

THE LANCE

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Flushing, New York

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FALL SEMESTER

A New Era of Holy Cross by Alexandra Lynch



Holy Cross Goes Co-ed

After the admission of girls into Holy Cross for the first time in 2018, this school year marks the first time that the school is co-ed across all grades. With the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year and the arrival of the class of 2025, Holy Cross has finally become a fully co-ed school. Though Holy Cross was an all boys school for a great amount of time, this new period in the history of the school marks an incredible change with many opportunities. There have been many positive effects of the incorporation of girls into the school community, indicating that this transition truly was the right choice for the school. The transition from an all boys school to a co-ed school is a huge transformation, one that requires dedication and a lot of changes. For Holy Cross, this change has shown to be an immensely beneficial one, especially for the future of the school. The addition of girls into the school has helped the community in many ways, one being an overall increase in the number of

students. With girls now being able to attend the school, many alumni families are eager to send both their daughters and sons to the school, clearly something that had not been the case in the past. The small Holy Cross community is well known, and now that girls are able to attend, it seems that class sizes are increasing tremendously. The open house in October alone had the greatest number of people attending than ever before, a large number of both male and female students. In addition, the freshman class is the largest class within the school, showing just how much the school is growing with the addition of girls to the school. Mr. Burns, the principal of Holy Cross and a prior student of the school, mentioned that since the inclusion of girls to the school "school spirit and pride has become stronger." Holy Cross takes school spirit very seriously, our motto being "be HC", most definitely reflecting this idea. The addition of girls into the school has strengthened the schools sense of community, as more are welcomed to grow and become successful men and wom-

en at Holy Cross. As the Holy Cross community continues to grow, more opportunities are available to all students. More enrollment makes the school more attractive to families and overall helps to enhance all aspects of the school. When asked about the process of the transition to a fully co-ed community and the decision to make this transition, Mr. Burns explained, "The shift to co-ed felt like the right evolution for the school. Knowing we had the support and encouragement from our faculty, Congregation of Holy Cross, and the support of our local community is what made it seamless and successful." Support within the Holy Cross community is essential, and with a larger and more diverse community, the school is able to thrive now more than ever. Now that Holy Cross is fully co-ed, the first female students will graduate at the end of this school year in 2022. This event will make a very special mark on the future of Holy Cross, as the first group of female alumni will be created. The efforts to make the school co-ed will especially be considered as successful once the group of boys and girls alongside one another finally graduate. This pivotal point in the history of Holy Cross will truly mark the beginning of a new era, as from then on every graduating class will be full of both male and female nights. This transformation has been looking to be achieved for years, and now it is finally here. Holy Cross is now, truly and officially, a fully co-ed high school; a place for everyone, both men and women, to thrive and 'Be HC'.



The Lance

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The Holy Cross community has expanded even greater this year! With the new freshman class of 2025 coming in, Holy Cross has gained some new faculty members as well. These 10 new additions to the community are Mr. Balzano, Mr. Rynasewycz, Ms. Guiseppone, Mr. Velazquez, Mrs. Papadimas, Ms. Gil, Ms. Vetere, Ms. Strauss, Mr. Ketcham and Ms. Trabazo. With so many new faculty members, it is important to learn about these new faces, so The Lance interviewed them. We are very excited to welcome back all of our students and our new faculty members. Read the following interviews to get to know the new members of the Holy Cross faculty better.

Mr. Balzano



Q: What subject do you teach?
A: Mathematics
Q: What are your hopes for this school year?
A: To become acclimated with the nuances of a new community for me at Holy Cross.
Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?
A: For the most part, they are happy to be back together with their peers, experiencing the ups and downs of High School life.
Q:Any fun facts about you?
A: I am an avid Baseball fan and used to ride my bike as a kid to Shea Stadium and try to sneak onto the field. I worked in Finance for many years before deciding to become a teacher and I believe that this was what I was meant to do.

Mr. Rynasewycz

Q: What subject do you teach?
A: Social Studies, Global I and US History.
Q: What are your hopes for this school year?
A: To become involved in the school community and to create a positive stress free environment for all of my students.
Q: What have you learned from your

students so far at Holy Cross?
A: I have learned that my students enjoy learning new things, they are kind, curious, and are very outgoing.
Q:Any fun facts about you?
A: I have coached basketball for 17 years, I enjoy bicycling and have completed two 100 mile bike rides (one from Queens to Montauk), and I am an avid Islander fan.

Ms. Guiseppone

Q: What subject do you teach?
A: Physical Education and Health
Q: What are your hopes for this school year?
A: I hope to be a positive role model for our young scholars by getting involved within the school and the community as much as possible, as well as create a healthy and safe space for them to learn and grow.
Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?
A: I have learned that our scholars are extremely welcoming, and genuine. Also, our female scholars have a pretty intense competitive drive in PE class, even if they say "Ugh! I don't want to play this!"
Q:Any fun facts about you?
A: I rescued three animals within the past two years: Mr. Crumbs at 5 weeks old (a bombay cat), Wattson at 3 months old (a black labrador/ pitbull mix), and Luna at 3 weeks old (a tabby cat). I was born and raised here in Bayside NY, I played soccer for 13 years. I have a fraternal twin sister. I love cooking/baking, painting, yoga, rock climbing, and most forms of physical activity.

