

THE LANCE

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Flushing, New York

MAY 2022

SPRING SEMESTER

THE FIRST CO-ED GRADUATION CLASS THE CLASS OF 2022!

by: Bertha Wesley '23



As we wrap up the 2021-2022 school year, the Holy Cross community would like to give a special congratulations to our FIRST co-educational graduation class, The Class of 2022! Holy Cross welcomed its first class of girls and boys in 2018 with open arms and as we look at the results, this move can be summarized into two words, "a success". Being a first co-educational class isn't easy. It sets the standard in which following classes will have to follow. It's a daunting task that someone had to take on, however, the Class of 2022,

particularly these young women, have defied the odds with grace and humility. Since then, enrollment to Holy Cross has doubled and has completely transformed the vision that was once in place. Your memory will be embedded into Holy Cross' history books. We should also recognize this is the first graduation "post" covid. Though the Class of 2019 had a "normal" graduation, sadly the Class of 2020 had a graduation unlike any other, as restrictions from the pandemic prohibited an in person ceremony. Though the Class of

2021 was still able to have a ceremony, it was under heavily restricted guidelines as they were only permitted two guests, social distancing, and masks. We would like to thank our first responders, elected officials, and most importantly our Holy Cross faculty and staff for making an in person ceremony possible. We thank our faculty for not just teaching our graduates math, science, etc, but for implementing good morals and into our graduates. Class of 2022- your Holy Cross family wishes you good luck and God's blessing in your future endeavors.



IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1
1st Co-Ed Graduating Class
2022

Pages 2 - 5
A Word from Our Seniors
Autism Awareness
World Language Week

Pages 6 - 7
SENIORS Then & Now

Pages 8 - 9
A Return to Theater

Pages 10 - 12
The LANCE Sports

The Lance

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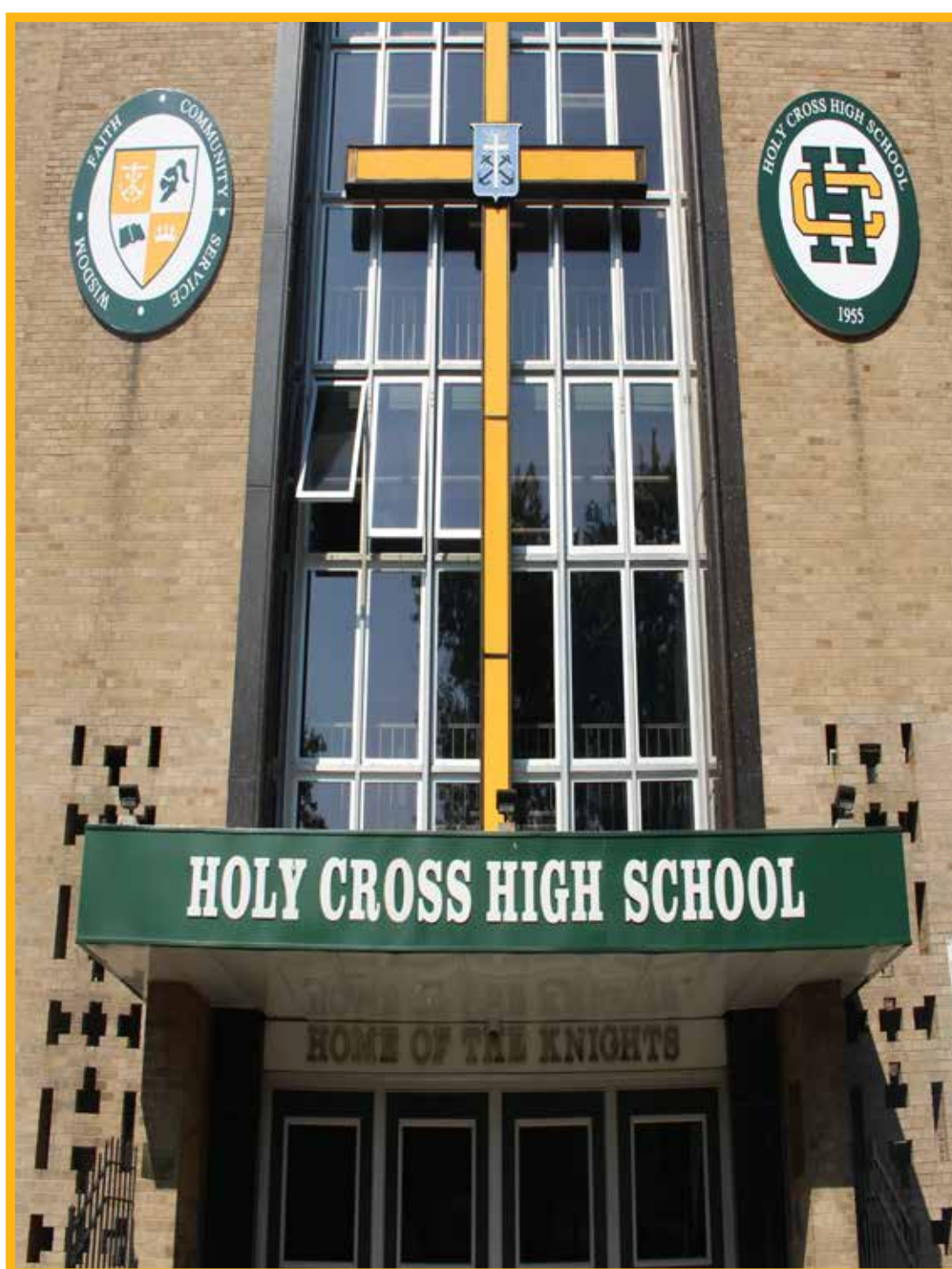


