process "seemed to be pointing toward Moreau Seminary," and he approaches the continuing discovery with real hope: "God won't steer you wrong."



"The Cross reveals that we find ourselves only by giving our lives away..."

Pope Benedict XVI, Mass with Bishops, Seminarians, and Novices, World Youth Day, July 19, 2008

Photos of Pope Benedict XVI provided courtesy of Getty Images.

Christopher E. Ochoa. The Notre Dame Vision program, in its first years early in this decade, served as Chris' first contact with Holy Cross priests and with the "infectious energy" they instill in students. When he returned from that experience to his high school in Cedar Park, Texas, he stayed in touch with Holy Cross, particularly with Rev. Kevin Russeau, C.S.C. The ongoing discernment process led Chris to the Old College program at Notre Dame. His undergraduate years included membership in the Knights of Columbus. In his junior year, Chris studied at the American College in Leuven, Belgium. Now entering his senior year, he is moving on to live at Moreau Seminary. "If you think God is calling you to serve him as a priest or religious, then don't be afraid to try it with all your heart," he advises.



Christopher E. Ochoa



Patrick E. Reidy

Patrick E. Reidy. Undergraduate study at the University of Notre Dame gave Pat many opportunities to learn about Holy Cross and the mission of bringing hope to others through such activities as the Center for Social Concerns, a research project in Uganda, and service as an assistant in a residence hall. Several Holy Cross priests have played key roles in his discernment process. He majored in political science and theology and graduated last May. Pat says he was attracted by "the beauty of life in religious community." He would welcome working as a priest in Uganda or in overseas missions elsewhere, but he is also attracted to ministry work in a college setting. Pat, who grew up in Colorado, likes to ski and bike. The past few months of R&R back in his parents' house have allowed him to bicycle to daily Mass.

Nicholas L. Senz. Nick grew up in Oregon and became familiar with the Congregation of Holy Cross while earning his bachelor's degree in communications and history at the University of Portland. Encouraged by his parents' "good example of Christian living" and support from his god-parents and others in his family, he has "dug into theology" through reading the Catechism and

HOLY CROSS, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WORLD

The Indiana Province and the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross are far-reaching in terms of ministry as well as geography, but they are only two of the 14 provinces and three vicariates constituting the international presence of Holy Cross priests and brothers.

As this magazine indicates, the Indiana Province and the Eastern Province include priests and brothers and those in formation in a number of U.S. locations, as well as Mexico, Chile, East Africa, Peru, Bangladesh, and Italy.

Members of the Indiana Province and Eastern Province share fully and enthusiastically in the history, mission, and zeal of the entire Congregation of Holy Cross, with all its parts. The worldwide family of Holy Cross was united in prayer and thanksgiving in a special way in 2007 when the Congregation's founder, Rev. Basil Moreau, C.S.C., was beatified—that is, proclaimed to be “blessed” in a step toward sainthood in the Catholic Church.

The beatification ceremony took place on Sept. 15, 2007 in Le Mans, France, where Blessed Basil Moreau in 1837 brought priests and brothers together into an association that became the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Today, there are over 1,500 Holy Cross priests and brothers, living and working in 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. They and the congregations of sisters, who also trace their roots to Basil Moreau, follow their founder's call to service - educating hearts and minds, ministering to the poor, and bringing hope as co-workers with the lay faithful—through schools, parishes, and missionary outreach.



“Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure?”

*Pope Benedict XVI,
Homily at Randwick
Racecourse, World
Youth Day, 2008*

other key books and through lectures downloaded from the Web. Nick has been discerning his



Nicholas L.
Senz

vocation with his pastor and with a young Holy Cross priest who served as his spiritual director.

A guitarist and science fiction fan who also likes sports, Nick advises others to “take the time to listen to God” if they think they may be called to the priesthood. God will answer,

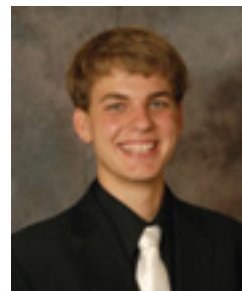
Nick says—“through your friends, your family, through strangers, and through your everyday experiences.”

OLD COLLEGE...

The Old College program is housed in the campus' original building, constructed in 1843. Old Collegians pursue their academic interests as students at Notre Dame or nearby Holy Cross College, while at the same time being introduced to religious life in Holy Cross through a process of spiritual formation in the context of community living.



Christopher W.
Brennan

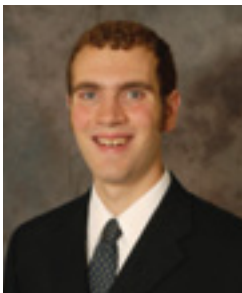


Braydn R.
Harsha

Christopher W. Brennan. Sports have been a big part of Chris' youth, and his high school football career earned him particular honors as he grew up in Mishawaka, Indiana; but he was also drawing insights and enjoyment from a number of activities, including the educational and parish settings where he encountered Holy Cross priests. The order is “full of life,” Chris has learned. He is interested in both the educational and parish ministries himself. He is also reading about the Congregation's founder, Blessed Basil Moreau. What advice does Chris have for those discerning a vocation? “Pray often,

listen to what God is telling you, and do not be afraid to respond to the call,” he says. “God knows what he is doing, even when we do not.”