Mr. Velazquez

Q: What subject do you teach?
A: Theology
Q: What are your hopes for this school year?
A: I'm looking forward to assisting my students in gaining a deeper understanding of our faith and the study of theology. This will play a big role in further developing the faith experience of our community.
Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?
A: My students have shown me that they have a sense of community and appreciation for each other. This is a great quality which carries over to the classroom and extra-curricular activities.
Q:Any fun facts about you?
A: I celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary this past summer and have an 8 year old daughter who keeps me grounded and humbled by this amazing experience. I'm a die-hard Mets, Nets and Giants fan. I love all types of music.

In particular I love dancing salsa, merengue and bachata. Sometimes I may break into a dance move to get my students attention.

Mrs. Papadimas

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: English

Q: What are your hopes for this school year?

A: My hope for this school year is to give my students an enjoyable learning experience. I want them to enjoy coming to their English class and develop a love for reading and writing.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: I have learned that my students enjoy sharing stories about themselves and their hobbies. I felt very welcomed by my students as a new teacher this year. It is so nice to hear "have a nice day," as they leave my classroom.

Q: Any fun facts about you?

A: I have a 9 month old son named Leontios who is the light of my life. I have visited 10 different Caribbean islands and crossed three European countries off my bucket list: Switzerland, Amsterdam, and Greece. I enjoy fall and everything pumpkin. Hot sauce is my favorite condiment. I absolutely love to bake, and I cannot live without coffee.

Ms. Gil

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Social Studies

Q: What are your hopes for this school year?

A: I hope to become a part of the Holy Cross community by getting involved in after school activities. Also, I hope to make history come alive for students by making it a fun, interactive experience. Finally, I want to be a positive role model for my students and teach students important life lessons through my class instruction.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: Students at Holy Cross are friendly, enjoy their after school activities, and look to be positive role models. They are very ambitious and work hard every day in my classroom.

Q: Any fun facts about you?

A: I played basketball at Skidmore College and was fortunate to be a captain my senior year. I also was a certified weight trainer for a few years and earned a blue belt in kickboxing. I have traveled to Australia where I represented New York in a basketball tournament, to Turkey where I spent one month traveling the west coast of the country, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas where my college team played in a tournament. Finally, I love to cook, clearance shop, and my favorite foods are sushi, steak, avocado, pasta, and FRENCH FRIES!

Ms. Vetere



Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Social Studies (Global I & II)

Q: What are your hopes for this school year?

A: I hope to create a positive classroom environment for all my students, and to not only teach social studies, but also important life skills as well.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: I see how much they appreciate the friends they've made here and how much they enjoy athletics and their various extracurricular activities.

Ms. Strauss

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Science - Introduction to Biology and Earth Science

Q: What are your hopes for this school year?

A: I'm eager to assist my students in gaining a deeper understanding of our natural world through the study of biology and earth science. This will be fundamental in their growth as advocates for the preservation of our Earth.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: My students have shown me that they share a sense of family and appreciation for their education. This is a great quality which carries over to all areas of their lives.

Q: Any fun facts about you?

A: I love traveling, especially anywhere Disney. I enjoy movies and live theater. I have one daughter who is currently in law school.

Mr. Ketcham

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Social Studies (Global I, Global II, and Political Science/Economics)

Q: What are your hopes for this school year?

A: I hope to become a part of the Holy Cross community and to create an enjoyable learning experience for all of the students I have the privilege of interacting with everyday. By the end of this year, I hope that my students are able to gain a greater understanding of how important it is to study history and the world around them. I want all of my students to understand that history isn't just simply a list of dates and

events in their textbook but the movements, issues, and trends that continue to be relevant in our society today.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: I have learned that the students at Holy Cross are very friendly, always willing to help out their peers, and are willing to go the extra mile both inside and outside school. I have also learned that many of the students at Holy Cross love to participate in extracurricular activities offered after school.

Q: Any fun facts about you?

A: I am a big sports fan. My favorite sports team is the New York Giants. In my free time I also enjoy watching movies, practicing boxing, and going camping during the summer.

Ms. Trabazo

Q: What subject do you teach?

A: Spanish

Q: What are your hopes for this school year?

A: I am hoping that I will successfully get all my students ready for the next level of Spanish. That they become interested in pursuing a career in the language and that they gain a better understanding and appreciation of the extremely rich culture our language has to offer. I am also looking forward to working with students outside of the classroom with the Animal Rescue Club and that students build more compassion towards animals.

Q: What have you learned from your students so far at Holy Cross?

A: I learned there are many different students with many different backgrounds, which I appreciate so much. I learned there are many who are very dedicated and respectful.

Q: Any fun facts about you?

A: I love to hang out with my friends, workout in the park, run, walk, Coney Island, the beach, I started my own non profit. I'm a very PROUD vegan, I enjoy rescuing animals and advocating for them. I enjoy everything that has to do with criminology and criminal law, hence the reason I have a second Master of Arts in Criminology and Justice from St. John's University. I enjoy dancing merengue, bachata, and reggaeton. I was raised in Hell's Kitchen way before it became gentrified. I enjoy going out to eat at places in Williamsburg and Bushwick in Brooklyn.



