



The Lance

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Breakfast Runs at HC

By Connor Conlon '15

Holy Cross is well known throughout the community as being very kind in helping those in need. Here at Holy Cross we have various events, fundraisers, and make donations to help make our community and world a better place. Whenever Holy Cross goes out to make a difference, the people that we are helping always have a smile on their face because they know that what we do will help them in any way, shape, or form. A particular event that stands out in the eyes of many is the Breakfast Run (formerly known as the Midnight Run).

The Breakfast Run is a charity event that brings clothes to the homeless people around Christmas. The homeless are always in need of anything that can ease their struggle such as clothes, food, and water. Clothes are a necessity to people everywhere, especially for the homeless as the weather starts to get cold.

People, who have the right clothes such as warm jackets, boots, and warm pants, are still complaining about the cold weather when there are homeless people who are lucky to have a light sweatshirt. That is what makes this charity event so special; it greatly improves the lives of those in need.

The Breakfast Run is so special is because it gives the people who don't have any family left a sense of what family is like. The gifts that we are giving them are not just for them physically but also affect them mentally as well. It is nice to be cared for and that is what the Holy Cross community is doing for these people. A sense of need is what sometimes drives people to become better than what they are right now. All it takes is one little gift to make someone's day and Christmas just a little bit better. ■

Fr. Randy to Say Masses in Bellerose

By John Flynn '15

Father Randy Rentner, C.S.C., will preside over Sunday Masses at St. Gregory the Great Church in Bellerose in the near future. The parish offers seven Sunday Masses; a Saturday night mass, five Sunday masses at the church, and one special mass at the Gregorian Hall on the other side of the Cross Island Parkway.

The parish will gladly welcome a fourth priest for Sundays at the parish. Monsignor Edward Ryan, the pastor of the seventy-eight year old parish, informed me last Friday about the news, adding that Fr. Randy is a nice addition to the parish. ■

Father Randy is very satisfied with the Bellerose landmark. He believes the parish "is active, busy, and full of warm, friendly people."



(Left) Bishop DiMarzio celebrating a Mass at St. Gregory the Great Church in 2011 - Photo courtesy of *The Tablet*)

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This publication looks to follow the Holy Cross philosophy, objectives, and mission statement. We reserve the right to edit all articles for grammar, taste, clarity, content and availability of space. Letters are accepted. Please direct them to the editors or moderator.



S.A.D.D. is Here to Help

By Brandon Chow '15

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is a worldwide organization that helps young adults make healthy and safe life choices through the use of positive peer pressure. More importantly, the group works to prevent students from making destructive decisions that might bring harm and tragedy to others. For instance, SADD educates people about the dangers of drinking and driving, smoking cigarettes and other drug usage. In addition, SADD supports funding for anti-violence/anti-bullying and mental health programs to help struggling youth. Today, there are about 350,000 active students in SADD's 10,000 chapters.

Holy Cross High School's SADD chapter is run by Mrs. Vodopivec. The club meets every Thursday in Room 210 to discuss the various pressures that young adults face in everyday life and what can be done to remedy them. The SADD club organizes different educational events throughout the year to help raise awareness about certain issues as well.

Last year, SADD was able to get Jacy Good, a lovely woman who lost both of

her parents in a car accident caused by a distracted driver, to come to Holy Cross to give students a presentation on the dangers of using a cell phone while driving. Mrs. Vodopivec and the rest of SADD recently recruited former policeman Steven McDonald to give a presentation on the importance of forgiveness later this year. The club is also working to acquire a speaker who will talk to the Junior class about responsibility and driving.

If you feel like you're struggling and don't know what to do, don't hesitate to drop in on one of SADD club's weekly meetings. The club's members will gladly listen and talk to you. SADD is here to help. ■



(Above: S.A.D.D. logo - Photo courtesy of puttles.com)

Solve Crimes in Forensic Science

By Liam McCaul '15

Not many people get to experience the life of a detective. That life includes collecting, identifying, individualizing and interpreting evidence found at a crime scene. These opportunities exist here at Holy Cross and can be found in the Forensic Science class, which students can take as an elective during senior year with the consent of their junior year science teacher.

The half-year course is designed to challenge students with topics such as DNA analysis, blood typing, comparative anatomy, chemical analysis of drugs, poisons, and trace evidence. Students take part in interactive labs that combine elements of biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics to look at each of the aspects of evidence analysis and criminalistics.

