



From the desk of Dr. Marco Clark

Dear Holy Cross Family and Friends,

Can you believe it's September already?!? I'm excited to spend my first fall here in the tri-campus area.

These first weeks of the academic year have been nothing short of remarkable for my wife and me. The energy on campus is palpable and the feeling of optimism and excitement as a new year begins is in the air. The grounds are beautiful, our campus buildings have received some TLC from our outstanding maintenance and facilities team over the summer, and our professors have returned with renewed zeal. The only thing missing were the students...that is, until last week when we kicked off the year with our Welcome Weekend activities.

Welcome Weekend and the many accompanying events that took place throughout the first week of classes affirmed for me that Holy Cross College is a truly special place filled with many special people committed to learning and growing as scholars, citizens, leaders, and disciples.

During one of our many events in our first week, 65 of our students gathered on a Thursday night at 9 p.m. (almost my bedtime!) to listen to a talk given by Fr. Karl Romkema, C.S.C., himself a former student at Holy Cross College who spoke about "The Spiritual Life is a Smoker." When I first saw the title, I was startled that I didn't know that Fr. Karl was a smoker." I thought I knew Fr. Karl pretty well as we were together for a period in Austin, TX during my years at St. Edwards as he ministered at the nearby Holy Cross parish, St. Ignatius the Martyr Catholic Church. What I discovered is that the clever title Fr. Karl had for his talk was a "smoker" to cook BBQ and beef brisket in, something that Fr. Karl learned while in Austin.

During his talk Fr. Karl stated that the Holy Spirit speaks to us through consolation—feelings of peace, joy, inspiration, and attraction. My thoughts immediately went to the MANY moments of peace, joy, and inspiration that I've received in these first few weeks at Holy Cross. We have a student body who is serious about their academic pursuits and formation as children of God AND they possess a desire to make a difference in the world. Combined with our world-class faculty, a strong leadership team, a committed Board of Trustees, the support of the local community and the tri-campus, and through the prayers of many, I am confident that Holy Cross College is poised to thrive.

The first week concluded with the final profession of vows for two young Holy Cross Brothers and two ordained deacons who are soon to be Holy Cross priests. During his homily, Fr. Bill Lies, C.S.C., Provincial Superior of the U.S. Province of Priests and Brothers indicated that these men were "yielding to Christ" for the rest of their lives. This really spoke to me and caused me to ponder, "Isn't that the goal for all of us? To yield our lives to Christ conforming ourselves in Him?"

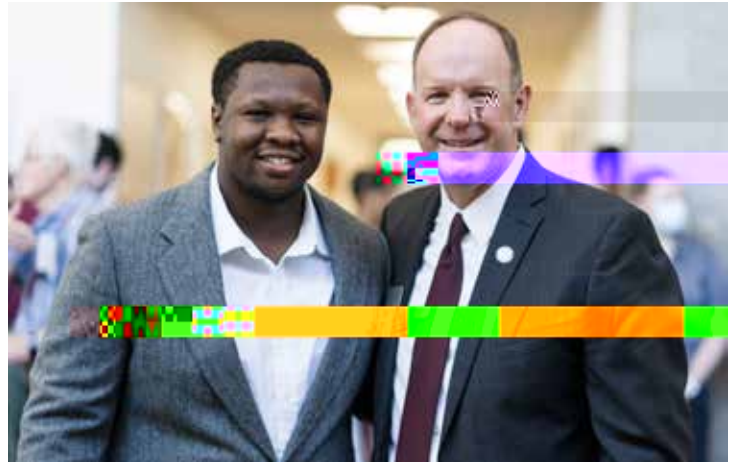
This is the journey that our Holy Cross College students are on, learning to live more like Christ. Students come to Holy Cross College to prepare to be successful in the ways of the world as top professionals in their field. Along the way, however, they are also being formed as courageous citizens and virtuous leaders for a world in which love and justice prevail. They learn how to give of their lives in a more explicit way in the service of others for the common good in building up God's kingdom here on earth. A Holy Cross education is an invitation "to abandon all to follow Christ...to be wholehearted...like the first disciples who knew that He will draw us along and reinforce our loyalties if we yield to Him" (Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, 1:8).

In this academic year may each of us "yield to Christ" and in so doing receive consolations from God that we are on the right path...the path to holiness.

Saints today; saints for all eternity.

Ave Crux, Spes Unica,

Marco J. Clark, Ed.D.



At the press conference with Student Government President Dion Payne-Miller '25.



Welcome Weekend 2022



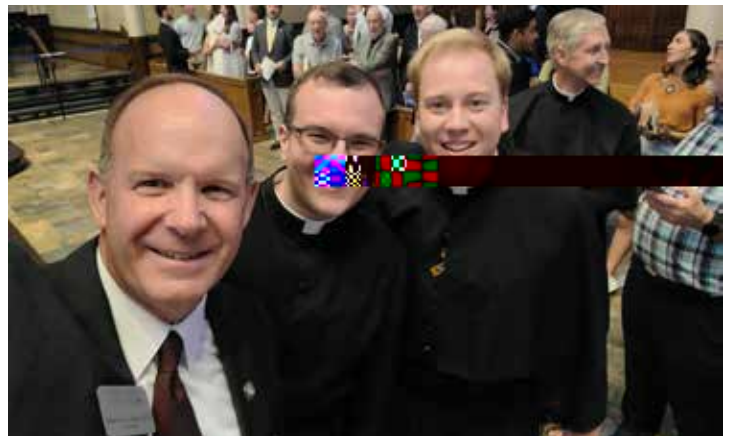
Theology on Tap



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Final profession of vows



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