Student Council

by La'Mon Perry



The Student Council is a group of intelligent, natural born leaders who represent the students in order to help the school learn more about what the students want out of their school. This year we have some very competent students looking to help better Holy Cross after this election. I had a privilege to speak to some of the candidates to learn more about their interests for the school and how they would help preserve the enjoyment of the students. You will also learn about the candidates personally, and hopefully this will lead you to choose the best students for Holy Cross's student council body.

Hannah Maher '25



Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: Hello! As far as clubs and hobbies go, I am part of the campus ministry, student council, business and finance, astronomy, and Mock Trial club. I also enjoy running cross-country with my friends, serving and participating in campus ministry, and writing. Some of my academic achievements include, completing my Girl scout silver award with 75 hours of service, earning the certificate of merit, and certificate of congressional recognition. Including, I completed the leadership institute for cohort 2020-2021 with Girl scouts. I graduated middle school as a member of the National Junior Honor Society, a member of student government, finished with principal honors, and was awarded with The New York City commission on the status of women.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I firmly believe that we can strengthen the community by working with organizations and serving others. The innovation from myself and the rest of

the council body will have great ideas to improve the school, and to encourage everyone to be a CHRIST citizen.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: I would promote and create activities that the school will enjoy, along with many opportunities for service hours such as food drives, cleanups, et cetera. I also think it is a great idea to hold more charity events for organizations and to raise money for a good cause.

Jianna Davneiro '24



Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: While attending Holy Cross High School, during my Freshman year I had tried out for the Girls Holy Cross Varsity Basketball Team and I am still currently on it today. I had also ran Cross Country as a second sport. Coming into my Sophomore year, I had signed up for 5 different clubs. (astronomy, rescue pet club, Broadway, culinary club, and the outdoor adventuring club.) For the past years attending Holy Cross, I had made principles lists for my academic achievements. My passion is to get into a good college for basketball and to get my name around, also make school a much more interesting environment to be in.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I am running for Class President as a Sophomore because I would like my community to experience the best of all during their times at Holy Cross High School.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: The ideas I have will be to lower the prices of school lunch, more activities to do throughout the year and to work with students to resolve problems. I would like to continue a safe and fun environment for all who attend. I would also like to lead with confidence and unite the students with a sense of structure. I would implement these ideas by preparing and explaining the change, acknowledging the loss, then building a plan to make the community better. It takes more than one for a change, so working together will be the best option into a better year.

Jahanara Razack '24

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I play softball and I am a part of the art club at Holy cross. I play instruments on my free time and volunteer at an enrichment program over the summer.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I am running for sophomore class president to make changes in Holy Cross that will make everyone's experience better. This matters because I will be able to represent the people of our grade and have their ideas be heard.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: I hope to bring back school activities in a safe covid-friendly way and to continue what the people of our school enjoy. This will be achieved by allowing me to listen to your ideas of what you want to see in the school, whether it be new or a continuation of something from the past that you found fun or interesting.

Georgia Tentomas '24

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I am part of the science research program, the varsity volleyball team, the Greek club, and the astronomy and astrophysics club. In addition, I have consistently been on the principals list for every marking period since the beginning of freshman year, along with receiving the Spanish honor award. Furthermore, I am in complete honors courses including AP World History. I also have a passion for multiple sports such as volleyball, basketball, tennis and golf.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I am running for class president for my grade because I want to have a significant impact on the school environment and the reconnection of the student body. I would love to represent my class by hearing their voiced concerns and acting upon them in order to create a more inclusive environment.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: One of my ideas for the following school year is to create a more competitive, and healthy, academic environment by anonymously including the highest GPAs into the honor roll. I

believe that this will motivate students to strive for their highest possible potential. One way I would implement this idea is by sharing it with the rest of the student council, along with multiple administrators. Some things I would like to continue are school events, such as the recent movie night, since they allow students to bond and build school spirit.

Stephen M Ovanessian '23

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I am the leading host on HCTV, I am the former Sophomore VP and the Future Junior Class President. Outside of school I train Mixed Martial Arts(MMA) because the will to fight is the greatest thing a human can have in their soul.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: Stephen Ovanessian is running for Junior Class President because this is the culmination of 16 years of burning passion ready to be released to a young and hungry generation of students. I walk the same hallways as you do and I see the same faces as you do, but I don't see these kids smile anymore. It is truly sad to see such a great environment go to waste and I won't let 4 years pass me by. I have gained mass attraction from my work in the HCTV Department and I have used HCTV to elevate myself in school politics because I feel that. I am a great representation of each and every single Holy Cross student. I am running for class president for the betterment of our class. This is our generation! We are not here to take-part, we are here to take over!

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year?What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: The political system Stephen Ovanessian will be implementing at Holy Cross is more focused on the students. The ideas for the upcoming school year are to take serious consideration from our students of the junior class. These kids are young and hungry and they know what they want at this age. Junior year is very serious in terms of academics/sports/and society and we here want to make this school year as comfortable as possible for every type of student that walks into the Holy Cross building. We want a safe environment for all students because we are all different in special ways, but we are in this together. The Stephen Ovanessian Administration's foundation is the students. We believe that One Vote for STEVO, Is One Vote for the Student" because if it weren't for the students of Holy Cross coming in everyday and making everybody's day special, we would not be a strong community. I want to enforce the values of Family and Community at

Holy Cross because that is what being a Holy Cross Knight is all about.