The Forensic Science class also links up with other classes such as journalism to test short-term memory on the events in a crime. In addition, students of the class learn about the careers involved with Forensic Science and play mock roles as experts in the field to solve crimes. They even get to solve their own elaborate mock crimes at the end of the course and visit a real forensics laboratory! This class fuels the interests of many who want to look into the field, and also inspire some to pursue a career in forensics. ■

Voodoo: A Better Understanding

By Chris Dellavecchia '15

Voodoo is a religion that is very misunderstood by the general public. It is often confused with black magic, and witchcraft. People often think Voodoo is an evil religion used to contact the devil and other evil spirits. However it has many ties to Roman Catholicism and Christianity.

Voodoo is practiced in places such as West Africa, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and even America, especially in Louisiana. This spiritual expression is a blend of African animism, spiritism, and indigenous religion, and in some circumstances contains elements of Shamanism, black magic, and witchcraft. Voodoo beliefs vary depending on the location. For example West African Voodoo belief is in a supreme being, even though many followers follow the belief that has been synchronized with Roman Catholicism, so that their chief god is connected with the God of the Bible. All schools of voodoo, however, believe in lesser spirits, often called “loa” or “miste,” as a

key practice of their religion. In some voodoo communities, voodoo priests, who can be a woman or a man priest, play a special role as intermediaries who summon spirits and perform acts of sorcery.

There are three “schools” or types of voodoo. There is West African Voodoo, Louisiana Voodoo (also known as New Orleans Voodoo), and Haitian Voodoo. West African voodoo has been less influenced than other forms of voodoo because it is practiced in the place of its origin. Louisiana voodoo has been heavily influenced by the French, Spanish, and Creole populations that have lived in Louisiana. It has also been influenced by Christianity especially Roman Catholicism. Haitian voodoo was heavily influenced by African slaves from France. It has also been influenced by Christianity, especially Roman Catholicism.

Voodoo dolls are mostly associated with a form of African folk magic called

(Below: A traditional African voodoo doll - Photo courtesy of puttles.com)

“Hoodoo,” which is a mixture of Animism, Spiritism, and a combination of other religious beliefs and practices originating in Africa. Voodoo dolls can be made from corn shafts, potatoes, clay, branches and roots or clothes stuffed with plant life. Voodoo dolls are not used to hurt others. Voodoo dolls are used as part of their religion.

Voodoo is actually a very interesting religion. There aren't a lot of people that follow it, but it is a well-known religion, however very misunderstood. ■



Ego's Impact on Society

By Stefan Gordon '15

What is an ego? An ego is someone's idea about his or her self. We hear a lot these days about how people with big egos tend to come off as not-so-great people. Typically, celebrities have rather large egos. One person who gets a lot of criticism and is blamed as being egotistical all the time is Kanye West.



Kanye West is one of the most talked about people on the planet simply because of the self-centered opinions that he uses in his music. But he makes an impact on the world simply because he influences it with his fashion style and music. He said in a recent interview “when everybody likes you your powerless because everyone expects you to do what they think are right, but when everyone hates you, you can do whatever you want because regardless of what you do you're going to get backlash.” Backlash is just a form of negative energy, but any energy can be positive if it is done correctly.

Egos impact society in a variety of different ways. It depends on the person viewing it. An ego is also a daily thought because each person's ego is different. Whatever we do, we cannot let our ego get too big because it would be a hard crash back into reality. ■

(Above: Photo courtesy of cultureofawareness.com)

New Paintball Club at HC

By Sean Price '15

Mr. Harris, who is Holy Cross' newly installed Assistant Principle for Student Life, is craving for more students to get involved and join more clubs at our school. Extra-curricular activities not only look good for college applications, as they also help diversify your group of friends and discover new interests. Additionally, it would give under classmen and upper classmen a chance to get know each other better and help them learn how to interact socially.

With Mr. Harris's new ways, there seems to be a new Holy Cross paintball club in the works. All it needs to get is some more recognition and a more willing group of students of all grades. The only requirement is that you are a student at Holy Cross and have good academic and disciplinary history. No student with academic probation or disciplinary probation may join.

