

APRIL 2022 SPRING SEMESTER

Holy Cross High School Announces New President – Mr. Mark Mongelluzzo '92



Holy Cross High School announced the appointment of Mark Mongelluzzo as its new President effec-

tive July 1, 2022. The announcement was made by John Gerspach, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Holy Cross. It was made after a nearly sixmonth search, upon the recommendation tne search committee, and was approved by the Holy Cross Board of Directors and bybthe Corporate Members, Brothers of

Cross, Moreau Province. Mr. Mongelluzzo will succeed Mike Truesdell, who is retiring on June 30, 2022, and who led the school through its highly successful transition to a co-educational institution as well as the planning for its

> new Athletic and Convocation Center which should begin construction later this year. "We are thrilled to have Mark as the next President of Holy Cross," said Gerspach. "His leadership qualities, knowledge of our school and community, and professional skills are exemplary. We are both excited for and confident in our future with Mark

in our future with Mark as the school's chief executive." A member of the Holy Mike TruesCross Class of 1992 and life-long resident of Bayside, Mr. Mongelluzzo is currently

Vice President for Advancement at Xavier High School, a Jesuit secondary school in Manhattan, where he has worked for the past thirteen years overseeing fundraising, stewardship and alumni relations and where he has participated in various aspects of strategic planning and Board governance. He earned a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Boston University. Mr. Mongelluzzo's volunteer activities include serving as the current Vice President for Lightweights of the Yale Crew Association, as an Alumni Fund Agent for the Yale College Class of 1996, an Associate Fellow of Timothy Dwight College and a former member of both the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Bayside, his home parish. "I am the product of a Holy Cross education and I am deeply grateful for the education I received there," notes Mongelluzzo. "I am as humbled as I am enthusiastic to have the opportunity to lead Cross in the next chapter of its storied history. What was clear throughout the interview process was the great affection and care the faculty, administration, Board of Directors, students and alumni all have for Holy Cross. I know that I have great partners in the work of moving our beloved Cross forward and I am excited for the opportunity." Founded in 1955, Holy Cross High School in Flushing, New York, is a Catholic, secondary, co-educational institution sponsored by the Congregation of Holy Cross which espouses the values and philosophy of Blessed Father Basile Moreau, congregation founder and consists of 17 high schools and seven universities and colleges in the United States.nent throughout the ceremony.



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Interview with New Holy Cross President Mr. Mark Mongelluzzo '92

by: Briana Tola '23

The Lance

Published by the students of Holy Cross High School

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This publication seeks 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 the moderator.



Thad the opportunity to interview our **L**new president, Mr. Mark Mongelluzzo. We are very excited to welcome him back to Holy Cross. Mr. Mongelluzzo is a knight himself; he graduated from Holy Cross in 1992 and was president of the National Honor Society and Associate Editor of The Lance. He also worked part-time in the bookstore and the Chemistry Lab and taught CCD at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. After Holy Cross, Mr. Mongelluzzo attended Yale and graduated with a B.A. in History in 1996. After Yale, he received a Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in 2001. After practicing law for several years, he switched careers and transitioned into Catholic education. For the past thirteen and a half years he has been an administrator at Xavier High School, a Jesuit school in Manhattan. We are very excited to welcome Mr.Mongelluzzo home. This is a little bit about him:

methods; and ensuring that our students can pursue excellence in everything that they do-from academics to athletics and service to forming their faith. These goals will require hard work to achieve, but we have a Board of Directors, a faculty, an administration, a parent population and an army of dedicated alumni who are ready.

Q: What is your favorite memory from when you were a student here at Holy Cross?

A: It is hard to pinpoint one in particular. I think overall it is that feeling that I was cared for, that the faculty, administration and staff were always rooting for all us and wanted to see us succeed. I was a good student (disclaimer, yes -I was Salutatorian of the Class of 1992) and I enjoyed the intellectual challenges of the classroom (nerd alert) and the give and take with faculty in and out of the classroom. I am still in touch with many of my teachers from 30 years ago and look



Brianna Tola '23 with New Holy Cross President - Mr. Mark Mongelluzzo '92

Q: What are your goals as the new president at Holy Cross?