Briana Tola '23



Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: Besides student council I'm apart the lance, I'm the president of the campus ministry club, secretary of campus kids first, president of the autism Awareness committee, I'm apart of the year book club, Broadway and museum club, girls empowerment movement club, noble knights and world language club.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I'm running for junior class president because I care about our students. I want to make the class of 2023's high school experience unforgettable. I have made many changes over the past two years. One big change I made to our school community is black sneakers. This was not only good for the class of 2023 this was good for the whole Holy Cross community!

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year?What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: My idea for this school year is to continue to send the class of 2023 surveys to show the administrators our ideas. The survey has been proved to work because a lot of the class of 2023 asked to have more air conditioning in our school building. With some of the walkathon proceeds we will be able to add air conditioning in our school gym. Another big idea that I had for this school year is a junior banquet that would take place in may. This would be a way for us juniors to celebrate our hard work after this school year. I want us juniors planning the banquet so I have decided to create a junior banquet committee. In March I will be sending all juniors a survey so they can put their song request for the DJ to play at the junior banquet.

Celeste Marrero '23



Q: Tell me a few things about yourself.

What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I became a part of the student council last year. Student Council caught my attention when I realized we weren't doing as many events as we had the previous year, and I knew that was mostly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I wanted to come up with ways to do fun things for the students even through the pandemic, and that was my goal throughout sophomore year. I also joined the Business and Finance Club last year, along with writing for the school newspaper, and taking pictures for the yearbook. I did as much as I could to keep the energy flowing throughout the school, and I had a good time participating in these clubs. This year, besides running for president, I have joined Mock Trial, the Animal Rescue Club, Outdoor Adventure Club, National English Honor Society, and am continuing to help out with the yearbook. I enjoy participating in these activities for the benefit of the school, and myself. I can't wait to see what else I could accomplish throughout the school year!

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I am running for president of the junior class because we have two years left in Holy Cross, and I want to make the best of those years for all the students. I have a lot of ideas that I can not wait to share with the rest of the council, and I know will get the students motivated. The Covid-19 pandemic took a lot of our school time away, so my goal is to rebuild what we missed out on and expand on those ideas and create things to do that everyone will enjoy. I want to be a voice for the students, and do things my classmates will actually enjoy. I am not afraid to talk to the faculty and bring up ideas so I know I will make a great president.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: One idea I have for the following school year is to bring back the senior trip. That is a memory the students will hold onto and I feel if we start planning it now, it's definitely possible. I am willing to do whatever it is to make that happen, and can organize everything in a way that will make it easier to plan and easier on the teachers. Another thing I would like to bring up is the students' choice of jewelry. A lot of students have come up to me with concerns about body piercings, and I feel this is something that should be talked about. Piercings are a way to express oneself and I feel the students and staff can come to an agreement when it is brought up in a proper manner. I would like to continue pep rallies, and expand on the activities involved in these rallies. I would like to do a homecoming,

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where students can watch our sports teams play and celebrate the school spirit. I am willing to run a committee to make something like this happen, and involve students outside of the student council as well to help if they would like to. I hope the students can see these ideas and realize how much I can do with what I'm given. I'm excited to see what this school year brings to all of us.

Gabriella Tesi '22

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I've been a part of the cheerleading team and student council since my freshman year. Last year I began the Cancer Kids First chapter here at Holy Cross, and I also volunteer with CKF individually. I enjoy doing service within and outside of our school community. I co-organized the NHS book drive last year and the senior backpack drive that took place in September.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I'm running for class president because for me becoming president will be one last opportunity for me to better our school as well as form a deeper connection with my peers and the rest of the school community.

A: My running mate Kimberly Johnston and I have been discussing events for this upcoming year and there are a few we are very excited about. One is a senior shirt contest, where the winning design is printed on t-shirts for the entire class. We'd also like to organize a sort of senior field day in the spring. One thing we'd like to continue this year is the tradition of the Christmas Classic. All of these ideas will be discussed and planned with the help of the school administration so that everything runs safely and smoothly.

Carmelo Delorme '22

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: My name is Carmelo but my family and peers call me Melo. I am part of the National Honor Society here at Holy Cross as well as Student Government. I am currently serving as Class President and I hope I win again for Senior Year. My academic achievements are always being on the honor roll. I've been an honor student since the 1st grade and I am proud of myself to keep maintaining that status for the past 11-12 years. A passion I have is Basketball. Kobe Bryant made me fall in love with the game because when he played the game, it was like poetry in motion. Basketball

has been a main part of my life since the 6th grade. I also love Business. I am currently enrolled in business classes here at Holy Cross. I also work on stock markets with my dad. I want to have a business major in college. I am also an altar server at my local parish. I have been an altar server since the 4th grade and I do enjoy serving.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I am running for Senior Class President because I want to be a leader. I love helping people and so I believe when I run for President, my goal is to help the students as well as faculty to improve our school wants and needs. Sometimes my peers will ask me if we can do a certain activity and so I would bring that up with the Council upon agreement. A Class President should have kindness, take initiative, and have great leadership. I believe I fit that criteria based on what peers and teachers think of me. I also want to work with the school faculty and staff to carry out the wishes of my peers and to make our Senior Year fun! A class President should have communication skills and I am friends with most of my Senior class. I feel as if this helps me understand everyone better and how we can carry out our school goals together.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: The idea I have for this year is to satisfy everyone's needs. I feel as if in lunch there's some snacks that people wished were in the vending machine that aren't there. I feel as if we should have a school vote on which snacks should be replaced and which should stay. We should be able to do this with lunch specials for the week so the food is not the same everyday. I also would like our students to get more involved so we should have a monthly Google Form where students fill out what they would like to see new or improved to help better our school.

