

**THE INFAMOUS DEBT: STONEHILL COLLEGE, 1948-1954**

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by

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America's religious renewal of the post World War II period aided Catholicism's rise to its apex in visibility, unity, and strength within the national community. "American religion's Indian summer"<sup>1</sup> produced many manifestations of Catholic revival. Bishop Fulton Sheen's books, such as Peace of Soul (1949) and the five-volume Life is Worth Living (1953-1957), and his television evangelization placed the Catholic name and ideal in the living rooms of many American homes. Vocations to the priesthood and religious life swelled seminaries and convents to record levels; attendance at Catholic schools between 1949 and 1959 more than doubled from 2.6 to 5.6 million students. Church attendance by Catholics was reported to be at 82%, more than fourteen points higher than the national average.<sup>2</sup> Hugh Nolan has captured the spirit of the times: "The Catholics of that era were a joyous group positive of their identity, proud of their Church and of their priests and of their schools."<sup>3</sup>

Catholic higher education expanded in a manner consistent with the optimism of the age. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's

signature on the Servicemen's Readjustment Act in June 1944 made college education a possibility for thousands of veterans. Catholic colleges, which suffered greatly during the war, began to expand their facilities to accommodate the burgeoning student population. A survey conducted by America in 1947 found enrollment in Catholic colleges at 180,000, a rise of almost 17% from the previous year and 5% above the national average.<sup>4</sup>

The Congregation of Holy Cross met this challenge with the establishment of three new institutions, King's College in 1946, Stonehill College in 1948, and Notre Dame College in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1950. Founded without preparatory plans, financial support or sufficient facilities, Stonehill's initial course was filled with obstacles. This essay will look at the first five years at Stonehill, a time dominated by a large debt owed to sister-school King's, the conflict which arose between members of the Congregation of Holy Cross as a result of this situation, and the debt's eventual amortization.

### **Stonehill College: 1948-1949**

A Holy Cross foundation in North Easton, Massachusetts began in 1935 when the community purchased the estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames from his widow Edith Cutler.<sup>5</sup> A minor seminary, which had operated at North Dartmouth since 1933, was immediately moved to the North Easton site, which doubled as the headquarters for the mission band in the east. While talk of a college foundation on the property circulated for years<sup>6</sup> nothing was done

until the summer of 1948. Concurrent with the establishment of the eastern vice-province in May 1948 community members in North Easton learned of an invitation extended to the Holy Name Province of Franciscans by Archbishop Richard Cushing of Boston to establish a college in Avon, only a few miles from Holy Cross' property in North Easton.<sup>7</sup> Vice-Provincial James Connerton was, thus, "forced" to act immediately or lose the North Easton property as a possible college site forever.

The late spring and summer of 1948 brought a flurry of activity to North Easton which ended in the foundation of Stonehill College.<sup>8</sup> Within two weeks of the revelation of the offer to the Franciscans, the decision to start a college was made. Episcopal approbation for the institution was quickly received from James Cassidy in Fall River and Cushing in Boston, who withdrew the Franciscans' invitation as promptly as he had extended it.<sup>9</sup> On June 29 the Massachusetts Board of Collegiate Authority approved Stonehill's petition and granted a liberal charter which allowed the conferral of all degrees save medicine. George Benaglia, who was serving as director of the seminary and superior of the religious community, was named President.

On September 20, 1948 one hundred thirty-four<sup>10</sup> men started classes at Stonehill. By any reasonable standard facilities were primitive, administrative methods and standards unsettled, and faculty numbers and diversity of expertise inadequate when the College opened its doors. Classes were held in the "green" room, foyer, and library of the the Ames Mansion, and the old indoor

tennis court which doubled as the gymnasium.

