

## THE NEXT HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS

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N.B. I apologize for discrepancies in the footnotes. I tried to correct them but my computer skills were not up to it. Jim Connelly

As some of you may know, the Notre Dame Press published my *History of the Congregation of Holy Cross* in 2020<sup>1</sup>. In 1982 I was asked to research and write this history by Father Thomas Barrosse, the superior general, who thought that it could be done by synthesizing publications already in existence. I did make use of existing histories, notably the Cattas' biographies of Fathers Moreau<sup>2</sup> and Dujarie<sup>3</sup> and Mother Mary of Seven Dolors<sup>4</sup> as well as Marvin O'Connell's biography of Fr. Edward Sorin<sup>5</sup>. For Canada I relied on a number of different publications as my source notes indicated. For Holy Cross in India I used David Syiemlieh's book, *They Dared to Hope*<sup>2</sup>. But the number of such studies was limited and for the most part they dealt with Holy Cross in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries.

Studies of Holy Cross in the twentieth century were limited in their scope. I had to focus the story that I laid out on the priests and brothers and on their ministries and leave the history of

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<sup>1</sup> James T. Connelly, C.S.C., *The History of the Congregation of Holy Cross* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Etienne and Tony Catta, *Basil Anthony Mary Moreau*, translated by Edward Heston (Milwaukee, WI: Bruce Publishing, 1955),

<sup>4</sup> Etienne and Tony Catta, *Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors and the early Origins of the Marianites of Holy Cross (1818-1900)*, English translation by Edward L. Heston, C.S.C. (Milwaukee, WI: Bruce 1959).

<sup>5</sup> Marvin O'Connell, *Edward Sorin* (Notre Dame, IN: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2001).

<sup>2</sup> David Syiemlieh, *They Dared to Hope: The Congregation of Holy Cross in India* (Bangalore, India; Fathers of Holy Cross, 1998).

the sisters for someone else. I included several short accounts of various significant individuals having and their work, not as many, I am sure a many readers would have liked. I especially regret not having given more ample coverage to the general administrations of Fathers Germaine-Marie Lalande (1962-74) and Claude Grou (1986-98). This was an egregious error on my part. I was able to go to Canada to consult the archives in Montreal but I had no access to archival materials in India and Bangladesh. The next history of the Congregation will have to make up what is lacking in my survey.

The next history of the Congregation will have to rely on a synthesis of published works. Since Holy Cross has been involved in education from the first years of the Brothers of St. Joseph, reliable histories of different institutions of education will be important. William Dunn's centennial history of St. Edward's University<sup>6</sup> was useful to me as was his study of Holy Cross in Texas<sup>7</sup> but they were published almost forty years ago, just as St. Edward's was on the verge of passing under lay leadership and an absence of Brothers employed at the university. A new history of the Congregation will have to deal with the consequences of those developments

Thomas Blantz's recent history of the University of Notre Dame carries that story into the twenty-first century, but a new Holy Cross president will take office this summer and that may lead to new developments and direction. There continue to be many religious employed at Notre Dame. Richard Gribble's history of Stonehill College.<sup>8</sup> is now twenty-five years old. Donald Grimes' history of King's College is more a chronicle than a history.<sup>9</sup> King's centennial

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<sup>6</sup> William Dunn, C.S.C., *Saint Edward's University: A Centennial History* (Austin, TX: Saint Edward's University press, 1986).

<sup>7</sup> William Dunn, *The Finest Country In The World* (Notre Dame, IN: Province Archives Center, 1985).

<sup>8</sup> Richard Gribble, CSC, *Fulfilling a Dream: Stonehill College 1948-1998* (Easton, MA: Stonehill College Press, 1998)

<sup>9</sup> Donald J. Grimes, CSC, *Rooted in Hope: The First Fifty Years of King's College, 1946-1996* (Wilkes-Barre, PA: King's College, 1998)

anniversary in 2046 would be a good occasion for a good history of the school and the Holy Cross contribution to it. My own history of the University of Portland<sup>10</sup> and James Covert's previous history cover the twentieth century. Portland has also passed under lay leadership and the consequences of that will have to be assessed by the next historian of the Congregation. The University of Notre Dame Bangladesh is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. One hopes that a good history of that institution will be researched and written in the coming years. Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Indiana, which began as a scholasticate for candidates for the Brothers of Holy Cross, is also in need of a history.

In the twentieth century the Holy Cross Brothers and Priests established and/or administered more than twenty high schools in the United States and Canada. There are no histories for many of these. The next history of Holy Cross will have to search various province archives and libraries for information on these schools. Schools established and conducted by the Congregation outside the United States, in France, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Uganda, India and Bangladesh, although often called "colleges", are senior secondary schools and junior colleges by American standards. They represent the continuing involvement of the Congregation in the ministry of education.

The Auxiliary Priests, founded by Fr. Moreau in 1835, were part of the early ministry of Holy Cross and parish ministry is a significant part of the Holy Cross tradition. The first parish in the United States and in all of North America, Sacred Heart founded at Notre Dame in 1842, has been well described by Joseph White's history.<sup>3</sup> The parish church, now Sacred Heart

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<sup>10</sup> James T. Connelly, CSC, *The University of Portland; A Century of Teaching, Faith and Service* (Portland, OR: University of Portland Press, 2001); James T. Covert, *A Point of Pride: The University of Portland Story* (Portland, OR: University of Portland Press, 1976).

<sup>3</sup> Joseph M. White, *Sacred Heart Parish at Notre Dame: A Heritage and History* (Notre Dame, IN: Sacred Heart Parish (Notre Dame, IN: Parish, 1992).

Basilica, has been treated in detail by Thomas Schlereth<sup>4</sup> Now more than thirty years old, these will need updating. St. Bernard's in Watertown, Wisconsin, has been covered by Fr. George Meagher.<sup>5</sup> Other Holy Cross parishes have not been so fortunate. Peter Logsdon's recent history of the Southern Province provides information on many parishes staffed or founded by Holy Cross in Louisiana and Texas.<sup>6</sup> Parishes under the Congregation's auspices in France, Canada, Chile, Peru, India, Bangladesh, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have, for the most part, yet to be the beneficiaries of good historical studies.

Among other ministries that deserve to be mentioned are Fr. Peyton's Family Rosary and its international offices as well as the ministry conducted at St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. Also worthy of mention are Patrick Peyton and the four whose causes for canonization have been introduced by the Congregation: Vincent McCauley, Theotonius Gangudly, Flavian La Plante and Columba O'Neill. No doubt, as time goes on, there will be others worthy of coverage in a history of the Congregation and its life and work.

While it may be too soon to think of another effort to research and write a history of Holy Cross, it is important to lay the ground work by producing the stories of the institutions, organizations and individuals who have been crucial and instrumental in that history. The annual conferences of the Holy Cross History Association are surely one of the tools by which this can be accomplished.

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<sup>4</sup> Thomas J. Schlereth, *A Spire of Faith: The University of Notre Dame's Sacred Heart Church* (Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame Alumni Association, 1991).

<sup>5</sup> George T. Meagher, *CSC, A Century at St. Bernard's* (Milwaukee, WI: n.p., 1946)

<sup>6</sup> Peter Logsdon, *CSC, History of the Southern Province* (privately published, 2024).