Valeria Lopez '22

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I'm in the photography club and student council. I'm in the NHS and make Principal's List. I run track and like to play video games and draw.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I'm running for class president because I want to do what I can to make a positive change for my grade for our senior year.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: Anna, my running mate, and I want to bring back wearing gym uniforms during the day and want to make sure our classmates are getting a say in the activities being planned for our final year here.

Kimberly Johnston '22

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have?

A: I've been on the cheer team and softball team since freshman year.

Q: Why are you running for class president for your grade?

A: I'm running for vice president alongside Gaby Tesi because I think we make a good team and will work well together to organize activities. We also want to hear what ideas our classmates have and be able to make them happen.

Q: What ideas do you have for the following school year? What would you like to continue? How would you implement these ideas?

A: My running mate Gaby Tesi and I have discussed organizing a senior field day in the spring, as well as a senior shirt design contest. One tradition that we'd like to continue is the Christmas Classic. We would implement these ideas with the help of administration, and would also take input from the rest of the student council and the senior class. We have some wonderful candidates for our student council this year, and hopefully this helped you as the students learn more about each individual and what to expect out of their campaign. A reminder that the student council is made in order to help the administration appeal to the students and help make this school a better environment for students and the teachers alike. Take this into careful consideration and make sure to vote for the best possible candidates for student council.

Holy Cross Open House

by Irene Mavromichalis

The annual Holy Cross High School Open House was held on October 17th, 2021. The Open House showcases all of the Holy Cross students' talents and achievements throughout the years to future Knights and families. We showcased artwork, our band, athletic interest, and academic achievements. The prospective 8th grade students met faculty and students to get an understanding of our school. The Open House is a great opportunity for our students to serve our community, we had over 100 students volunteer!

SUMMER by Kayla Marcelin

Summer is a really fun time of year. You can do a lot of things during summer. You can go to the beach, go on vacation and even just chill at home reading a good book. You can stay up late watching movies and sleep in the next morning. Summer is about being able to have fun without having to worry about getting in trouble. Summer is about doing more living and less sleeping away your last days of life on this earth. Summer is about being able to enjoy the company of your friends and family. Summer is fun because it's supposed to be the best time of our lives. During summer you don't have to worry about waking up for school tomorrow unless you're in summer school. But that's the sad part about summer when you're in summer school. Now let's not talk about summer school because that's not a fun subject to talk about. In the summer time you can get your first job and make lots of money. Summer is a time to hang out with friends riding bikes, learning to swim. Traveling is another fun thing to do in the summer. If you haven't been to some place before summer is the time to do it. Summer is a time to be able to take a moment and breath. Summer is the time to improve your habits and help yourself grow as a person. You might want to take the summer to work on yourself or take the time to read more books. Summer is the time to learn a new skill like learn how to skateboard or learn how to ski. You might want to learn how to make your own clothes or do hair. I think it's easier to learn new skills when you have lots of free time or just any free time at all. Summer teaches us how to live life and enjoy it. When thinking about summer you should really appreciate all that free time and spend that time wisely because you really never know how many summers you have left until they're gone.

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact by Samantha Sambucharan



The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic left a huge impact on people all over the world in many ways, especially children. Schooling was shut down and children were forced to learn from home. This can obviously be difficult for many reasons, due to homelife circumstances, learning disabilities, and much more. Now that schools have, somewhat, gone back to normal, the transition of doing school at home for a year and now being back in person full time has left a huge impact on children alike. After interviewing a few people from Holy Cross, four out of five people said that being remote/hybrid and now coming back has had a negative effect on their academics. Most children said the same thing- it was hard for them to adjust back to normal schooling after the abrupt disruption of being at home. Furthermore, many even went on to say that because remote learning made it so easy to cheat and not actually learn, they have become lazier and find themselves falling behind with their present studies. In addition, they also mentioned that not only did remote learning mess up their schedule and make it harder for them to get back into a routine, but the loss of socialization in school took a toll on their mental health as well. As one can infer from the information previously stated, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had tremendous impacts on children's education and well being.

Important Truths of the Catholic Church by Aidan Fromann

To follow that magnificent vision of communicating with your Divine Eternal Father, prayer is the ultimate key that gets a person on their knees closer to God's Kingdom. However, as a result of modernization, new ideas, and significant changes, our religious lifestyle has shifted away from Tradition. There is no higher experience than practicing the One True and Holy Tradition that the twelve apostles set out to achieve, no matter how much we change. There are crucial components of the church that many laity have long forgotten and that every Catholic should be aware of. First and foremost, the Holy Eucharist must be received with reverence, as it is the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. We must persevere and hold ourselves accountable for making the right decisions, as well as rely in Jesus Christ's Divine Mercy, who died for our pride. The second fact that everyone of us must understand is that missing Sunday mass was once viewed as a grave sin but it is also understandable that life becomes overwhelming and time becomes limited. Do not be concerned Jesus Christ is waiting for you in the confessional, ready for you to return home. It is important that we speak to our teachers, our parents, our priest in order to understand the ways we can express our faith. Believe in the true power of God's Mercy, and pray to the Most Holy Rosary. God Bless!



