



The Lance

**Holy Cross
High School
Flushing, NY**

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Lent's True Meaning

By Elijah Fulton '15

Lent: the season where we as Christians try to become closer to the Lord and achieve a higher moral value. During this time people usually give up one of guilty pleasures to achieve a deeper understanding of what Jesus Christ had to go through. But is giving up what we like the most truly what Lent should be about? To fully understand the depth of this answer I had to meet with the most spiritual beings in Holy Cross High. The Theology department.

Mr. Lyons talked with me and explained he felt that Lent was about sacrificing and giving what I mainly treasure to try to understand God's pain. He even told me this very interesting story about how when he was a kid his church took him to a famous cross and he saw the nailing's. He described it as a very personal experience helped him feel even closer to the

Lord. These are the defining moments in the lives of all Christians, moments like these help define and pinpoint the direction we all will go in. So did many others I asked in this same department, overall most people felt that it is all about giving up what they love. People who observe Lent may be religious, dedicated and righteous, but they aren't being sincere. What Lent is truly about is becoming closer to God in a very spiritual way - not in an earthly way. It is truly about understanding the lost and celebrating the holy one's resurrection. Sadly enough, we don't all realize this or understand that we must put away all petty items and truly focus on the gift that is the Lord. If we start forgetting what we care about during this season, and are too busy throwing away over fattening foods, then our relationship with Christ will suffer. ■



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Seniors and Green Polos

By Louie Forgione '15

Holy Cross seniors were once allowed to wear green polo shirts all year long. The privilege was taken away with the class of 2014. Each senior class should have a chance to show why they deserve privileges like the green polo's year round. The class of 2015 may very well be the best class of all time, so why not treat them like the best. Each senior had to go through three years of wearing stiff white shirts and ties. The privilege of green polo's has been slightly given back to us. The seniors of 2015 now are allowed to wear green polo's on only Fridays. This is

a very large step towards getting back to the way things used to be. The Class of 2015 needs to stand up not only for the seniors, but for every proceeding class that enters Holy Cross High School. Let's show the school leaders that we deserve this. ■



(Left: Photo courtesy of Terri L.K.)

(Far Above: Photo courtesy of fpcghi.org)

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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.



Service Learning

By Michael DeMarinas '15

Holy Cross men strive to live a life of faith, brotherhood and service. Holy Cross High School carries out the goal of service through our service learning program, directed by Mr. Tsimoyianis (Mr. T).

Service is an important aspect in all people's lives, it teaches people values in life, how to not only look out for yourself, but also for all people who need assistance and guidance. This program is needed to help young men realize what life is all about and realize that they can make a change in this world.

The Holy Cross Service Learning Program frequently takes trips to St. Marys Children's Hospital and St. Josephs School for the deaf, those trips put a smile on young kids' faces and teaches the Holy Cross men to value their privileged life, because someone always has it worse

In the classroom students learn moral values. They learn right from wrong, and learn about the underprivileged kids they serve each week. Students become more aware of the outside world around them.

By taking the Service Learning Program the seniors are able to cap off the true meaning of what being a Holy Cross student and man really means. It is selflessness, responsibility and service. During the first three years of High School for a student and man really means. It is selflessness, responsibility and service. During the first three years of High School for a student they learn all of their subjects, math, science, global, but when senior year comes that is where the transformation happens from a High School student to a Holy Cross man, and the Service Learning Program carries that out.

Many students say service is a "waste of time", but it truly is not. Kids say "why do we need math or science for? We will never use that outside of school, while that is most likely true, that cannot be said for service. Service teaches values that can be carried out through all facets of life.

As Mr. T continues to develop the service learning program kids will become more aware of its advantages and how beneficial it will be outside of the classroom. ■

HC's Brightest Compete in Science Olympiad Competition

By Justin Boniello '15

On February 7th, the Science Olympiad competition was held at Grover Cleveland High School. Among the 60 schools competing was Holy Cross whose representatives consisted of some its brightest students. I had an opportunity to interview Jack Egan and Patrick O'Donnell, who had the following to say about the event:

Patrick- "personally, I believe that we as a school performed very well, considering that Holy Cross' Science Olympiad program is a club that meets weekly rather than a class like most other contending High Schools."

Jack-"I feel as if we could have done better." ■

Holy Cross placed 43rd as a school, but Jack and Patrick placed 12th as a group in the event titled "It's about time!" When asked about what the lab entailed, Patrick had this to say:

"Generally, we had to build a clock and find out the interval in which it turned. We could have been able to place higher in this segment if it were not for a mistake made by an unnamed party."