A: Holy Cross has had a very successful transition to coeducation and we are all excited for the first graduating class to include young women this June. It is wonderful. But the challenges of managing a Catholic high school in the 21st Century in Queens, New York remain. We have population demographics, an increasingly secular society, smaller families, empty church pews and fewer Catholic schools. There is a lot of noise out there that can easily drown out the importance of our Holy Cross mission, so we still have some growing pains to work through and challenges to face. I am confident that we will work through them. My goals include having Cross alumni come back and give back more than they have ever before; engaging with parents more; strengthening the bonds we have in our Queens communities; ensuring that our faculty continue to be provided opportunities to grow professionally and to continue to innovate in their instruction

forward to the opportunity to engage with them even more in my new role. I learned how to write well at Holy Cross and that was a tremendous asset for college and law school and life. More importantly, I learned to have confidence in myself, to question, to speak up and to step up. I learned all of these things because I knew that there were people supporting me. That was abundantly evident every day I walked through the halls of Holy Cross.

Q: What are your favorite things about **Holy Cross?**

A: I have always loved that the Holy Cross community is a family that cares for one another. We have never been the largest Catholic high school in the area and that has always been our strength. We are a diverse, dedicated, enthusiastic, scrappy and faith-filled community. We are often underestimated and have been counted out on a number of occasions. But we are still here. I love that about Holy Cross. We are resilient and our alumni are a courageous, caring and impressive lot of men. Like everyone

else, I look forward to the stories that our women will write as well in years to come. Q: What is your advice for a Holy Cross student?

A: Take advantage of everything you can at Holy Cross. Challenge yourself, believe in yourself and ask for help when you need it. Join as many clubs and activities or try out for as many teams as you can. And work on your faith, practice your faith. Go to church, even if it is without your family. When it comes time to apply to college, do not get caught up in the hoopla of name recognition, but find a place where you will do well and can thrive. And listen to your parents in the process. If your second or third choice makes you a financial offer you cannot refuse, take it. The student loan crisis is real and it is very unfortunate. If the economics of the situation do not work, change course. Early on in his papacy, Pope Francis told the youth of the world, ""Dear young people, let us not be satisfied with a mediocre life. Be amazed by what is true and beautiful, what is of God!"" I second that notion. The world has enough mediocrity. We need Holy Cross students who are innovators, dreamers and perhaps most importantly, caregivers.

Q: Do you have a favorite quote that has helped you throughout your life?

A: I am a firm believer that you cannot be afraid to fail in life. If you are, then you are not likely to succeed. So I have always been partial to that quote from Theodore Roosevelt entitled The Man in the Arena from a longer speech he gave in 1910. It might be a little tired from overuse, but it resonates:

"It is not the critic who counts; ... The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, ... who errs, who comes short again and again, ... but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." You must give it a shot if you want to succeed. That has always resonated with me. I do not want to be a timid soul. Recently, as I prepared for the interview process for the presidency at Holy Cross I was inspired by this quote from Blessed Fr. Basil Moreau, CSC: "With eyes of faith consider the greatness of your mission and the wonderful amount of good which you can accomplish."

With the help of the Holy Cross family, I look forward to accomplishing a lot of good in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. Best of luck in the remainder of the school term.

– MM ′92

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

by: Briana Tola '23



Aidan Boyle - future HC Knight, Ian Boyle '20, and Liam Boyle '25

On Friday February 18th Holy Cross had our annual real knights wear pink dress down day. This day was to help raise awareness of Breast Cancer. The Holy Cross Community had the opportunity to purchase a shirt, rubber duck and delicious cake pops made by Sara Keenan '22 and Tiffany Chen '22. Students were also abole to send a Valentine gram to another student. Student volunteers sold shirts during all lunch periods. Unfortunate-ly each year in the United States, about 2,300 in men. With the help of the Holy Cross Knights, we had the opportunity to help raise awareness as well as raise money for a very important cause. We would like to thank Mrs.Kenny for planning this amazing fundraiser!



Irene & Katerina Mavromichalis '22, Britney Defay '22 and Samantha Rodriguez '22



Mrs. Catherine Kenny

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

by: Samantha Sambucharan '22



s we take time to reflect back on Athe many achievements of women during this Women's History Month, it is important to recognize the effect of these changes in our world today. This year at Holy Cross will see the first class of girls to ever graduate from our school. It seems like it was only many years ago that Holy Cross was a boys only school. With this important change in mind, I decided to interview a couple female faculty members here, as well as some men who have seen the change infront their very eyes, regarding their experiences. From the perspective of someone who is a graduate himself, as well as a prominent person in administration today, Mr. Tarpey expressed that the transition has brought a wave of positive energy into the building. He noted seeing more participation from female students, especially in clubs and athletics activities.