Financial difficulties, centered around the construction of a new science building,<sup>11</sup> dominated the activity of Benaglia. By mid-September over \$50,000 had been spent on the building and the President reported that at least two more months of work were needed at a weekly payroll of two to three thousand dollars.<sup>12</sup> The Vice-Provincial steward, John Lane, reminded Benaglia that only \$50,000<sup>13</sup> had been authorized for the building and demanded an itemized account of all expenditures on the project. Lane's ire at the situation only grew greater when Benaglia's shoddy accounting practices (through omission) failed to report more than \$24,000 owed for building materials.<sup>14</sup>

The financial situation at Stonehill placed the College and Vice-Province in adversarial roles. Bills accumulated by the College for operational expenses as well as the science building construction forced the Vice-Province to lend Stonehill over \$124,000 between July 19 and November 30, 1948. The money came from King's College, which had been endowed by William Hafey, Bishop of Scranton.<sup>15</sup> In sending Benaglia \$30,000 in November Lane wrote, "We are just about at the end of our means for giving assistance so I hope this will carry you through until some income becomes available."<sup>16</sup>

The opening of the science building on February 4, 1949 raised a glimmer of hope in an otherwise dismal state of affairs. During the second semester Benaglia borrowed another \$30,000 from the Vice-Province which drew more criticism upon the President's

head. Connerton wrote to Benaglia in a tone which indicated a lack of trust in his judgement and financial ability. He asked for an accounting for monies borrowed. John Lane continued the barrage against Benaglia and threatened him with the wrath of the Superior General if, in order to meet Stonehill's debts, the Vice-Province was forced to borrow money from the outside.<sup>17</sup> For the year Stonehill accumulated an operational deficit of \$32,028.56.<sup>18</sup>

#### **A New President and a Different Course**

In the spring of 1949 discussions were held on the future direction of the College and the possibility of a new administration. Canon law stipulated that one could only hold the office of superior for six years, which, because George Benaglia had been appointed in 1943, necessitated a change. The vice-provincial council debated whether "an indult to effect his [Benaglia's] continuance of office" or a new person as president was best for Stonehill.<sup>19</sup> Adherence to canon law gave Connerton and those who wanted a new direction for the College a convenient excuse to seek a new president. Brother Harold Rogan, CSC, who served as the College treasurer, and Father John Lucey, CSC, who arrived at Stonehill in the summer of 1949, believe that Benaglia was replaced as president due to the precarious financial situation of the College.<sup>20</sup>

Connerton had certainly made his decision to replace Bengalia by March 1949, as he began at that time to speak with Father Francis Boland, a professor of political science at Notre



Dame, about the position of president at Stonehill. That month Boland opted to join the Eastern Vice-Province which delighted Connerton and prompted him to travel to Indiana to consult with the Notre Dame professor. Boland had earlier written, "North Easton is, of course, my hope for the future and I feel that I can do some good work there in whatever way you [Connerton] suggest."<sup>21</sup> On March 17 the two men discussed the Stonehill presidency with Boland assenting to the assignment.<sup>22</sup>

Boland's arrival at Stonehill was greeted with a note of optimism, despite the dismal situation. Connerton painted a rosy portrait speaking of Stonehill's first year as "a wonderful, promising experience" and portrayed the future as "a sure-fire undertaking." He also praised Boland, "Everyone feels that we have given to Stonehill a leadership that is bound to put the new college on the map and keep it there."<sup>23</sup>

The new president expressed optimism but not blindly as he knew the financial situation at the College was critical. Boland congratulated Benaglia for "an especially good job in getting things organized and underway," but at the same moment told Connerton that the Vice-Provincial's suggestion for the College to borrow an additional \$30,000 was too conservative; \$50,000 would be necessary "to meet our obligations and to provide for the expense necessary for our operation on a minimum standard of efficiency." He concluded,

While things look rather dismal at the moment, still I am sufficiently optimistic to feel that if we can't get things organized a little better this year, that we will be in a position to establish a budget and know

where we are going. Of course, each year with an increase in students we will require a further outlay for operation. But I am hopeful that with the help of the Lord we will make steady progress.<sup>24</sup>

The honeymoon with optimism which existed in Boland's initial impressions with Stonehill, and in the relationship between the new president and James Connerton, quickly began to deteriorate. Boland's frustration with the College's finances was experienced on two levels. The first was one of procedure; permission was required for almost all expenditures. Canon law and the statutes of the Congregation dictated this method, but the process as a whole created a negative attitude in Boland's mind.<sup>25</sup> The more significant problem with finances was Connerton's often-used policy of attaching conditions on his approval for projects, specifically that the College make some effort to pay on the huge debt to King's College, which in November 1949 stood at just over \$200,000. Boland perceived this to be economic blackmail that held hostage the advancement of the College. Connerton, in an effort to ameliorate Boland's frustration, wrote to the president expressing "sincere congratulations upon the splendid work which you are accomplishing."<sup>26</sup>