Braydn R. Harsha. A very active high school career in Columbus, Montana, brought Braydn honors in debate and band, among other things. His thoughts about the future had started pointing toward joining a religious order and working in education. That was the combination offered by Holy Cross and by Old College, which he saw as a rare phenomenon—a religious formation program integrated into college undergraduate life. He had had no contact with Holy Cross until he visited Old College, but he was so impressed with the hospitality shown to him that he came back for a follow-up visit. “I like how the Old College program offers a very supportive environment to discern a vocation while receiving a quality education.”



Brian D. Kennedy



Joshua W. Leeuw

Brian D. Kennedy. Brian grew up in Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, with hobbies including ultra-light backpacking and biking, as well as history and philosophy. He is also an Eagle Scout. Brian is interested in both the education and mission work of Holy Cross, and his meetings with Holy Cross priests have left him encouraged to explore a vocation further. He attended the recent World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, planning to make it a “pilgrimage” of real preparation for ministry. “The people who know me best, my family, have been essential in this process of discernment,” Brian says. “Discernment is a never-ending process,” he advises. “There are vocations within vocations, so always seek the will of the Lord in whatever you find yourself doing.”

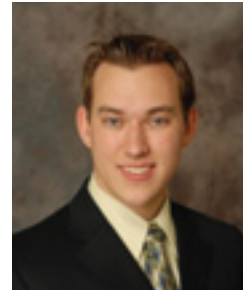
Joshua W. Leeuw. Prior to starting his studies at Holy Cross College, near the University of Notre Dame, Josh was active in drama and the speech and debate club at his high school in Columbia City, Indiana. He was also active in the 4-H Club and in the Future Educators in Action (FEA) organization. “As the years progressed,



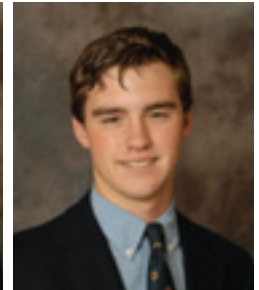
“Do not be afraid to say yes to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will...”

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Randwick Racecourse, World Youth Day 2008

I found myself wanting to be a priest and a teacher,” and the Congregation of Holy Cross makes this combination possible. Priests of the Congregation have been “amazingly supportive” in inviting Josh’s discernment. While pursuing a major in theology at Holy Cross College, he has sung in the Liturgical Choir, worked in the Writing Center, and served as a volunteer in France at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. As a tip to aid someone’s discernment process, Josh suggests, “pray to Our Lady as often as possible.”



Andrew P. Lundquist



John Paul MacPherson IV

Andrew P. Lundquist. The Holy Cross presence at a parish and novitiate in Colorado allowed this native of Colorado Springs to get to know priests and novices of the Congregation and to build upon the encouragement he received from them. “The community life is something I look forward to,” says Andrew. He is also enthusiastic about the Holy Cross ministries in the field of education. Andrew graduated in 2008 from a Catholic high school where he was an actor and assistant director in the theater program. His interests include filmmaking and creative writing. He sees Old College as a place for learning more about God and more about oneself. “This is a great place of discernment,” he says.

John Paul MacPherson IV. John Paul, known as J.P., hails from Buffalo, New York, where he started a Eucharistic Adoration group and received an award for spiritual leadership in his Catholic high school. His hobbies while attending St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute included golf, bagpiping, guitar, and snowboarding. J.P. credits Pope John Paul II as the biggest individual influence encouraging him to explore a vocation, and meeting several Holy Cross priests has helped him to consider Holy Cross in light of that vocation. His sister attended Saint Mary’s College, near the University of Notre Dame, and she was active in the Notre Dame Vision program.

“I spent two summers doing Vision,” he says, “and that really made me think about listening to God’s call to the priesthood.”

CHILE...

The postulant program in Santiago, Chile, is housed in Casa Egana in the Colonia of Penalen. There the postulants live and study with the professed seminarians and are involved in the nearby parish, as well the educational apostolates administered by Holy Cross.

Simón E. Retamal. Simón comes to the candidate



Simón
Retamal

program after graduating from the Colegio Jorge Huneus Zegers in Santiago, Chile, in 2003, and later doing parish youth ministry work. He also lived for a month in a house of formation where he came to know the apostolates and the life of Holy Cross in Chile. Parish work and

community life are key factors attracting him to the Congregation. Simón’s hobbies and interests include cycling, guitar, and writing and performing music; he was awarded “best original song” in the Catholic Music Festival in Santiago for his song, “A Song for Jesus.”

MEXICO...

Young men over the age of 18 participate in the candidate program in Monterrey, Mexico, assisting in a Holy Cross parish.



Miguel Ángel
Montejo

After one to two years of spiritual and academic formation, they, like their Chilean counterparts, move on to the novitiate in Lima, Peru.