The club may join as a group periodically after school, but not for long. The paintball club will try to make a trip to a paintball facility every two months. The cost for each trip will be somewhere around \$180, which will cover equipment and paintballs. Each trip is optional and would most likely be on the weekend. This can be a great opportunity for anyone who wants to participate more in school activities. ■



(Left: Outdoor paintball - Photo courtesy of travel2vilnius.com)

St. Joseph's School for the Deaf

By Blake Stevens '15



St. Joseph's School for the Deaf in the Bronx is an educational institution that graciously offers all it has to poverty-stricken children who are hearing and mentally impaired. When I got the chance to volunteer at the school and spend time with the current students in attendance, I experienced something truly amazing.

When I first walked into St. Joseph's on a windy dreary morning, I got the feeling that I was on the set of a horror film. It was an old building – over a hundred years old – with dim lighting and black and white photos on the wall. I was afraid that the children attending the school would be disengaged, dull or even scary. The idea of “needy” kids frightened me. I had never been in this kind of situation before. The fear, however, immediately disappeared after my first few encounters with the children.

The children at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf were not dull, scary or needy but rather bright, attentive and very intellectual. They were well aware of their surroundings and didn't need much help with anything. I was really pleasantly surprised especially when I saw how engaged they were during our trip to a pumpkin patch. The children knew the size, shape and color of the pumpkins they wanted, and when it came to decorating the pumpkins later on, the volunteers sat back and enjoyed the nice fall breeze while watching the children create masterpieces.

My expectations of bonding with deaf children were, shamefully, extremely low. I thought that working with them would be a difficult experience. This, however, was not the case; by using simple hand gestures and body movements (not sign language), we were able to connect. David, a 5-year-old child, could not hear but showed great determination to communicate with us through his use of facial expressions. Spending time with David and other hearing-impaired children helped me realize that speaking was not a necessity for communication at all.

In all, St. Joseph's School for the Deaf and its students, unexpectedly, educated me in ways that sitting in a classroom simply could not. It made me more considerate of others and strengthened my moral character. This trip will remain in my mind forever; I will repeatedly use what I learned there for the rest of my life. ■

(Above: The St. Joseph's School for the Deaf in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx - Photo courtesy of Don Gilligan)

The Spirit of Family Feud



By Brian Rodriguez '15 and Nick Perez '15

Throughout the first week of November, Holy Cross H.S. is held an event they like to call “Spirit Week”.

During Spirit Week, students were invited to participate in each day's special activity or theme. On Monday, students were asked to come into school dressed in their best suits. Tuesday was “Sneaker Day”, as students were allowed to wear their favorite kicks with the school uniform. Wednesday was “Decade Day”, and everyone wore attire from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Thursday was “Crazy Hat Day” and Friday was “Green and Gold Day”. Students who participated in these events were given a raffle ticket that would give them a chance to play in Holy Cross' version of *Family Feud* to end the week.

This family feud was played differently than the regular family feud. They had the answer choices to the questions asked and the students had to send a text to vote for which ever answer they felt was the best. The team of freshman, juniors, seniors and faculty had to write down which answer they thought would be the number one chosen answer. The gym was roaring with kids screaming answers and cheers. I was surprised that even the teachers were participating in the voting. This family feud was a great new experience for our school and I hope there are many more to come. ■

St. Mary's Hospital for Children

By Etienne Bouchez '15

St. Mary's Children's Hospital is a hospital for disabled and diseased children. The hospital is located in Bayside, New York. It is a healing environment for the children who live there. Families and children go to St. Mary's for great care and a better life. St. Mary's mission is to help as many children as possible.

Holy Cross High School students volunteer to help out with the children one or two times every week. They go to the hospital and participate in recreational activities like coloring and playing with the children.

Nick Cannon, the host of *America's Got Talent*, has donated money to the hospital because of the great work they do for the kids. St. Mary's Children's Hospital has used the money they receive from generous donations such as this to heavily renovate the hospital, making it a lively and effective environment for the children. The people who work in the hospital have taken really good care of the children and that is the key to their success. ■

Campus Ministry and Service

By Devante Alexander '15

The purpose of campus ministry is to influence the school community with the power of God's word. Campus Ministry helps support the liturgical, sacramental, and spiritual need of the school community.

Students in campus ministry are given a core teaching of religious doctrine and also put a strong emphasis on living out a Christian life which includes morals and the development of a mature conscience.