Both students want to pursue a career in science. Jack wants to be an aerospace engineer and attend the University at Michigan while Patrick wants to be a mechanical engineer and attend Syracuse. ■

“Snowly” Cross

By Dylan DiBona '15



(Far left: Photo courtesy of pixgood.com)

(Left: Photo courtesy of proteckmachinery.com)

While New York didn't get quite as much snow as predicted, one thing it did get was countless days of below freezing temperature. The brutal winter still has a couple of weeks left, but there's one reason why it was especially harsh for younger people. School is where a young person undoubtedly spends most of their time during the winter, so it should be of utmost importance they are warm during that time. But are they?

It's been a big topic with the students at Holy Cross High School, the heat just isn't working well enough. Holy Cross senior Francesco Murro was asked three questions. The first was "how many times have you thought it was too cold in school?" He responded with "100% of the time" He was then asked if he had ever broken the rules and wore a sweater to beat the cold, he said no because he feared a detention. Lastly he was asked if Holy Cross should update their heating system, he said "definitely". So it can be said that the student are suffering in the cold because of an outdated heating system and unjustified detention.

Quite possibly the most obnoxious aspect of this issue is the way is the way the faculty ignores students' complaints. Teachers are allowed to wear sweaters, fleeces and clothes of a thicker material than student uniforms. Of course they say we should purchase a Holy Cross sweater, but the uniform changes so frequently it's not worth the extra money, especially considering the high tuition. The students are the ones keeping the school alive; they do not deserve to suffer six hours a day.

Admittedly, there are a handful of classrooms that are warm. The rest of the warm rooms are of course the faculty room and offices. A heating system would absolutely cost tens of thousands of dollars. But there is almost no doubt that the funds raised from the walkathon and telethon would cover the expenses.

The purpose of this article isn't to trash talk the school. Students are tired of the cold and teachers are tired of students in sweaters. The time for change is right now, Holy Cross. Stop spending your funds and donations on decorations and start showing some appreciation for the only reason the school exists, the students. ■

Policy on Cell Phone Use in School

By Jerell Saint Phar '15

Many changes to the school's handbook have been made for where and when students are allowed to use their cell phones during the school day.

As a result of a new student life/vice principal, new values have been placed into effect, especially those involving cell phones. As of Oct. 2, 2014, students are now allowed to use their phones before school in the cafeteria and auditorium, during lunch periods in the cafeteria, during study halls

while seated in the designated room and after school. However, under no circumstance may a student use their cell phone to record or photograph any content.

Although the school policy rules are more flexible, the consequences are still stern. Based on our student handbook, the first offense will result in a 60 minute detention, and if the student is to get caught using his phone in an inappropriate or in an askew way, they will receive a double

detention. If a student is caught for a third time on their phone in an inappropriate fashion, they will submit their phone to the assistant principal for student life (Mr. Harris) at the beginning of the day and receive it back each afternoon for one month.

As the school year proceeds, we will see how effective these new rules are towards the student. We look forward to learning if anything else changes. ■



(Far Left: Photo courtesy of Cnet)

(Left: Photo courtesy of Fox Business)

Gotham, Fox's Newest Hit Show



(Left: Photo courtesy of imdb.com)

By Liam McCaul '15

Everyone knows the story of Batman. After his parents are shot and killed while he was a child, Bruce Wayne overcomes his fears and fights for justice as the vigilante/hero that the city of Gotham sees him as. It is not as common to explore the world around young Bruce after the tragedy that leads him to crime fighting, including all the other origins of the major characters in the Batman universe. This past fall, Fox slotted a new drama into its 8 o'clock Monday spot that focuses on the origin of the Batman universe and how everything came to be. In the process, the show known as Gotham, has become one of the most successful shows on the Fox Network, and one of the best new series to hit television.

The first episode of Gotham yielded the Fox Network its highest rated pilot in over 14 years, and as the show has progressed, the viewing numbers have not decreased. This show holds the highest rating among males 18-49, and two of its main protagonists, Detective James Gordon (Ben McKenzie) and Fish Mooney (Jada Pinkett Smith), were nominated for their roles at the People's Choice Awards in January. Gotham has used much inspiration from the comics, TV shows and movies that all share the Batman brand, and have pieced these aspects together to form interesting plots, many unexpected twists and turns, and much character development that subsequently leads the characters into the type of people Batman must deal with as time goes on. The origin stories of heroes and villains have been making fans of the Batman series excited to see what each week brings. One major example is the character known in the Batman universe as The Penguin, one of Batman's most formidable enemies. Fans of the show have idolized Robin Lord Taylor because he is able to capture the quirkiness, but also the darkness that

surrounds such a demanding character. The supporting cast does a great job emulating the characters known from other Batman-related adventures.