A Word From Our Seniors

by: Samantha Sambucharan '23

As the year comes to an end, we wish the graduating class of 2022 the utmost success in their future endeavors. We want to take this time to reflect so I have asked select seniors to do exactly that. Tyler Schweber plans to attend NYU and major in Bio-Chem in the fall. He expressed excitement, despite his additional nervousness, for the new journey. Additionally, Brandon Mauze is excited to take part in his offer from the University of North Florida (Jacksonville). While he is nervous as well, he trusts that with time, things will fall into place there for him. We, at Holy Cross, wish him the best in his ongoing soccer career. Lastly, I asked both seniors to give a word of advice to the upcoming seniors- Class of '23. Tyler said two things- "Stay focused and keep your motivation strong." Brandon stated, "Do not stress too much on the little things and enjoy the time you have, because it will be over very fast."

Congratulations Class of '22!



AUTISM AWARENESS 2022

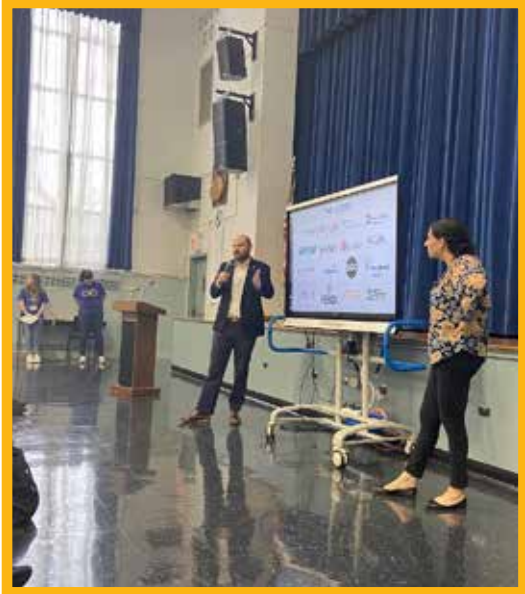
by: Briana Tola '23



Junior Class officers: Stephen Ovanessian '23 Briana Tola '23 President of Autism Awareness committee Celeste Marrero '23

Autism is something that affects the way a person’s brain works. Most people with autism have a hard time communicating with others, and some might have unusual behaviors because their brain are wired differently from yours. People with autism also have many unique strengths and differences. Even though there are many people with autism, each person with autism has very different challenges, special abilities and personalities. Some people with autism may require a lot of help, while others might not need very much at all. There are some who might not be able to talk at all, and others who might talk a lot. Everyone with Autism is unique like we all are. In February the Autism Awareness committee hosted a shirt design contest so our Knights can help design the 2022 shirts! The two knights who won the contest were Isabella Tamayo & Gianna Skala and they did a great job with designing our shirts. Ms.Burchik also made all of the scrunches that were for sale. The Autism Awareness committee along with Mr.Bailey made delicious chocolate covered pretzels to also sell along with shirts and scrunches. On Tuesday April 12 the Holy Cross Community celebrated Autism Awareness day by wearing our 2022 Autism Awareness shirts. Also to celebrate Autism Awareness day we had two guest speakers come from Spec-

trum Designs to spread more awareness to our Holy Cross community. Holy Cross was able to welcome Tim Howe and Marissa Borzykowski from spectrum designs into our school to speak about what Spectrum does. Spectrum Designs wants to help create meaningful and inclusive employment opportunities for people on the Autism Spectrum. The shirts that we all wore on April 12th were made by Spectrum. Myself, Mrs.B and Pagie would like to thank the Holy Cross community with all their support to help spread more Awareness for Autism.