One important aspect he included was the amount of female student athletes and their achievements in sports so far. Mrs. Doepfner also added her sentiments concerning the transition. She stated, "My first response when questioned about the change is always that now the school smells better! Although my experience at Holy Cross has been worthwhile, I was part of the minority within the building. I do think there were times when a female voice and presence may not have been as recognized and respected by the male population. I think the female teachers learned that to be accepted and recognized, we had to develop a stronger and more assertive model of behavior in the classroom, while always maintaining a fair and just environment for all. There were some challenging days. I do believe that the change has been for the better. The school certainly smells better! When the school transitioned to co-ed, I felt a shift in student behavior and noticed more acceptance for all within the building. Students do seem to be more attentive to appearance and behavior. Students are not perfect, but there has been some improvement." Furthermore, when questioned, Mrs. Nitti expressed, "As the wife of a graduate and the mother of 2 graduates, I have always been very proud of our school. That being said, we as a school needed to change with the times. The young ladies in our school have added a new dimension and have allowed us to teach in a positive new way. This has definitely been a change in the right direction!" Though it seems like it has been a lifetime, this is the first year that Holy Cross has a school full of girls, in each grade. We hope to see more Lady Knights to come!

Pray for Ukraine by: Irene Mavromichalis '22

In light of the events taking place in **⊥**Ukraine, the Holy Cross community hosted a supply drive and sold bracelets to help the people of Ukraine. The donations from the supply drive were given to social workers at Cohen Children's Hospital where they were then sent to Ukraine the following week. Donations included: travel sized flashlights, diapers, sanitary napkins, soap, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other household necessities. The Holy Cross community also sold "Pray for Ukraine" bracelets outside of the cafeteria for \$2 each. The proceeds were donated to the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria to aid the people and refugees leaving the Ukraine.







Drive For Ukraine by: Ayaan Bhatti '24



These past months have shocked **I** the world with what is going on in Ukraine. The Ukraine-Russia situation has made us all very worried about the citizens of Ukraine, and the inhumane actions being used against them. Innocent people and children are being separated from their families and are in need of our help. We, as a family at Holy Cross have been doing our best efforts to help out and aid the people of Ukraine. On Wednesday, March 9th, we hosted a supply drive in which we asked the students to donate items that would help aid the citizens in need. The supply list consisted of travel sized flashlights, diapers, napkins, soap, socks and other personal hygiene items. We also collected food for the people of the Ukraine that are in need. After these donations were collected, they were sent to the social workers at Cohen Children's hospital where they sent a cargo container to Ukraine. These items would be given to the refugees before they left Ukraine. Unfortunately, students like us can't really do much in order to assist the refugees. However, there are still many things that we can do to help. We can continue to pray, and we can continue to donate products like personal hygiene products. Let's hope that the people of the Ukraine do not have to face any more cruelties than they are already being faced with.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

by: Briana Tola '23



Campus Ministry helps plan the sacramental and liturgical needs of our school community. Campus Ministers are active examples of leadership, service and dedicated to making God known, loved and served in our school community. Campus Ministers are afforded the opportunity to participate in different ministerial options. Campus Ministers can be Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers at school wide liturgies. Campus Ministers are