The question of Stonehill's financial status was persistent, dominated Boland's activity, and continued to color his relationship with the Vice-Provincial. From the outset Boland was aware of the College's fiscal troubles and Connerton's dissatisfaction were its financial records. He was also informed that repayment of the debt was a high priority. Connerton



optimistically projected that Stonehill would generate funds to maintain itself and return \$10,000 to Kings.<sup>27</sup> The reality of the situation was, however, that the College possessed no viable means to generate revenue, outside tuition payments and a small farm at the south end of the property where chickens and steers were raised.<sup>28</sup>

The call in February 1950 for Stonehill to pay a \$3,800 interest payment on the loan from King's drew fire as Boland's short-fuse temper was ignited. The President not only questioned the accuracy of the amount (stating it was actually \$2,058.45), but, more importantly, took the offensive in the dispute claiming that the Vice-Province owed Stonehill \$15,000 for maintenance of the seminary. He countered the request for payment by suggesting the Vice-Province pay to King's the interest on the loan and credit the balance of the \$15,000 on the principal.<sup>29</sup> Boland went further and boldly asked the Vice-Province to assume responsibility for the debt so that the College could provide for necessary and normal expansion.<sup>30</sup> The Vice-Provincial steward, John Lane, responded by citing errors in the College's December 1949 financial statement and challenging the accuracy of the listed property assets of the College. The whole affair led Boland to call for a complete review of the financial relationship between the Vice-Province and The Foundation of Our Lady of Holy Cross.<sup>31</sup>

Embers of the fire created in the call for payment of interest were still smoldering when the Vice-Provincial council

called for a \$10,000 principal payment on the debt.<sup>32</sup> Boland again sprang to the defense of the Collège suggesting the possibility of his resignation:

For us to pay \$10,000 at the present time, in view of the essential repairs that are imperative to the buildings, would leave us in a financial position practically the same as last summer. I would not care to accept responsibility of administering the affairs of the institution under those conditions.<sup>33</sup>

Using a recent audit which indicated that the average annual operating deficit for Our Lady of Holy Cross Seminary was almost \$12,500, Boland pressed his earlier suggestion that the Vice-Province pay Stonehill, but now demanded \$24,000 as payment for two years' support of the seminary. If this could not be done then he asked for a reprieve on payment until the fall tuition was received.<sup>34</sup> When the smoke generated by the fires of argumentation cleared Stonehill managed an operational profit during Boland's first year of \$26,591.33.<sup>35</sup>

Events of 1951, including the establishment of adult education, Pius X Seminary, and a pioneering co-education program did not mask the precarious financial situation at Stonehill.<sup>36</sup> A disagreement between the Vice-Province and the College over the division of property and money became a raging battle with Boland and Connerton matched in a private and public duel. One person of the period saw their feud as an "inability to communicate" coupled with the "inflexibility of opinion" which was needed to achieve agreement.<sup>37</sup> The issue of the repayment of the debt owed to King's was complicated with disagreements over cash support for seminarians and ownership of properties on the Stonehill

campus.<sup>38</sup>

Resuming an earlier discussion James Sheehan, the new Vice-Provincial steward, informed Boland in October 1950 that the council stood ready to credit Stonehill \$24,000 for two years support for the seminary, with the amount being charged "against your ownership of the property." Boland fired back in an angry tone that he had been previously informed that the College owned no property, save the science building constructed after Stonehill opened its doors. Why, he asked, must Stonehill make cash payments and the Vice-Province give only credit.<sup>39</sup>

The exchange became so heated that Connerton was forced to step in, referee the disagreement, and rebuke Boland:

I am sorry to be obliged to say that your reply to Father Sheehan's kind letter to you on October 3, in fulfillment of his duty and at the request of his higher superior, is not acceptable either as to tone or content.<sup>40</sup>

Connerton pursued the issue further and, after a review of Stonehill's latest financial statement, where "interest on loans," "services of religious," and "interest to the Vice-Province," amounting to a total of \$11,000, were listed as "operating expenses," wrote to Boland:

I herewith instruct you to write out a check payable to the Vice-Province of Our Lady of Holy Cross in the exact amount listed [sic] on your statement [\$11,000] for the items mentioned above and send it to Father Sheehan, the Vice-Provincial Steward at Wilkes-Barre at once.<sup>41</sup>