HOLY CROSS SPIRIT WEEK & WALKATHON by Briana Tola



The week of October 25th to October 29th we had our Student Council hosted Spirit Week. On Monday, October 25th we had sports day students were allowed to represent their favorite sports team. On Tuesday, October 26th we had decade day our freshman were the 60's our sophomores were the 70's juniors were the 90's and seniors were the 80's. On Wednesday, October 27th we had our wacky Wednesday! Students wore their most creative and weirdest mismatched outfits. On Thursday, October 28th we have our Halloween day. A Lot of our students dressed up as their favorite character or wore a halloween themed outfit. On Friday, October 29th we had our **23rd annual Brother Ralph Edmiston, C.S.C walkathon**. The Holy Cross community was able to walk and support our school. We finished off our walkathon with some warm cookies from the cafeteria!

A Letter From A Transfer Student

by Ayaan Bhatti

To everyone who helped me transition into this new school,

Have you ever felt confused and lost in a new place? Many people face these emotions when they arrive in a new place, such as a new school. I was feeling lost and confused on my first day at Holy Cross. My name is Ayaan Bhatti, and I am currently a sophomore at Holy Cross, and I transferred from Bayside High School. The transition was not that hard for me, as I am sure the same for many of the other students who transferred, or the students who are completely new to the school.

I spent the entirety of last year taking online classes, and did attend school in person. I did not get a chance to experience my freshman year as I should have. However, these past months at Holy Cross make me feel as if I made the right decision to attend here. When I attended Holy Cross for the first time, not only was it my first time attending the school, but also my first time experiencing high school. I was feeling nervous, but also feeling very excited to finally go to school in person, after almost a year and a half of taking online classes.

As I started the school year, I did not know anything about the classes, the clubs, or anything about what I was going to do. I knew a very small amount of people, and I was not close with most of them, and just knew them from middle school. Everyone in my classes was new to me. Since most of my classmates had known other people from freshman year, I had a feeling of being left out. However, as the weeks passed, I started to get more comfortable with talking to more people, and eventually made friends, and got to know the people in my classes.

Holy Cross became to seem more and more familiar to me as I started becoming more conversed with school activities. One of the things that made me feel less anxious were the teachers. The teachers always helped with any questions that I had, and I had a pretty good amount of them. Whether it was a question about a club, or where I had to go for class, they made sure to always give me guidance.

One lesson that I can give to anyone who is new to the school, is to never be afraid to do anything. Whether it is asking a teacher for help, or trying to make new friends, don't be nervous about it. In the beginning, you may feel discouraged or frightened, but once you get through that feeling of being anxious, you will feel more confident, and you will start seeing that there was nothing to worry about in the first place.

Sincerely, the new student

SAT TESTING

by Elizabeth Fazio



The 2021-2022 school year is now in session and students are back to their studies. I hope we are all adjusting well to our new classes and are staying on top of our grades! The end of the first quarter is near, remember to speak to any teachers if you are struggling!

Each year, the school offers a PSAT early on in the year. The Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors have recently taken one on October 13. This is a good opportunity to see where you may be lacking in certain areas and can help you narrow in on what you need to work on for the SAT. However, in recent years, colleges have begun to reevaluate just how important students' SAT scores are. Students have been taking the SAT since it was first introduced to high schools in 1926.

It has been used by college admissions to determine whether or not a student is ready for college and helps award them with an academic scholarship. Yet, people in the last decade have been questioning just how necessary the exam is. Colleges such as the University of California have completely disregarded SAT scores when evaluating a student. Even world-renowned institutions such as New York University and Cornell have made submitting SAT scores optional. But why is this? Those who are against the SAT claim that it can lead to unfair biases, as statistics point to the fact that the majority of those who perform well on the exam are White and Asian-American. Another argument they make is that the SAT favors students who can afford to pay for a tutor or enroll in a studying program that helps them prepare for the exam. Some people believe that a more beneficial way to evaluate students would be through teacher recommendations and placing a greater emphasis on their grades and overall progress throughout their high school career. Nonetheless, even if colleges remove the SAT requirement, the majority of them will create their entrance exam that is not as adverse as the SAT.

I would like to wish the best of luck to all students who are taking the SAT this year; with a positive attitude and lots of hard work, you will succeed!

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**HOLY CROSS
CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM**

by La'Mon Perry



Student-athletes require athletics to succeed, whether as a future professional choice or a simple recreational activity. However, this past year and a half, as a result of COVID-19, several high-risk sports have been canceled or rescheduled for health and safety reasons. Throughout this post-pandemic period, it was challenging for students to participate in many of the activities they wanted because hybrid learning or remote learning prevented them from being at school every day. Fortunately, this year we are almost back to a state of normalcy where teams such as our Cross Country team (led by Coach Mendez and Coach Quinn) can participate in the activity they love. According to junior Andrew Fazio, "Being on the cross country team, I've made so many valuable friendships and memories that I'll never forget...I'm more confident and resilient to all the curveballs that life throws at me." I had the opportunity to speak with some team members and ask them about their time in Cross Country and their adjustment back into the season post-pandemic.