mostly seen liturgies and vices, but than that! Minis-plan one most imevents for Cross
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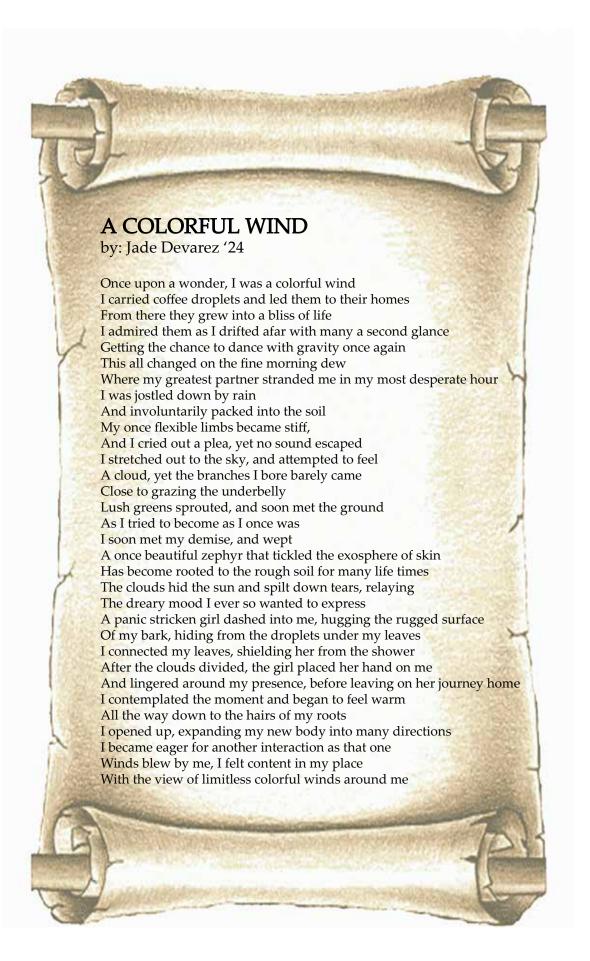
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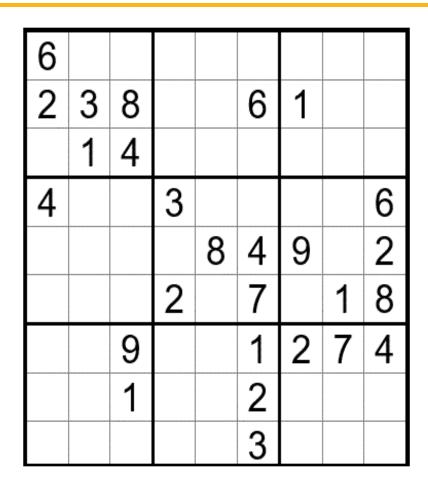
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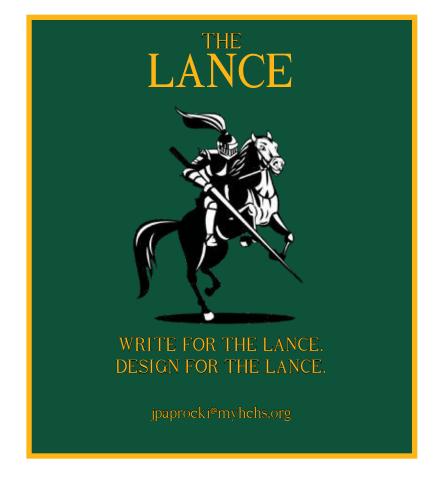
at school wide

start of their Freshman Year. Campus Ministers are always helping out at different admissions events to help show 8th graders our wonderful school. We also help out at Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner, President's Dinner, and Junior Ring Mass. Campus Ministries also help plan retreats to help the students learn about their faith. We would like to thank Mr. Jack Rampulla for always helping to bring more faith into our school community.

Campus Ministry Presidents: Briana Tola '23 & Amanda Waldron '23



























TROTEAM

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ETROTEAM



Black Woman Impacting The World

by: Kayla Marcelin '24

lack women are one of the world's Dmost impactful trail blazers in the world. Women like Patrisse Cullors, Alice Ball, Ruby Bridges, Tarana Burkes impact our world everyday. From the way they think to the way they work. They are the underdogs of society that always end up back on top, showing their resilience. Black women put effort into everything they do because they have to, they do not have the option to be mediocre, they have to be exceptional to attain any opportunity. Due to the initiation of low expectations, mistrust and the likelihood of failure that teach many black women the same lesson; that they will have to work harder than women of other races. That is their power to strive for only the best, to hold themselves to the highest standards. They wake up and try to be the best versions of themselves. Black women care with their hearts and work with their minds. A black woman who I think really shows these qualities within herself is Kaylee Vernon. I was very fortunate enough to get an interview with her. Kaylee was very kind and open with her answers to the questions that were being asked. The first question I asked Kaylee was: "As a black woman going to college soon, what do you see in the future for yourself?" What Kaylee see's in the future for herself is raising awareness for worldly issues that we are all affected by. The two main causes Kaylee would like to raise awareness for is human trafficking and the other cause is equal education opportunity for all. Kaylee wants to to expose the lucrative business in human trafficking. Kaylee would like to build connections with people who could actually help her and further spread awareness. Kaylee would like to work on her philanthropy and run charities for these causes. She