Boland wrote back saying if Stonehill made the suggested payment, and considering projected income and expenses, the College would have a January 1951 balance of \$337.74. He concluded, "If it is

still your wish that the above amount be forwarded your instructions will be carried out immediately."<sup>42</sup> In a familiar move of amelioration the Vice-Provincial softened his approach:

May I take the occasion to compliment you on your expert conduct of the College and to assure you that my eagerness to obtain as soon as possible a payment on the loan from us, stems from our desire to take care of our own financial obligations.<sup>43</sup>

No payment was made at this time.

Connerton in a forceful manner continued to seek payment while rendering Boland sufficient "backhand" support to win the President to his side. During his spring 1951 official provincial visit to the religious community at Stonehill<sup>44</sup> Connerton heard of many criticisms leveled against Boland. Upon hearing a summary of the comments the Vice-Provincial remarked how Boland welcomed the enlightenment and concluded, "In his understanding of the college world and his business administration of his College, Father Boland seems to me to be an expert in a tough position."<sup>45</sup>

Connerton's words of encouragement were apparently not enough support for Boland who was weary of battling up hill in what he perceived was a war that would produce no victors. Thus in September 1951, "after mature and very serious deliberation," he tendered his resignation as president "in the interest of all concerned and for personal reasons." Connerton simply answered, "I cannot accept your resignation." In a repeat of the earlier-established pattern, Boland was praised, this time by the Superior General, Christopher O'Toole: "You are doing a great job

at Stonehill, and the work is bound to succeed."<sup>46</sup>

Stonehill was becoming established with a dedicated group of professors, a slowly expanding majors program, and a growing number of alumni, but the College was still burdened with an almost \$175,000 debt to King's College that by virtue of a November 1951 decision by the Superior General was its responsibility to liquidate.<sup>47</sup> In June 1952 and February 1953 Boland grudgingly paid the first two installments of \$10,000 each to reduce the principal on the loan. He suggested to Connerton that the College would be most grateful if the payment was returned in whole or part and grumbled openly that the College, would make no progress under "a very crippling burden."<sup>48</sup>

Boland continually complained of how he was badgered to make payments on the debt suggesting that such expenditures were a hardship and would not allow the College to expand. Financial records, however, show that between July 1, 1950 and June 30, 1953 the College's operational profit was \$91,520.80.<sup>49</sup> Remembering that the opening year deficit was erased by the surplus of 1949 to 1950, this three-year profit appears unencumbered and could, therefore, have been used to make payments on the debt. Surprisingly, Connerton never challenged Boland with these figures or used them as evidence that Stonehill had the ability to make some payments.

Despite the tough exterior which Francis Boland demonstrated to others in his defiant stand against the Vice-Provincial, the weariness of battle began to overtake him. He was disgusted with



the relationship between the College, which he represented, and the Vice-Province. Still, he again rose to challenge a new policy initiated in December 1953 by the Vice-Provincial Council which required all income-bearing houses of the province to pay an annual assessment of \$6,000. Boland rejected the idea saying the new payment should be removed from the science building debt.<sup>50</sup>

The last chapter in the long saga of Stonehill's loan from King's College began to unfold in May 1954. Connerton wrote to Boland that the Superior General strongly urged Stonehill to borrow the amount owed to the Province (\$166,400) from a private source so that the effort of King's College to gain accreditation would not be jeopardized by its outstanding loan. Connerton informed Boland, "It seems that the accreditation committee is demanding recall on the loan."<sup>51</sup>

Boland, as in the past, responded quickly and defensively, but on this occasion he flatly rejected the idea that a loan be secured to repay the Province immediately. He claimed it was no concern to Stonehill if the original source of the loan was King's or another source. The College's responsibility lay solely in meeting the terms of the loan as previously established. He concluded, "It is neither my obligation nor my intention to negotiate a substitute loan for the prevailing Provincial loan." Boland went on to claim that the essential reason for King's failure to gain accreditation was based on the College's disproportionate emphasis on athletics rather than the



loan to Stonehill.<sup>52</sup>

Connerton informed the General of Boland's refusal to act and asked for punitive measures against the Stonehill president. The Provincial asked O'Toole to make approval of Boland's plans to expand the College<sup>53</sup> contingent on action to respect the General's request to secure a loan in order to repay King's. Boland, informed of Connerton's request, took it as a personal affront and again submitted his resignation, after consulting a physician about his health. Connerton, as earlier, rejected the request and asked for proof of his "failing health."<sup>54</sup> Boland was outraged:

I would like to inform you that I have been ordained thirty-one years, minus a few days, and during every one of these years I believe that I have rendered reasonably valuable service to the Holy Cross Congregation. In fact I would be glad to match my record of service with anyone now in the community. During these past five years I have been here at Stonehill College and despite many obstacles placed in my way, I believe that I have made, through very hard work, a substantial contribution to the advancement of this college. Now I ask to be relieved of my duties because of rapidly failing health. You reply by demanding a doctor's certificate to prove it. The implications of your order are quite obvious and, perhaps, I should have anticipated this sort of thing, after my thirty-one years of service to the community.<sup>55</sup>

Connerton informed O'Toole of Boland's desire to step down as president but believed that "we can make arrangements satisfactory to him." The Provincial, in his general pattern of offense followed by retreat, wrote, "I am glad to attest to your magnificent performance at Stonehill. This I have considered a real blessing as I did your decision to join us here in the

East."<sup>56</sup>

Connerton found himself in the middle in his attempt to mediate the dispute between King's and Stonehill. In response to King's officials, who demanded action, the Provincial asked for patience. But in August the Provincial Council voted "to request immediate recall of the loan that the Province made to Stonehill College." In case of an unfavorable reply from Boland the Council asked the General "to mortgage Stonehill College property to the extent of its debt to the Province," considering this "the only means under the circumstances whereby the Province can pay the debt it owes King's College."<sup>57</sup>

Boland, informed of the Council decision, did not respond, which prompted Connerton to again ask the General to intercede, "with whatever insistence you feel should accompany your support of the Provincial Council." O'Toole, after a review of accreditation reports from Kings which convinced him the primary problem was the loan, wrote to Boland:

I urge you to cooperate in every way possible with Father Connerton in arrangements for the return of the loan mentioned. ...

I realize fully how you may feel about this question, especially in view of the interest that, as president, you are bound to take in your own institution. However, I beg of you, for the sake of the common good, to do everything possible in cooperation with Father Connerton so that King's will not have to submit to another evaluation two or three years from now.<sup>58</sup>

The General's plea for action achieved immediate but temporary results. Boland started negotiations with banks in North Easton to obtain a loan to liquidate the debt. Meanwhile,

unknown to the Stonehill President, the Provincial Council voted to raise the interest rate on the loan from 2% per annum to 3.5% in an effort to make the transaction appear to accreditation examiners to be a better investment for King's. When Boland discovered the interest hike he quickly ceased discussions with bankers, angry that the Council would plot behind his back.<sup>59</sup>

Boland's refusal to proceed prompted O'Toole to push Connerton to force the issue. The accreditation team scheduled to visit King's was mistakenly informed that the loan had been repaid. If this belief were discovered to be false the Superior General feared King's College and the Congregation would be embarrassed. He pleaded with Connerton:

I beg of you to insist that Father Boland close negotiations for the loan, even though the terms are not favorable. There is no other course of action for us to take now. Stonehill has simply to get the money and return it to King's. Please tell Father Boland that this must be done and done immediately. ... If Father Boland cannot make the loan immediately, then have him draw on his cash reserves to return as much as possible to King's while awaiting closing of the loan.<sup>60</sup>

Whether it was the plea of the General or an order of obedience given by Connerton, Boland in November 1954 repaid the outstanding loan to King's College. Together with James Sheehan, the President negotiated a \$100,000 loan from The First National Bank of Easton at 3 7/8% for five years. This sum, together with \$61,000 drawn from cash reserves, was paid to King's; the infamous debt had been liquidated. O'Toole reported to Connerton, "The loan has finally been returned."<sup>61</sup>

Today the colleges and universities administered by the

Congregation of Holy Cross are honored as some of the best on national and regional levels. Holy Cross can rightly be proud of its accomplishments in higher education. Stonehill College recently has been recognized for its achievements and progress, but the early years were not so bright. From its foundation in 1948 to the middle of 1954 the College was plagued by a huge debt which stifled its growth and created severe strains on individuals and their relationships in the community.