Andrew Fazio '23

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have besides cross country?
A: Anytime I cannot go to practice, whether from shin splints or poor weather, I take advantage of all the clubs our school has to offer. I enjoy attending Mr. Kani's Quiz Bowl and Mr. McCarthy's Business and Finance class. I am studying the LGBTQ+ community for Science Research. I have gotten principal's list every quarter, and I got a five on the AP World exam. I especially love math. In my free time, I enjoy walking in nature and biking around Queens.
Q: What do you like best about your cross country team?
A: We are a very tight-knit team. Everyone knows everyone. No one's got in for anyone -we are all chill with each other (except on sprint days!) We are there for each other at the start and finish line of every race. We sing on birthdays

and laugh on the bus. We have a whole bunch of inside jokes that I cannot even explain. Coach Quinn and Mendez ensure that everyone is being acknowledged and treated with respect. They embrace the diverse abilities of each member and make sure we are always doing OUR best.

Q: How was this season affected by the pandemic?

A: The New York City Parks department required us to wear a mask before each race started. However, as soon as the gun went off, we were allowed to take it off. That requirement only lasted a couple of weeks, as it is now optional. Additionally, we can only race with other Catholic schools due to different vaccination rules in public schools. Otherwise, the season is entirely regular.

Jake Gergyes '23

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have besides cross country?

A: I love to spend time with my friends and take care of my mental health during my free time. I love to join food clubs such as the world language club, culinary club, etc. I love food so much, and I can get incredibly passionate about it. I love to exercise, walk, and eat right.

Q: What do you like best about your cross country team?

A: The best thing about my cross country team is my coaches. Coach Quinn and Coach Mendez make the cross country. When I say they make the cross country, I mean they hold it all TOGETHER. Without coaches like them, cross-country would not be the same. I was TERRIFIED to join a sport this year because I was so scared that I would get a mean coach who would yell at me for every little mistake I made. I have seen and experienced this before, so I was shaking to join cross country. When I first joined, I was welcomed and introduced to the cross country team. I noticed how welcoming everyone was and how the coaches treated us like we were family. We talk about everything on our minds, and it is honestly chill every time we have practices and meets. If we mess up, we never get yelled at by our coaches and are instead given tips and quotes on doing better. Coach Quinn always gives us motivational quotes. I could have never asked for better coaches for cross country. We are one big MASSIVE family. I am so upset that

cross country is ending next week. I honestly may cry because I have never felt this connected to a school team before. Another amazing thing about my cross country team is the motivation of my team. Everyone motivates everyone, and we are in it TOGETHER. WE DO THE YEAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA together. I have never motivated a team more than I have this season in cross country. I started the YEAAAAA in cross country, and now we all do it together YEAAAA. My coach said she would get OH YEAAAAAAAAA tattooed on her. In cross country, we do not mess around; at the end of the day, when we part to go home, we are all still in this world together connected. Just because we are not physically together does not mean that we are not in this world RIGHT NOW doing something, and maybe even thinking of one another.

Q: How was this season affected by the pandemic?

A: This season was not affected by the pandemic that badly. We can all go to the meets, practices and on the bus to travel to the meets and parks to practice. Last year, before I got vaccinated against Covid-19, I was not comfortable joining any sports. However, now that I am fully vaccinated this school year, I feel comfortable joining sports teams now. Practice is just as it would be with no pandemic, and I feel safe and honestly amazing.

Cindy Leung '22

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have besides cross country?

A: My name is Cindy, and a few things about me are that I am an excellent photographer, a painter, and a great flutist.

Q: What do you like best about your cross country team?

A: Not only is it great for getting a good workout, but the team is almost like another family. We are all close, and we like to see each other succeed!

Q: How was this season affected by the pandemic?

A: Since I lived far away, I only went on the days I came to school; I was hybrid last year, so I only came in every other day. We had practice every day, but since it was outside, we did not have to wear masks, as long as we were adequately socially distanced, of course!

Lauren Emmett-Turner '23

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do

you have besides cross country?

A: At Holy Cross, I will be a part of the Yearbook Staff. I love taking pictures of people at the moment. It is something I have been very passionate about ever since I was young. When coming into Holy Cross, my goal was to get on to Second Honors (a small goal, I know). However, I achieved that goal in my Freshman year. Sophomore year I made a new goal, To make the Principal's List. I surpassed my goal and made the First Honors and Principals List. I even got the Academic Achievement Award. This year I made a new goal, to make Principals List all four quarters, and I am on track.

Q: What do you like best about your cross country team?

A: The best thing about this cross country team is the coaches and teammates. Coach Quinn and Mr. Mendez are the test coaches here. Whenever we go to meets or practice, Mr. Mendez never fails to make the whole team laugh. Coach Quinn is excellent too, and she is always encouraging us to be better than our last.

Kiana Reyes '22

Q: Tell me a few things about yourself. What are some of the clubs or hobbies you are interested in? What kind of academic achievements and passions do you have besides cross country?

A: I play softball, and I am also the 2nd baseman for the team; I am not much of a good student, but since I am on a school team, it helps motivate me to push for better and stronger grades.

Q: What do you like best about your cross country team?