would also like to be a business owner to a salon or run her father's law practice. The next question I asked Kaylee was; "Why did you start the Black History Month Committee?" Kaylee said that when she came to Holy cross freshman year, this was the first time Holy cross celebrated Black History Month. Kaylee said that she didn't feel like the Black History Month celebration reached the school population like it should have. She wanted to do a black history month celebration during her sophomore and junior year but then covid happened. Kaylee is currently in her senior year here at Holy Cross and wanted to celebrate Black History Month by educating the school body about the black lives that created history, something that she feels should be taught in classrooms everywhere. The next question I asked Kaylee is: "What does women's history mean to you?" Kaylee says the woman's history to her means that there's a future for her to do more. Kaylee says that women's history is an example of how women preserveered, they pushed through and didn't allow themselves to be held back. To Kaylee, this shows a whole future of success and shows her what she can do. My last question for Kaylee was: "What do you feel that women have made the biggest accomplishment doing today?" Kaylee says that she thinks one of women's biggest accomplishments of today is to still be fighting the battle of our bodily autonomy. Kaylee believes this is one of our biggest accomplishments today because we are taking and establishing our power. Women have been shamed for their bodies for years and this fight of women taking ownership for their bodies in a society that thrives off the patriarchy. Kaylee also says that she's glad that we still have this

passion that people before us still did. Kaylee is an outstanding young woman, who has accomplished a lot of amazing things. Kaylee will only continue to accomplish her goals and make them into something beautiful. She is really an inspiring woman who I believe will be able to do whatever she puts her mind to. I feel so grateful that I was able to work with her. There are so many fantastic women who have impacted our world such as Patrisse Cullors who is an African American activist, co-founder of the black lives matter movement, artist and writer. Alice Ball who was an african American chemist who developed the "Ball Method" which is still the most effective treatment for leprosy. Ruby Bridges is an african american civil rights activist. Ruby Bridges is known for being the first black child to attend an all whites school in the south. Tarana Burke mostly known for founding the Me Too movement, that helps show survivors of sexual abuse that they are not alone. Tarana is also a public policy strategist, career counselor, inspirational speaker and author. Tarana also helped create the Me Too movement. Women like these inspire me and Kaylee inspires me as well. These women are making a pathway for a new generation of women who are gonna continue making this world a better place.



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

by: La'Mon Perry '23



uring the month of February, the United States recognizes and celebrates the efforts and sacrifices of African Americans who have contributed to shape the country. Black History Month commemorates the rich cultural legacy, victories, and hardships of African-Americans that have left an indelible mark on the history of our nation. This year, the Holy Cross community formed a Black History Month Committee (which was led by Kaylee Vernon '22 and Aaron Jackson '23) that planned different events to discuss the successes and the many struggles African Americans faced in the past and still face today.

Some of the topics that was discussed during the month of February was: Should certain slurs/derogatory terms that are found in historical literature be used and said in the classroom? What is one way you think your life would be different had you been born another race? Is the statement "I do not see color", a true statement?



Each of these discussions were monitored by Ms. Bucciarelli. These discussion groups helped students communicate their thoughts in a different way. One of the key takeaways from these discussions was that it is important to have these "uncomfortable" conversations because that is where the real change begins.

Below I asked two students what their overall thoughts were about the discussions:

Aaron Jackson '23 (one of the coordinators for the BHM Committee)
"I am grateful to have been able to work

with Ms. Bucciarelli and some of my classmates to put together Talk It Up On The T's. I truly saw us help expand the thinking of some of the students who attended them, and to me that's one of the best things I could help give to my peers. I recognize that this is part of more work that needs to be done, both that I want to take on next year and that I hope the students that come after me will as well."

Lauren Emmett Turner '23 (one of the discussionattendees for the BHM Committee) "The Talk It Up On The T's discussions allowed me to listen to other Black students' thoughts on each of these issues and it broadened my perspective a bit. I would have loved to see other poc and more people from other races join in on the discussions just to hear their thoughts and opinions on these subjects. This was a great event overall, and I hope next year we can expand even more to have a bigger impact in our school community."