Tim Howe and Marissa Borzykowski from Spectrum Designs





International Week Dancing Dreams Fundraiser

by: Briana Tola '23

The week of May 2 to May 6th Holy Cross Celebrated international week. Each morning different students would say morning prayer in a different language. Another way Holy Cross celebrated international week was by sending international week grams to other students and faculty. On Cinco De Mayo Ms. Diez played Cinco De Mayo with all of her class! On Wednesday May 4th students made cake pops for our school's Dancing Dream fundraiser. I had the opportunity to interview Celeste Marrero. She was the head of the Dancing Dreams Fundraiser and also International week. Celeste is also the Junior Class Secretary in the Student Council, she's part of the English National Honor Society, Fashion Club, The Autism Awareness committee, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, and the Girls Empowerment Movement. Here is a little about Celeste!



Q:What is the Dancing Dreams Organization?

A: Dancing Dreams is a non-profit organization that gives children with special needs the opportunity to dance and perform with the help of volunteers, despite their physical and/or mental disabilities.

Q:Why do you feel that it is important for the Holy Cross Community to learn more about the Dancing Dreams Organization?

A: I feel it is important for the Holy Cross Community to learn more about the Dancing Dreams Organization because it embodies a community of people that are being given the opportunity we all take for granted. Being able to work with this organization and become a part of it has given me a different perspective on life, and is something that would be great for other students to take part in.



Q:What is your favorite part about the Dancing Dreams Organization?

A: My favorite part about this organization is the joy and opportunity it provides to the children taking part in the dance classes. They enjoy going to class and dancing with the volunteers, and it gives them something to look forward to and also provides them goals to reach.

Q:How can others volunteer for the Dancing Dreams Organization?

A: Others can volunteer for the Dancing Dreams Organization by going on their website, <https://dancingdreams.org/volunteer/>, and clicking on their "volunteer" tab, where it provides the information on how to apply. It only takes 1 hour a week to make these children smile, and everyone should take part in this amazing opportunity.



HOLY CROSS KNIGHT STEPPERS

by: Kayla Marcelin '24



The Holy Cross Knight Steppers is our high school's step team. Freshmen, Querube Najm- Al- Din with the help from Phys. Ed teacher, Ms. Guiseppone decided to start a step team at Holy Cross. When asked why a step team? Querube stated that she started the step team with Ms. G because she felt that there was not enough diversity in sports at our school. Ms. G had an informational meeting in February to get other young men and women interested in joining the team to sign up or get their questions answered. The step team held their first practice in March of 2022. Guidance counselor, Ms. Velocci heard the announcement about the meeting and wanted to be part of the team. Ms. Velocci was a stepper in her high school and college. She felt that she could add to the team. Freshmen Querube Najm- Al- Din and Aidan Javier are currently captains of the step team. We have eight members but hope that in September, we can expand that number to a larger group. We have four routines that the team practices three times per week to make sure we master them. We hope to perform at competitions, pep rallies and games in the 2022-2023 school year. The Holy Cross Knight Steppers are very determined and dedicated to the team and to show Holy Cross High School what it is to be a Knight Stepper.

If you have any questions about the Holy Cross Knight Steppers, please reach out to the coaches:

Ms. Guiseppone
(cguiseppone@myhchs.org)
Ms. Velocci
(lvelocci@myhchs.org)

GO KNIGHTS!



WORLD Languages

WEEK

by: Isabella Lombardo '24

As a ethnic person who embraces their culture significantly, it is safe to say that the Holy Cross community has done an exceptional job at commemorating the culture it harbors within its walls. Throughout the short time I have been able to witness it, the collaboration between the staff and the student body has created an environment where no person feels as though they do not belong. World Languages week is an exploratory celebration of what our institution stands for. Ms. Diaz, an exceptional member of the staff at Holy Cross, is in charge of organizing the remarkable week.

Q: What made you want to create World Languages week?

A: We have been carrying out World Languages Week for decades. I organized it to celebrate diversity and acknowledge each other's cultures. I strive to bring awareness and respect to the different cultures at Holy Cross High School. International night, at the end of the week, pulls the celebration to a close. However, due to Covid, we weren't able to host it this year, but we look forward to celebrating next year.

Q: What is something you want to change about the way we celebrate World Languages Week at Holy Cross?