A: I like my cross country team because we all treat one another as if we are family, and during a race, we all cheer each other on because we know how hard a race can be.

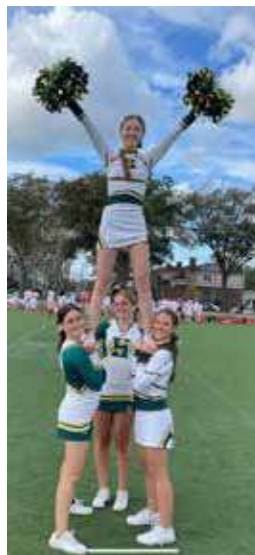
Q: How was this season affected by the pandemic?

A: Most of our races were cut short, and no medals were handed out, so it felt like we all were racing for no reason. Although the effects of the quarantine and many mandates have gotten in the way of many school activities, students have still managed to stay safe with all their after school activities. The Holy Cross Cross Country team has found ways to stay close together as a team, and stay active. They are a prime example of an encouraging team and proud representation of the Holy Cross Community.



Cheerleading

by: Alexandra Lynch



With the start of the new school year, the Holy Cross cheerleaders have picked up their poms and started cheering on our football team for this new season. Finally back in school full time after the chaos we all faced last year, the cheerleaders are finally able to get back to some normalcy and cheer on Holy Cross athletes once again. With many restrictions last year, the cheerleaders unfortunately never got to cheer on the football or basketball teams like they would in a normal year. Luckily, this has changed with the new school year, pushing even more girls to try out for the team. With everyone in school full time once again and Holy Cross finally being co-ed across all grades, there was an immense increase in the amount of girls who tried out for the team. In the past, there had not been as great an amount of girls interested in trying out for cheerleading. This was mostly because prior to the pandemic there were less girls, as only the class of 2022 and 2023 were co-ed, and once the pandemic did happen, less people were in school overall. All of these factors limited the amount of girls who tried out, but this year there seems to be an incredible increase in the amount of girls interested in cheerleading. Juniors and seniors who have been on the team since their freshman year report that this year there were more girls trying out than ever before.



For the first time, Ms. Paprocki, the cheerleading coach since last year, had to split the team into junior varsity and varsity teams. In the past, the Holy Cross cheerleaders only cheered for varsity teams as they had a limited number of girls. After four years the team was finally able to grow and split into two teams, great news for Holy Cross, showing an increase in school spirit. According to Ms. Paprocki, the junior varsity girls should be cheering for the JV boys basketball team once the season starts, and the varsity girls should be cheering for the varsity boys basketball team likewise. With the football season ending, the varsity team continues to work on new cheers, dances, and stunts for its next season, and the junior varsity girls work on learning all of their cheers. With the new school year looking up from last year, we hope to see more of the Holy Cross cheerleaders at games and pep rallies continuing to raise the school spirit of our knights!





SOCCER

by Samantha Sambucharan

With the Soccer season over already, the players were asked about what they thought about the season, and what it felt like to them. Below are responses from members of the JV and Varsity team.



"I felt the season was over so much quicker than it should've. We suffered many tough setbacks, but we still stuck through it. The team played with a lot of passion, but it was an unfortunate ending. I have made a lot of bonds with my teammates, bonds that I am going to continue to cherish for the rest of my life."

- Edward Harnet (Member of Holy Cross Varsity Boys Soccer Team)



I feel like we had a solid season. We started the season off kind of weak and it took us a few weeks to become the strong team we are. Thanks to our Coach Diego and Mario, we were able to learn new tactics and take them out on the field. It is truly sad that our season ended in such a short span of time but next I really do hope things are different and we will come back stronger and harder"

-Tristan Mompont (Member of Holy Cross JV Boys Soccer Team)

The boys of the Holy Cross Soccer Teams shared an overall great season, which they are excited to get back into next year. In the meantime, many will be training, focusing on school, or doing other athletic activities. To all seniors, we are wishing them the best of luck with their soccer careers as they move onto college. Special recognition to the coaches of the JV and

Varsity teams for their hard work for their teams throughout the seasons.



Varsity Football

by Irene Mavromichalis



This year our football team has switched back to tackle football after playing flag football last year due to health concerns. The Varsity team, led by Head Coach Smith, is ecstatic to be back! The captains for the Varsity team are Devin Grant, Anthony Marin, and Nicholas McAloney. On November 7th the Knights beat Mount St. Michael in the first round of the playoffs and are advancing to the next round!



BOWLING

by Elizabeth Fazio



The Holy Cross Bowling Team has returned for the 2021-2022 school year! This is Mr. Arens' first year coaching the team, as it used to be coached by Mr. LaGreca. There is a Junior Varsity team as well as a Varsity Bowling team, both of which are run by Mr. Arens. Tryouts took place last month. Students were selected for the team based on their abilities and their desire to learn and improve. As of now, there is no set schedule for how often they meet. However, Mr. Arens is working on getting the team to meet once a week. The team has games every Tuesday at Whitestone Lanes. Their first game was on November 2. Sophomore Michael Palmisano bowled a 279, (the highest possible score is a 300!) Senior Jason Anozier bowled a 182. Excellent job to them both! On behalf of myself and everyone here at the Lance, we would like to wish the bowling team a successful year with many wins and lots of fun!