Overall, these discussions helped change perspective and taught each and every person something on the im-

portance of unity and standing up for what is right just as christians are supposed to do. We still have a way to go when it comes to combating racism against African Americans and the BI-POC community as a whole, but this was a step in the right direction for creating positive change in our community.







Aaron Jackson '23

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VARSITY SOFTBALL

by: Briana Tola '23

Interviewing one of our Softball players

Thad the opportunity to interview one of **⊥**our softball players Melissa Cutrona. Besides being on the HCHS softball team, she is part of the NHS, NEHS, Student Council, and Kho Kappa Social Studies Honors Society.

Q: How long have you played softball?

I played softball since my junior year.

Q: What made you want to play softball? I was always into softball/baseball since I was a kid, and I always wanted to play. During my junior year I decided to just try out for the team with little experience, which I got on the varsity team. Once, joining the team I saw that we all supported each other even if someone made a bad play. This team has shown me what teamwork actually means.

Advice - Teamwork is always the key to success, talking on the field will make the team play smoothly.

Q: What is a quote that inspires you?

"Go hard every play. You don't want to leave anything behind and regret it years down the road that you didn't give it all when you could have." - Ashley DeBuhr



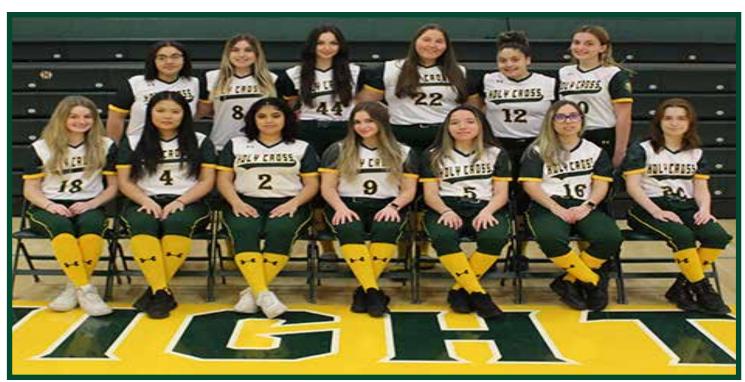
Meilssa Cutrona '22

SENIORS



Maria Rapic, Amber Kisonas, Tiffany Chen, Isabella Defendini, Kim Johnston, Linet Coste, Milani Melendez, Maria Del Greco, Meilssa Cutrona





BOY'S VOLLEYBALL

by: Samantha Sambucharan '22



This year, Holy Cross celebrates the **▲** first Boys Volleyball Team in the history of sports here. Though their season has just started, the boys have definitely been putting in the effort to make the most of the new experience. Edward Harnett (Class of '23) is the setter for the team and has shared his experience with me so far. Edward stated, "I feel like our team has so much potential, especially since this is a new team. Being a part of this is

an extremely wholesome feeling that I am honored to be a part of. I am so excited to grow more as a team and win more games. I just know this season will be one to remember." We wish the boys the best of luck with this new season and hope to see many fans out there supporting them! I spoke with



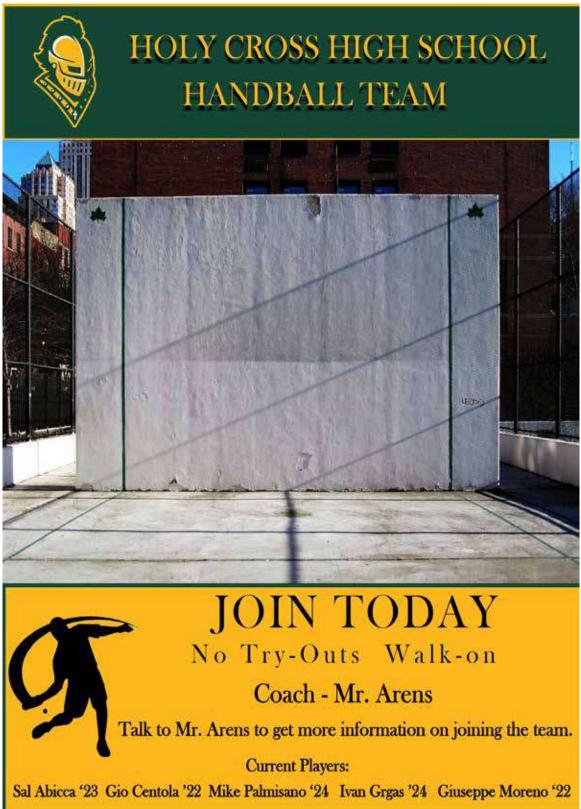
Alex Rios '22, Thomas Gafaro '23, Luke Hammond '24, Justin Pericic '23, John Sweeney '25, Brendan Goger '22 Joseph Herrera '25, Andreas Nathanail '23, Damyan Dekajlo '23, Kawsaar Miah '24, Ed Harnett '23, Derryck Mahadeo '23, Aidan Stroub '25