A: I would like to have more dedication to the week despite the hectic month. It isn't easy to pay homage

to other activities while so many important things are happening at the same time. I would hope for a better time line to fully have representation.

Q: Would you say that the way culture is viewed during World Languages week has changed since it first started?

A: No, I would say the way it's viewed has stayed the same, although there is much more involvement now. I could definitely say that we've come a long way since we started.

The prayer said in different languages is a beautifully executed way of incorporating religion into our week-long honoring, and the inclusion of different foods really lets the student body experience the different flavors each culture has to offer. The decorations adorning the halls and cafeteria demonstrate the school spirit that students embody towards this week-long observance.

A special thanks to the students who read the prayers in different languages and participated, Marco and his staff in the cafeteria for the remarkable food, and everyone who assisted in coordinating World Languages Week.

Isabella Lombardo

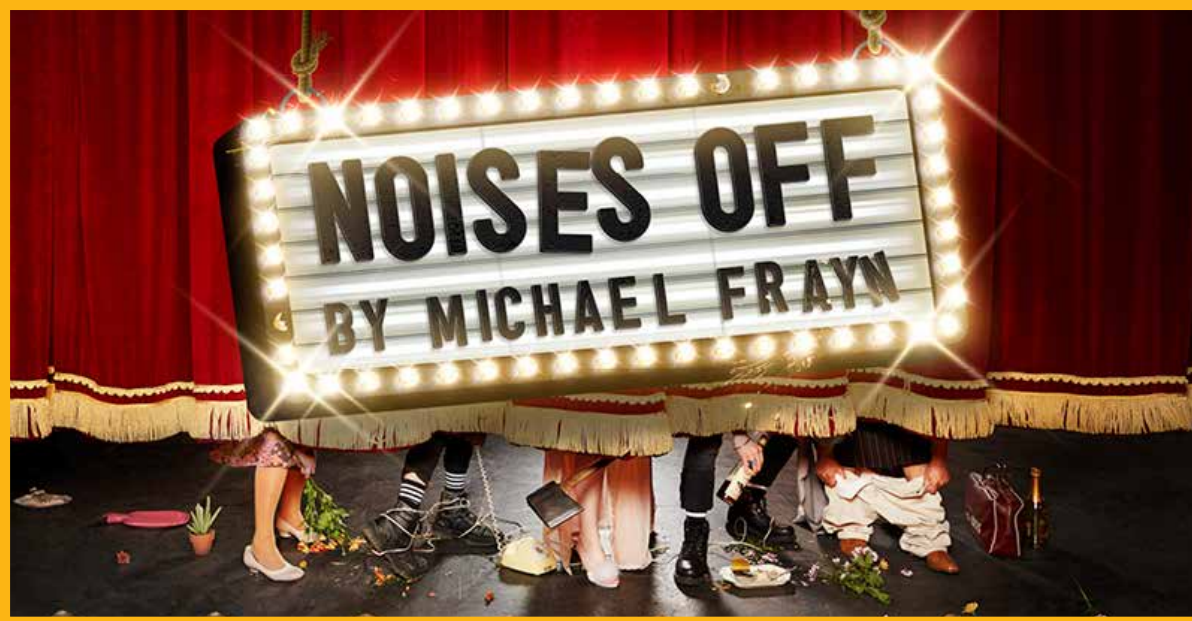






A Return to Theater

by: Alexandra Lynch '23



Picture this: it's a random Monday in late January and you're waiting on the lunch line with your friends as usual, when Mr. Kani approaches you to mention that he might be doing a play this year. When my friend, Jenny Drakoulis, and I first heard this news we were excited but not terribly convinced that it would actually happen. At the time the mask mandate was still enforced and we had just barely made it out of yet another spike in COVID cases, and when so many things are canceled over the past 3 years because of the pandemic, you start to lose hope. Who would have thought that only slightly over two months after this encounter, I would be falling through a window in a gigantic structure on the Holy Cross stage in front of an audience full of my teachers and peers?

After about 10 years without theater at Holy Cross, it was a shock to much of the community (including myself) that we were actually able to pull off such a complex play.