Miguel Ángel Montejo.

About eight years ago, when Miguel finished the Mexican equivalent of junior high school, his

family’s economic needs required that he go to work. He worked in the city of Comalcalco and simultaneously nurtured his desire for the priesthood. A Holy Cross priest visited Miguel and his family, and Miguel subsequently came to the Congregation’s formation house in Guadalupe. He



“Believe
in the
power of
the Spirit
of Love!”

*Pope Benedict XVI,
Vigil with
Young People,
World Youth Day
2008*

is living there while pursuing a fast-track completion of his high school education and helping to prepare children for First Communion in a local parish. “I want to work with handicapped children or with the poorest people, with migrant communities,” says Miguel. “More than anything, I want to dedicate my life and my time where they are most needed, where souls need to be rescued.”

EAST AFRICA...

In East Africa, the Holy Cross prenovitiate candidate program spans three years. The participants are young men from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania who have completed their secondary level of education



Jawaiambe
Arnold



Anyang Ooko
Augustine

and are considering a vocation to religious life. The program has both seminarian and brother candidates. They attend college in Jinja, Uganda.

Jawaiambe Arnold. The Congregation of Holy Cross ministry as educators resonates with Arnold’s desire to help improve people’s living standards through education. He grew up in Mukono, Uganda, and graduated from a Holy Cross secondary school in 2005. Holy Cross brothers he met were particularly influential in helping him to discern a vocation. Arnold, who loves drama, reciting poetry, and reading, says he seeks to know what God is calling him to do.

Anyang Ooko Augustine. This aficionado of writing plays, acting, and participating in music and soccer was born in Kisumu, Kenya, and completed secondary school at Morogi Boys School in Kenya. Augustine enjoys teaching and parish ministry. “Through these ministries, people can be enlightened,” he says. “This is the greatest gift you can give to a poor person.” Augustine drew inspiration from C.S.C. members’ simplicity and readiness to work with young people.

Onyango Omune David. David grew up in Suba, Kenya, becoming an avid soccer player and reader. He completed his secondary school training at Waondo Senior Secondary School. He is attracted

to Holy Cross by the Congregation's community spirit, and he wants to be a teacher. His parents and his friends have been valued sources of encouragement. Holy Cross members who have been influential in his life include a priest, a sister, and a brother.



Onyango Omune
David



Simiyu Wanyonyi
Edwin

Simiyu Wanyonyi Edwin. The Holy Cross motto, "The Cross is our Hope," captured Edwin's heart. He grew up in Webuye, Kenya, and completed secondary school at St. Gabriel Minor Seminary in Kisumu. He loves soccer and wants to teach and work with young people. "Persevere and be open to face the tough road ahead," Edwin advises others, "if you are to do God's will."

Nviiri Linus. Linus graduated from Makerere University with a bachelor's degree in community psychology after growing up in Mpigi, Uganda. He loves classical and Gospel music. He wants to continue assisting with Holy Cross Family Ministries and sharing his devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Rosary. Sources of inspiration have included the writing and media work of Rev. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., founder of Holy Cross Family Ministries.

Okuthe Opere Patrick. Parish work and educational ministries interest Patrick. He grew up in Kisumu, Kenya, and learned about Holy Cross through his parish and friends. He enjoys soccer and listening to music. His advice for others discerning a call to priesthood is, "People should be open and live their lives with sincerity and be ready to cooperate with others."



Nviiri
Linus



Okuthe Opere
Patrick



"... To give our lives for the good of others, and above all for Jesus... That is what it means to be truly alive."

Pope Benedict XVI, Church of the Sacred Heart, World Youth Day 2008

A HISTORY TOUCHED BY PATRONS' HEARTS

The association of priests and brothers that Blessed Basil Moreau began forming in 1837 was linked to an even larger, bolder aspiration. He wanted to model the foundation after the Holy Family. In accord with that, he invited as additional members a group of laywomen who were also involved in education and evangelization.

Calling on the spiritual aid of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, he designated patrons for the priests, brothers, and sisters. He consecrated the priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; he consecrated the brothers to the pure heart of St. Joseph; and he consecrated the sisters to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Blessed Basil also established Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows, as the special patroness for all of Holy Cross. These patronal devotions are an ongoing source of inspiration and connection with the founder's deep faith.

Reflecting Blessed Basil's zeal to make God known, loved, and served, he soon started sending members to other countries, including Algeria, the United States, Canada, and Bangladesh. Among these were seven young men—six brothers and Father Edward Sorin—sent to the United States, where they founded the University of Notre Dame in 1842. Priests and brothers of Holy Cross now serve across the United States, and the Congregation's missionary zeal continues to lead many to other countries.

The Holy See officially declared Moreau's group to be a religious congregation—the Congregation of Holy Cross—in 1857. It was required that the sisters break off from this congregation of priests and brothers, and the sisters were later approved as separate congregations. Find out more about the Congregation of Holy Cross at vocation.nd.edu.





MEN with
HOPE to bring



SPES UNICA

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vocation.nd.edu