Stonehill's history is one of contrasts demonstrated in the College's movement from a large debt which seemed impossible to amortize in 1949, to over \$53 million in endowment today. As the College approaches its fiftieth anniversary it is clear that the struggles, pain, and work of the community, in cooperation with God's providence, have produced an institution worthy of Holy Cross and the Church it serves.

1. James Hennesey, SJ, American Catholics: A History of the Roman Catholic Community in the United States (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), 284.

2. Ibid.; Will Herberg, Protestant--Catholic--Jew (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1960), 48.

3. Quoted in Hennesey, 287.

4. Allan P. Farrell, "National Enrollment Statistics from 1947-48," America 78 (December 13, 1947): 285; Farrell, "Enrollment in Catholic Universities and Men's Colleges, 1947-48," America 78 (January 31, 1948): 485-86.

5. Holy Cross purchased the estate in two parcels. In 1935 the Ames mansion, an indoor pool and tennis court, and 300 acres of land were acquired for \$50,000. In 1937 the remaining 250 acres of the estate were purchased for an additional \$25,000.

6. In 1946 Cushing invited Holy Cross to establish a new college in downtown Boston. Thomas Steiner sent James Connerton and Howard Kenna to investigate. Their report was generally favorable, but the men also believed North Easton to be a viable option. Due to lack of personnel and financial constraints the invitation was refused to the consternation of some in the community, including the Superior General Albert Cousineau.

7. "Preliminary Summary on Proposed Brockton, Massachusetts College," May 3, 1948, Archives Franciscan Friars, Holy Name Province (Hereafter AFFHN), New York City. In April 1948 the Franciscans sent Rev. Mark Kennedy, President of Siena College, to negotiate with Cushing about a new college on the Brockton-Avon border. Kennedy reported, "It would seem an opportunity to accept the offer of the Archbishop; [sic] especially in view of the fact that the Archbishop, once the offer is accepted, would leave it to the Order when to begin operations as long as it were [sic] begun within five years."

8. For complete details of this activity see Richard Gribble, CSC, "A Dream Fulfilled: 1946-1949," Unpublished manuscript, part of forthcoming history of Stonehill College.

9. Richard Cushing to Mark Kennedy, OFM, May 29, 1948, AFFHN. Cushing stated, "I am afraid that our plans for Brockton have collapsed. The Holy Cross Fathers have formed a Vice-Province in the East and the Vice-Provincial called recently to tell me that they are planning on a college in Northeaston [sic]. This is the end of our plans[,] for that area could not support two colleges."

10. Figures differ in extant sources as to the precise number who started classes in September 1948. The 134 figure comes from the records of the Director of Institutional Research, Stonehill



College, and is the most accurate.

11. A science building was the only additional facility needed when the College opened. James Mullen, a local contractor and friend of George Benaglia, was awarded the project. He worked closely with Brother Josephus Schaub on the construction. Emery LaLiberte, who would be come integrally associated with Stonehill over the years, was the architect. His original estimate of \$25,000 to construct the building was quickly eclipsed.

12. Benaglia to John Lane, September 23, 1948, Stonehill History Papers, Archives Stonehill College, (hereafter ASC), North Easton, Massachusetts.

13. The original \$25,000 authorization was doubled in the summer by the General Council in New York.

14. Lane to Benaglia, September 30, 1948; Lane to Benaglia, October 14, 1948, Stonehill History Papers, ASC; Benaglia to Lane, October 18, 1948, Stonehill College Papers, Archives Holy Cross Fathers Eastern Province, (hereafter AHCPE), North Easton, Massachusetts.

15. James Connerton to Thomas Steiner, May 3, 1946, King's College Papers, AHCPE. Hafey gave King's \$250,000 in 1946 to purchase buildings and establish a college. Another \$250,000 was promised for 1947.

16. Lane to Benaglia, November 15, 1948, Stonehill History Papers, ASC.

17. Connerton to Benaglia, May 19, 1949, Stonehill College Papers, AHCPE; Lane to Benaglia, June 10, 1949, Benaglia Papers, ASC.