"Noises Off", written by Michael Frayn, is a comedy where all of the characters are trying to put on the play "Nothing On". Due to the fact that "Noises off" is a play within a play, it is highly confusing. To add to this complexity was the fact that the majority of the cast had to play two characters, one with a British accent when performing "Nothing On", and another when we played the real actors trying to put on their show. The cherry on top of everything occurs within the second act, when the entire set, complete with seven doors and a staircase, has to rotate to show the "backstage". This meant that this enormous wooden structure needed wheels strong enough to hold its weight throughout the show, and for the stage crew to flip it backwards and forwards between act one and two, and two and three. It seemed nearly impossible to me and most of the cast that such a monstrosity would ever be built in such a short amount of time, but Mr. Kani insisted to us that, one way or another, it would get done. However, he never promised that there wouldn't be set-

backs. The aim was to get most of the building done about two weeks before the play, yet, to our dismay, this proved to be impossible. This meant that we had to continue to practice a show where entrances and exits are the most essential part of the play without any doors or stairs built. This setback had been disappointing at the time and stressful as it complicated things, but we kept our heads up with the guidance of Mr. Kani and Ms. Gianna, and luckily we got through it. With the help of Deana Kani, William Maher, Anthony Nitti, Brian Killen, Jimmy Brosi, and Austin McManus, who all gave up their own time on weekends, we were able to complete the set on the Sunday right before opening. However, even then, the painting still needed to be done and



the wheels needed to be fixed before we could rotate the set. Our worries for weeks had panned out right before our eyes, but with the help of Mr. Ware and some of the cast over the weekend, the set was painted and finalized the day before the show. The wheels were not fixed until Wednesday, so we had to practice backwards at times, and eventually, we just began to pray that the wheels wouldn't collapse when we did rotate it. Through the help of the many connections within the Holy Cross community, Mr. Kani, Ms. Gianna, and Mr. Ware, and through quite a few miracles, the set was built and functioned safely throughout both of the shows. It truly took a village to reach this success. The malfunctioning and uncertainty of our set proved to be a challenge throughout the rehearsal process, but it truly showed how resilient our cast and crew was despite these challenges. A large part of "Noises Off" is consumed

by entrances and exits, and the comedic timing of these entrances and exits. Without a set, for weeks we mimed climbing up the stairs and opening and closing doors. Once we finally did get our set, we had all of our lines and cues memorized, but it had been a challenge to assimilate to the monstrosity on the stage. Gabriella Tesi and I wore heels for our costumes, which meant we had to practice running up and down stairs without falling and injuring ourselves. Jenny Drakoulis had to practice 'falling' on the second floor of the structure, a challenge in itself, and also falling down the stairs of the structure. Leah Gonzalez had to practice breaking in through a window, pushing down plexiglass over and over again, and Julia Muczynski had to practice replacing it. Paige Mahon and I had to figure out how to run down the stairs with sheets on, and Ripley Petrovic and Gabriella Tesi had to practice fighting one another while on the stairs. I also had to practice falling backwards through a window, which had its incidences. There was so much that we had to practice in the short period of time before the show that we were never able to practice without a set, yet somehow we did it. The rehearsal process for "Noises Off" began in February, with three to four rehearsals for the first few weeks after school until 4:30. Eventually, when there was only two weeks until the play we began rehearsing every weekday after school. The first week, we rehearsed Monday through Friday after school until 6pm, many of us canceling other extracurriculars to devote our time to the play. During the final week, we rehearsed every day after school until 10pm, trying our best to complete homework without being sleep deprived and eating pizza at school until we became sick of it. It was rough spending so much time at school when many of us have other commitments and responsibilities, but it was an incredible test of our perseverance. I learned how to balance a thousand things at once and how to adapt to stressful situations through this experience, which is sure to be useful as I grow older and gain more responsibility. Being with the same people for hours on end every day allowed me to make connections and develop relationships with people who I had previously barely known. The development of "Noises Off" required an immense amount of communication and teamwork in order to get through the difficulties we experienced and to create a production worth seeing. There were times in which we became frustrated with one another and times where some of us wanted to walk away, but in the end we were able to work together and create a truly worthwhile show. However, this could not have been done without the dedication of Ms. Gianna

and Mr. Kani. Both Ms. Gianna and Mr. Kani sacrificed their own time to allow us to fulfill our passions and indulge in our talents with “Noises Off”. Through their direction, we were able to work together and create a chemistry on stage that was unmatched from anything I have ever experienced. They taught us how to communicate with one another and how to persist through every little bump in the road. The experiences and lessons that I have learned from these two truly exceptional people will never be forgotten. It was only through their hard work and faith in each and every one of us that we were able to create such a memorable production. In addition to Ms. Gianna and Mr. Kani were our incredible stage managers, Elizabeth Fazio and Ashley Altoro. Both Liz and Ashley came to every single rehearsal, giving the entire cast notes after each rehearsal and advising us on how to be the best performers we could possibly be. Though neither of them were shown on stage, they had just as big a part in the development of the play as everyone in the cast, if not, bigger. It takes a certain kind of individual to dedicate your own time to a production where the light doesn’t shine directly on you, and Liz and Ashley were the perfect people for this job. Their enthusiasm and commitment to “Noises Off” was truly inspiring, and it would have been impossible to complete the show without them. Mr. Cochran was another individual who worked tirelessly behind the scenes on the soundboard. He stayed as late as we needed him throughout the last week of rehearsal, studying the script to understand when to turn our microphones on and off and when to cue the sound effects. Without Mr. Cochran, the audience would have never heard all of the