Personally, I didn't think too much of the show before the first episode. However, as this series has progressed, it has made me almost look forward, or at least give a silver lining to Monday's knowing that a new episode comes out. If any show can do that to a person, then you know that it's good. Having knowledge of the Batman universe makes this show something that someone can look forward to, because you know what characters surround the tale of Batman, and you know what these characters are supposed to be like. This has evolved to so much more than just a cop-drama because of the characters involved. It seems every week something special, or unexpected happens that changes the course of the show and makes the audience excited for what happens next. It's very possible you've heard words like this before, but this kind of excitement, commitment, and overall nature of a show has struck me like this and I feel that everyone who watches the show feels that way, and I feel sorry for those that haven't experienced this genius. Even if you are not a huge Batman fan or just need a new show to dive into, do not make the mistake of writing off this great series. One must remember that Breaking Bad, American Horror Story, The Walking Dead, The Big Bang Theory and more all started out the same way, with an original idea that captivated an audience early and gained a lot of recognition down the road. So this article isn't a plea or even a review. This is a suggestion to all who read, that you want to pick up on this series now before you become one of those people who "never got around to watching it." ■



THE LANCE SPORTS



Equality for All Athletes

By Michael Becarelli '15

According to the NWLC (National Women's Law Center), the amount of women attending college is around 53% of the student body. They receive only 34% of the total money spent on intercollegiate sports and only have 45% of the total athletic scholarship dollars. They went on to state that "There is no shortage of interest by women and girls in participating in athletics. Since 1972, when Title IX first opened up opportunities for women and girls, female participation in high school athletics has skyrocketed by almost 900%, disproving claims made by opponents of Title IX that the lower numbers of female athletes are due to lack of interest as opposed to lack of opportunities.

With this in mind, It is appalling that colleges show such favoritism to male-orientated intercollegiate sports programs. There are many reasons why this treatment of women's intercollegiate sports programs should be changed to better help the majority of the student body have equality.

For Instance, American women have been constantly fighting for equality in the workplace, at home and society in general. If a college campus is supposed to be a representation of society's best qualities, then gender equality should be a priority both off and on the field. Many colleges say that financial support for women's intercollegiate sports programs can be a bad business decision, but with the proper funding these programs can be a very wise decision. An increase of scholarship money for female athletes or an increase in funding for female participated athletic programs will attract better athletes. These athletes will bring success to their teams which will increase the popularity of the program and better the reputation of the college which is ultimately a good business decision.

Though it may be a long time until change occurs, there is no doubt that the equal funding in both men and women's intercollegiate athletic programs is important on both moral and financial standpoints. ■

New York Islanders' Big Improvement

By Chris Cadigan '15

After not making the NHL playoffs last season, the New York Islanders are currently in second place in the Eastern Conference's Metropolitan division. The recent hot start has been due in part to the prolific goal scoring of captain John Tavares. This season is also significant for the Isles because it is their last in the Nassau Coliseum. Next season the Islanders will move to the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The Islander's defense has been bolstered by new arrivals Johnny Boychuck and Nick Leddy. They have also been led by the stellar play of newly arrived net minder Jaroslav Halak, Halak is seen as a contender for the Vezina trophy, the NHL's highest honor for a goalie. New

offensive arrivals Nikolay Kulemin and Mikhail Grabovski have helped contribute to the Islanders stellar 3.08 goals per game average. Veteran defenseman Travis Hamonic has made the islanders tough to score on while also managing to chip in a points of the offensive end of the ice. Young stars Ryan Strome, Anders Lee and Calvin de Haan have been major contributors to the Islanders hot start this season.

At the time of writing the Islanders post a 43-23-4 record which leaves them just a point behind of the first place New York Rangers. The Islanders will look to expand on their hot start and hope to make a deep playoff run in their last year on Long Island. ■

MLB Hot Stove

By Justin Boniello '15



(Left: Photo courtesy of AP)

Here are the most significant trades and signings during the 2014-2015 MLB offseason:

- The Boston Red Sox added two superstars to their lineup this offseason by signing former Los Angeles Dodgers' shortstop Hanley Ramirez (4 years, \$88M) and three-time World Series champion from the San Francisco Giants, Pablo Sandoval (5 years, \$95M). Hanley Ramirez will reportedly shift to left field.
- The New York Mets bolstered their lineup this offseason, signing veteran right fielder Michael Cuddyer to a two-year deal worth \$21M.
- The Detroit Tigers re-signed designated hitter Victor Martinez to a four-year, \$68 million contract. The 36-year old recently underwent surgery to repair a torn medial meniscus in his left knee.
- The Toronto Blue Jays added to their prolific offense by signing Toronto native, catcher Russell Martin (5 years, \$82M), and by obtaining 3B Josh Donaldson in a trade with the Oakland Athletics for 3B Brett Lawrie, RHP Kendall Graveman, SS Franklin Barreto, and LHP Sean Nolin.
- The Miami Marlins made a lot of noise this offseason, shifting from pretenders to contenders. The Marlins and superstar right fielder Giancarlo Stanton agreed to the largest contract in MLB history at 13 years, \$325M. They received RHP Mat Latos and 2B Dee Gordon via trades. In addition, they signed 1B Michael Morse.
- The Chicago White Sox bolstered their lineup, rotation, and bullpen with the signings of 1B Adam LaRoche (2 years, \$25M), Zach Duke (3 years, \$15M), LF Melky Cabrera (3 years, \$42M), and RHP David Robertson (4 years, \$46M). In addition, they acquired RHP Jeff Samardzija via trade.
- The Seattle Mariners and 3B Kyle Seager agreed to a seven-year, \$100M extension. The club also signed LF Nelson Cruz to a four-year, \$58M contract. Cruz led the AL in home runs last season.
- The Chicago Cubs inked LHP Jon Lester to a six-year, \$155M deal.
- The Washington Nationals signed top free agent RHP Max Scherzer to a seven-year deal worth \$210M.
- The San Diego Padres traded for LF Justin Upton, RF Will Myers, RF Matt Kemp, C Derek Norris, and recently signed pitcher James Shields to a four-year deal in the \$72-76 million range.
- The Arizona Diamondbacks signed Cuban 3B/OF Yasmany Tomas to a six-year, \$68.5M contract. ■

Jets and Giants Season Review

By John Flynn '15

New York football combined for 10 wins in a disappointing 2014.

Many people say that the Giants were bad because of the poor defense. In reality, their problems started with the offensive line. The rushing attack looked lost, especially without Rashad Jennings. The offensive line was simply no match against teams like Seattle and Philadelphia. Perry Fewell's defensive unit was poor because the offense couldn't sustain drives, thus putting in and wearing out the defense. Enter Odell Beckham, Jr. The Louisiana State product single-handedly carried the New York offense in the second half. After the bye week, Beckham was the most dominant wide receiver the game had to offer. No wide-out this season had more receiving yards per game than number 13. There were concerns about the Giants' lack of talent at the position, especially after Victor Cruz went down to injury. Beckham only masked areas of deficiency in the offense. Only brighter things are ahead of Beckham. He was a big part why Eli Manning and Co. figured out Ben McAdoo's new offense down the stretch.

Grade: C

The Jets had all sorts of problems this year. I felt that everything started in the front office. Bringing in Michael Vick was a mistake because it hurt Geno Smith's self-esteem a bit. Smith felt pressured all year to make throws, except for the last few weeks where he played well. He also showed very peculiar fundamentals of an NFL quarterback. This was the same mistake the Jets made by bringing in Tim Tebow. The Jets were also very passive in free agency, despite having one of the highest salary cap spaces in the league. Their moves were questionable across the board. Meanwhile, the Jets' defensive problems stemmed through the secondary. Whether it was giving up big plays or an inability to tackle, the Jets' defense certainly has not been the same since Darrelle Revis got hurt. Logically, the Jets should be able to spend money during the upcoming season. Still, the Jets have question marks everywhere.

Grade: D- ■



(Above: Odell Beckham, Jr.'s famous one-handed catch was the high point of a disappointing year for NY football - Photo courtesy of Al Bello/Getty Images)

Varsity Football's Coach Pugh Retires



(Left: Photo by Dominick Totino)

By Justin Boniello '15

After being at the helm of the Varsity Football team at Holy Cross High School for 42 years, Tom Pugh has decided to call it quits.

Pugh announced his decision to retire earlier this month. Although he will no longer be coaching the school's football team, he will continue to work as a guidance counselor in the school.

"The seasons are long grinds, and so are the offseasons," Pugh said. "Having to go across the street at 9.P.M. and eat chicken sandwiches at Dunkin Donuts was an indication that it was time. I made friends with the guy at Dunkin Donuts working the night shift," he said jokingly.

Although his final season did not go as anticipated, he accumulated 215 wins over 42 years as head coach.

He secured seven league titles and led the team to a CHSFL AA championship in 1977. Amongst his greatest accomplishments, Pugh was inducted into CHSAA Hall of Fame and received the 2013 Accorsi Award.

As far as filling the head coaching vacancy, the team's defensive coordinator, Tim Smith, is expected to be named the next head coach. ■