Campus Ministry allows students to go on retreats during which they can develop a new relationship with God. Campus Ministry provides a setting that helps students engage in hands on service through volunteering. Some students volunteer at St. Mary's Children's Hospital where they do activities with the children and also play with them.

As a Catholic school, Holy Cross allows students to deepen their spirituality through community service and campus ministry. Holy Cross High School is a community of faith, service, and friends. We have concern for the rights of every person especially people in need. Campus Ministers are always available for guidance and help for spiritual growth. ■

Reflection: A Holy Cross Man

By Jonathan Arroyo '15

Throughout my time at Holy Cross High School I have come to realize that you need to respect others in order to be respected; you must treat others how you would be like to be treated. Many of my brothers at Holy Cross are well respected and respect me as a person. A Holy Cross man learns to treat others with respect, honesty, and loyalty throughout their lives.

Holy Cross has taught many of their students to treat others with respect. Treating your brothers and those around you with respect helps you develop as a person. At Holy Cross, each person is taught to have his own perspective on things. Holy Cross has taught me and many other students to help others and to treat everyone the same.

Honesty, loyalty and respect are the most important characteristics that make a Holy Cross man. ■

History of St. Joe's School for the Deaf

By Alex Beveraggi '15

St. Joseph's School for the Deaf is a grammar school located in the Fordham section of The Bronx, which serves the needs of deaf children from infancy through 14 years of age.

St. Joseph's was established in 1869 by the religious order of the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. For many years Holy Cross has been serving the children of St. Joseph's by doing different kinds of activities such as arts & crafts, playing games and helping the children with school work. The children also teach Holy Cross students how they communicate, through sign language. Students at Holy Cross are encouraged to come on the service trip to St. Joseph's as there is one almost every week. The students who come on these trips can also participate in special events at St. Joseph's such as the pumpkin patch and the garden project.

By volunteering at St. Joseph's, it brings about the Holy Cross man within us. A Holy Cross man is a well-mannered, educated and respectful gentleman who accepts responsibility for himself and respects others. It is important for a school like Holy Cross to assist schools for students with disabilities because the service spreads the Christian message of helping those who are less fortunate and may inspire others to good as well. ■



Separation of Church and State: Where is the Line Drawn?

By Giuseppe Altieri '15

For years, the church and its people have been dealing with the concerns of separation of Church and State. There are many issues that are involved with this topic and towns in the United States have many concerns about this situation. This separation of the church is basically the distance between the religion and its state and although many countries have adopted this idea, there are many separations that are involved with religion and politics.

Many Catholic bishops don't see change coming anytime soon in the church doctrine. Pope Francis has called for an open debate for this and there were many big differences over many things. One of the topics that is being talked about is the idea of making communion available to divorced and remarried Catholics. The problem with all of this is that many of these churches have their own cultures and teach in their own ways. For example, the United States teaches that all people are entitled to religious freedom and that the constitution should recognize these freedoms. The Catholic Church believes in the separation of Church and state, but they do not believe in the separation of religion and politics. They believe that the Church has a big role in guiding state policies.

Other countries do not feel the same way, as some believe there should be some type of separation. The Muslim community believes that the politics of government should be separate from religion. This is where the problem occurs, and there are many big disagreements that are involved which could mean that they will never decide on what is right. This is a big issue in the world today and many countries have their own opinions about it. Each country is sticking up for what they believe in and this could cause a lot of controversies. This is why this debate could go on for many years and there is a possibility that nothing gets changed for certain states and governments. ■



(Above: Photo courtesy of u4rf.org)

Robotics Club: Building the Future

By Chris Cadigan '15

The Robotics club is in the process of constructing a fully functional robot! Once the robot is completed, Mr. Howell and the other club members will be able to use a computer program and a wireless controller to move the robot. At one of their recent meetings the club members were working to establish a connection between the laptop computer and the robot. When asked what he enjoys most about being in the robotics club Junior John Kundmueller responded, "I enjoy the whole building and designing aspect of it." The robotics club is perfect for

anyone with an interest in engineering and computer science. Some club members work on engineering a robot that will be able to move on command and others work on the computer program that will allow the robot to do so.

It's never too late to join a new club or activity, So, if you think you would be interested in helping to make a robot come check out the Robotics Club in room 209 on Thursdays after school. ■