hilarious lines included throughout the play. On the last night of the show, my microphone had been malfunctioning less than an hour before the curtain was supposed to go up. I had been a wreck, worrying that my microphone would be broken throughout the show. Fortu-



nately, through the help of Mr. Cochran and Mr. and Mrs. Vodopivec (who very graciously lent us the microphones), we were able to resolve the issue in time for the show. In addition to all of these people was Ms. Bucciarelli, who constructed a beautiful playbill that was impressive to both the audience and the cast members. Last, but most definitely not least, was the stage crew. Carlangelo Alessandro, Katherine Aboumoussa Armfield, Paula Herrera, and Daniel Wahed all contributed to the backstage workings of “Noises Off”. Only being introduced into the environment during the last week, these four students stayed well into the night and were an essential part of creating a successful show. They handed us the numerous props, organized the set, flipped the stage backwards and forwards, and so much more. The stage crew along with Elizabeth and Ashley dedicated themselves to the show and through their selfless action allowed the show to run smoothly. When we realized that we only had one staircase and no way to get down the opposite side of the set, Carl was there to hold the ladder while we ran

up and down to our entrances. When my fall through the window became a safety hazard after a few mishaps, Katherine, Paula, and Daniel were there to catch me from backstage. All of these individuals might not have been seen on stage, but without every single one of their efforts, “Noises Off” would have been truly impossible.

In my three years at Holy Cross I have had a multitude of incredible experiences, but “Noises Off” most definitely is at the top of the list. It was not only an opportunity for me to pursue my passions, but it was a learning experience as well. Observing my fellow cast members—Paige Mahon, Gabriella Tesi, Jenny Drakoulis, Andrew Fazio, Ripley Petrovic, Julia Muczynski, Leah Gonzalez, and Kloe Pirovolikos—grow throughout the span of two months was a gift in itself. To see others my age be passionate about the same things that I am was tremendously rewarding. The end of “Noises Off” was bittersweet, as I will miss my role as Brooke/Vicki greatly, but I am sure that its impact on me will never be forgotten. The revival of the drama club at Holy Cross brought another type of art to the school and created a connectedness between students and teachers in an absolutely unique way. Though next years production won’t be the same without our astounding seniors, Gabriella Tesi and Paige Mahon, I am incredibly excited to see the future of theatre at Holy Cross. “Noises Off” was just the beginning of a long legacy of theatre at Holy Cross, and I am eternally grateful to have been a part of such a remarkable experience. May “Noises Off” turn the noise on for a future full of theatrical productions for years to come at Holy Cross High School.

Statements from the cast and crew of “Noises Off”:

“Helping direct the first theater production at Holy Cross in over a decade has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my teaching career so far; our superstars were incredible from the very first rehearsal and gave unbelievable performances. They’ve created a legacy and I’m so grateful to be a part of it!” -**Ms. Gianna (director)** “These students were asked to do the impossible. They put together one of the most difficult plays in theatre, and did it with only 6 weeks of rehearsals. They shined like the stars they are” -**Mr. Kani (director)** “The development of the play was really fun, it had good vibes and everyone was nice to each other. It was challenging coming back but because everyone was so dedicated it made things a lot better. Communication was one of the most important things and we had Mr. Kani and Miss. Gianna to help us with that.” -**Julia Muczynski ‘23 (Poppy)** “It was so awesome being around all the members of the cast, directors and crew! It honestly felt like one big family and even though I wasn’t part of the actual cast, being a part of the stage crew and being in that environment was such a welcoming and growing experience and I can’t wait to see where the Drama Club goes from here!” -**Carlangelo Alessandro ‘23 (stage crew)** “I was a part of the stage crew and honestly it felt like at first there wasn’t much to do or not much teamwork behind the scenes of it all, but slowly we built up to that. When everybody knew their roles, what they were supposed to do and how to do it, it felt like a perfect symphony and I live for that kind of stuff. I don’t want to go off on a tangent but being a part of stage crew and the play in general felt like we were working to get something bigger than all of us off the floor and into the limelight.10/10 would stage crew again.” -**Daniel Wahed ‘22 (stage crew)** “I had an amazing time being a part of “Noises Off”, everyone really came together and made the show the best it could ever be!” -**Ashley Altoro ‘23 (stage manager)** ““Noises Off” provided me with an experience like no other. I learned so much about myself and strengthened so many friendships. Every rehearsal was a blast and I can’t wait for the next production!” -**Andrew Fazio ‘23 (Lloyd)** “I really enjoyed being a stage manager for our school’s production of Noises Off! I didn’t have any previous experience with plays in general, let alone being a stage manager for one! However, it was all worth it in the end and the memories I made with the cast will last a lifetime!” -**Elizabeth Fazio ‘23 (stage manager)** “It was great to see the show come together and to be involved in bringing theatre back to Cross. We truly slayed the day!” -**Jenny Drakoulis ‘23 (Gary/Roger)** “Spending my senior year being involved in ‘Noises Off’ was an amazing experience. I can’t wait to use my newfound appreciation for theatre at Iona College in the fall!!!” -**Paige Mahon ‘22 (Frederick/Philip)** ““Noises Off” gave me so many fun memories during my senior year. I was able to make new friends and perform after not being able to for years. I’ll miss it so much when I’m in college.” -**Gabriella Tesi ‘22 (Flavia/Belinda)**



BOY'S VOLLEYBALL

by: La'Mon Perry '23



This spring season the Holy Cross community celebrated the re-launching of the Holy Cross Boys Volleyball team post-pandemic. While this season is wrapping up, we have seen much improvement from the beginning of the season to now as they just won the first round of the playoffs! For the majority of the team, this was their first time playing volleyball, however the determination to be at the top is seen through each of their efforts. Below is a Q&A I got to do with two juniors as they reflect on their seasons & express what their hopes are for the future.

Thomas Gafaro '23:



What are your overall thoughts on your season?

Our season so far has proved to be one of success and determination. after a slow start we have been able to pick it up and now we are in the second round of the playoffs.

What are some of your most memo-

orable moments with your teammates?

Definitely have to be bus rides and practices. those are moments where everyone can be themselves and have fun
How do you feel about winning your first playoff game of the season?

It felt amazing, not only for us but for our coaches who were all able to feel what it was like to win a playoff game.

What can Holy Cross expect from our Boys Varsity Volleyball team for the rest of the season & for the future?

Holy cross can definitely expect a successful program and successful future and we keep developing. We are still a work in progress. through the help of our coaches we know we can become one of the best teams in the league.

Eddie Harnett '23:



What are your overall thoughts on your season?

I feel like the season started out with a rough start. As time went on though, we started to gain more chemistry and work with each other better. I am happy with our performances, and even when we lost games, we still managed to keep the game close.

What are some of your most memorable moments with your teammates?

One of the most memorable moments with my teammates was when we won our first game. After all of our hard work, we finally won a game, and we were very proud of ourselves. Another memorable moment was the bus ride on the way home from winning our first play-off game. We were all celebrating, happy that we had won a play-off game.

How do you feel about winning your first playoff game of the season?

After winning our first play-off game, I was filled with joy. My teammates and I had worked very hard for this moment. We knew that after this win, we had to prepare for our next play-off game, as it was going to be a very difficult game.

What can Holy Cross expect from our Boys Varsity Volleyball team for the rest of the season & for the future?


For the rest of the season, we are going to try and win our second play-off game. If that goes to plan, we will continue to display hard work. Next year though, the Boy Varsity Volleyball team will be better than it was this year.

The Holy Cross community would like to congratulate all the seniors apart of the Volleyball team for all of their hard work and dedication they have put for not only for the team, but through high school as a whole. We wish them the best as they pursue their endeavors. And also best of luck to the underclassmen as they continue to hone their skills for next season so the program can continue to strengthen.