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LANCE



SPORTS



TRACK TEAM INTERVIEW

by: Elizabeth Fazio '23



Cindy Leung, Class of 2022, about her experiences on the track team. Cindy is a dedicated runner who was also a part of the Cross Country team during the fall months. Coach Warner and Coach Wilkerson work with the students to train for meets and other events. On average the team will have at least two meets per month. She explained that there are mainly sprinters on the track team and Cindy herself is mainly a 100 meter runner. However, she is trying to work on long jumps. The best record for the 100 meter dash is 13.9 seconds, held by senior Destinee Louis-Jacques. Cindy shared with me that one of her favorite memories with the team was the Penn relays Freshman year. Her favorite event to run is the 4x1 and she believes track is a great way to stay in shape. Most of all, Cindy loves the friendships she's made on the team and the incredible bonding she's done over the years.











Thad the opportunity to interview one of our golf player's Nicholas Frederick '23. He is a junior an is also the captain of the varsity football team. Here is a little about Nick!

Q. How long have you played golf?

A. I have been playing golf for 10 years

Q. What made you want to play golf?

Q. What made you want to play golf?
A. My dad inspired me when I was younger, growing up I had always wanted to do something that no one else has an idea of doing. So I decided to play and I love the sport. It will always be a skill that I will never forget. It's great because you can play this sport for your whole life.

Q. Do you have any advice for anyone who wants to play golf?

HOLY CROSS GOLF

by: Briana Tola '23



- A. My advice is to never give up. It's going to get hard at times but the more practice and patience you put into the sport, the better you will get.
- Q. What is a quote that inspires you? A. "Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots - But you have to have to play the ball where it lies."

Bobby Jones



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HOLY CROSS VARSITY BASEBALL

by: Sara Keenan '22

THE KNIGHTS ARE BACK!

Ason along with half of their 2021 season due to the covid 19 pandemic, the knights are finally putting their helmets on and picking up their bats. This years team has a lot of young blood that could have as many as 6 starters in the junior and sophomore class.





Here's a look at our roster:

Seniors:

Tyler Schubert - Captain (Houghton College), Michael Iocco - Captain (Mt. St. Vincent), Derek Kilpatrick - Captain Devin Grant, Nick Divittorio, Blaise Kiley

Juniors:

Justin Acevedo (St John's Commit), Christian Jerez, Elias Hernandez, Thomas Collison, Matthew Farrauto, Joseph Reid, Kevin Acosta, Chris Galindo

Sophomores:

Nicholas Storm, Frankie Mezzanotte, Costa Sfakianos

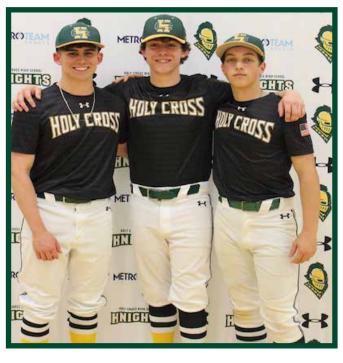
Head Coach: Steve Adams

(11th season, 14th at HC)

Assistant Coaches: Bob Behringer, Mike Socci, Ryan Rinfret

SENIOR CAPTAINS:

Derek Kilpatrick and Michael Iocco will lead the pitching staff while senior Tyler Schubert (2nd base) and Junior Justin Acevedo (shortstop) will anchor the infield up the middle.



SENIORS:

Nick Divittorio, Captain - Derek Kilpatrick, Captain - Tyler Schubert, Devin Grant, Captain - Michael Iocco, Blaise Kiley



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After speaking with Coach Adams it was said that this years team is "the most versatile team" he has ever coached. He also said "We have the ability to move guys around the field, based on who's pitching that day, and not miss a beat" Wish our Knights luck as they take on their first full season since the effects of covid 19.