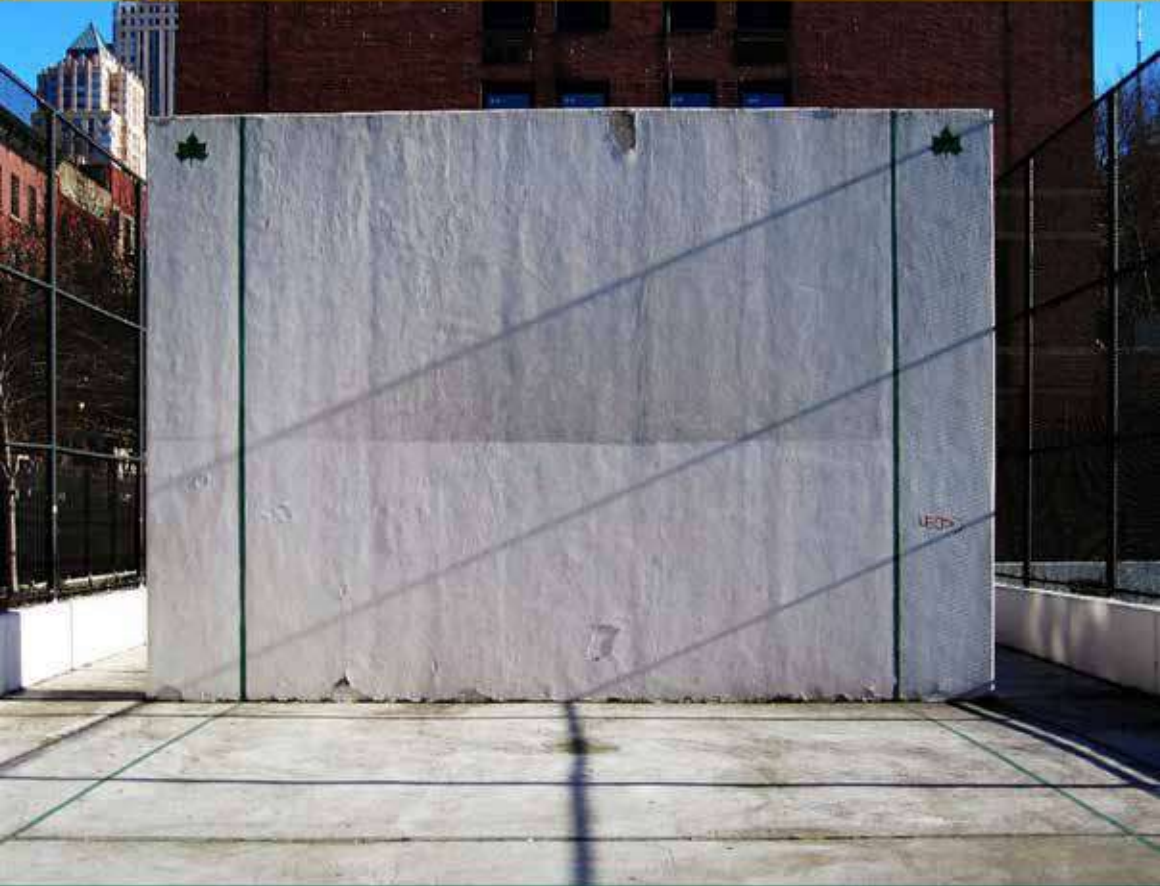



Alex Rios '22, Thomas Gafaro '23, Luke Hammond '24, Justin Pericic '23, John Sweeney '25, Brendan Goger '22
Joseph Herrera '25, Andreas Nathanail '23, Damyan Dekajlo '23, Kawsaar Miah '24, Ed Harnett '23, Derryck Mahadeo '23, Aidan Stroub '25





HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL HANDBALL TEAM





JOIN TODAY

No Try-Outs Walk-on

Coach - Mr. Arens

Talk to Mr. Arens to get more information on joining the team.

Current Players:

Sal Abicca '23 Gio Centola '22 Mike Palmisano '24 Ivan Grgas '24 Giuseppe Moreno '22

HOLY CROSS
GOLF TEAM



HOLY CROSS KNIGHTS 3
ST. FRANCIS PREP 2

Congratulations to the Varsity Golf team on their 3-2 Victory over St. Francis Prep in the 1st round of the CHSAA Playoffs.

Go KNIGHTS!



Varsity Senior Softball Players



Varsity Senior Baseball Players



HOLY CROSS

B A S E B A L L

THE KNIGHTS OUTLAST THE TERRIERS!

HOLY CROSS 1 ST. FRANCIS 0



Seniors Devin Grant and Michael Iocco display the Knights hardware as STARS of the game.

The boulevard belongs to **HOLY CROSS** after their 1-0 win over St. Francis Prep in the first round of the Brooklyn-Queens playoffs.

Michael Iocco (shield) - 7IP, 4Hits, 1K, Win

Devin Grant (sword) - 1-2, Double, BB, 1SB (Stole Home on a dropped 3rd strike in the top of the 7th inning.

THE KNIGHTS PLAY AT ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
Saturday, May 21st at 9:30AM