18. Stonehill College Financial Report, 1958-1949, Stonehill College Papers, AHCPE.

19. Vice-Provincial Meeting Minutes, April 5, 1949, AHCPE. Canon law also mandated that the position of College president and religious superior be held by the same individual. Thus one's removal as superior meant removal as president.

20. Harold Rogan, CSC, Interview with author, August 6, 1995; John Lucey, CSC, Interview with author, August 31, 1995. Rogan was informed by Frank Kerwin, who did the bookkeeping and conducted the audit for the College's operational budget, that Benaglia's lack of financial administrative ability was the reason for his ouster as president.

21. Francis Boland to James Connerton, March 2, 1949; Connerton to Boland, March 5, 1949, Boland to Connerton, March 12, 1949, Stonehill College Papers, AHCPE. When the Eastern Vice-Province was founded in May 1948 religious were divided by the location of



their service. However, any religious who was from the east and serving in the west or from the west and serving in the east was granted the privilege of choosing, within one year, the province in which he desired to serve. Boland, a native of Massachusetts, but serving at Notre Dame, chose the east.

22. Augustine Peverada, CSC, Interview with the author, August 20, 1995. Father Peverada was a teacher in the minor seminary and was scheduled to speak with the vice-provincial when a messenger interrupted stating to Connerton, "Father Boland can see you now." Connerton immediately went to discuss his plans with Boland indicating his sense of urgency about the matter and his strong desire for Boland to be President.

23. Connerton to Boland, August 14, 1949, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

24. Boland to Connerton, August 17, 1949, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE. Boland analyzed his new position in a letter to a friend: "Sometimes I wonder if congratulations or commiserations are in order [over my appointment as president] since, as you know, the problems of a small college are many and varied. However, we seem to be making some little progress and I am sure that eventually things will get squared away." See Boland to Joe Barr, September 27, 1949, Boland Papers, ASC.

25. John Lane to Boland, May 29, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE. Lane explained to Boland that Canon law and the Congregation's constitutions and statutes dictated procedures which needed to be followed with respect to obtaining proper permissions before spending money on a project.

26. Connerton to Boland, February 2, 1950, Boland Papers, ASC.

27. Connerton to Boland, August 14, 1949, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

28. Thomas Campbell, CSC, Interview with author, September 15, 1995. The farm, managed by Brother Laetus (Larry) Triollo, sold eggs and cattle and generated some revenue. This contribution was small in numeric value but large in personal sacrifice.

29. The estimated cost to maintain the seminary was \$10,000 per year. The figure of \$15,000 represented Stonehill's support of the seminary since April 1948, which was the date of the last payment received from the province (before the formation of the Eastern Vice-Province) in support of the seminary.

30. Boland to Connerton, February 8, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE. Boland asked that if the Vice-Province could assume responsibility for the debt temporarily it would allow Stonehill to seek a loan from the Federal government or another

source. Under the burden of a \$200,000 debt Stonehill had no chance to secure outside financing.

31. Boland to John Lane, March 13, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE. This question of the division of property and monetary assets between the College and the Vice-Province would not be settled for another year.

32. Vice-Provincial Council Meeting Minutes, March 3, 1950, AHCFE.

33. Boland to Connerton, May 2, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

34. Boland to Connerton, April 20, 1950, May 2, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE. Frank Kerwin of the accounting department conducted the audit of the seminary and calculated the average annual deficit between June 1946 and June 1948 as \$12,477.24.

35. Financial Statement Stonehill College, July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950, Financial Papers, AHCFE.

36. Non-credit adult education began in the fall of 1951 and was an immediate success. The opening of Pius X Seminary that same fall eliminated the need to send seminarians to Notre Dame to complete their education as before. Co-education was started as a consequence of the Korean War which took many eligible male students from college ranks.

37. Anonymous to Christopher O'Toole, November 1951, Archives Holy Cross Fathers, Generalate, (hereafter AHCFG), Rome Italy.

38. The question of ownership of property between the Congregation of Holy Cross and Stonehill College was not settled until 1968.

39. James Sheehan, CSC to Boland, October 3, 1950; Boland to Sheehan, October 6, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

40. Connerton to Boland, October 13, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

41. Ibid.

42. Boland to Connerton, October 16, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

43. Connerton to Boland, October 18, 1950, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

44. The constitutions and statutes of Holy Cross required the provincial or his representative to visit each house of the community on an annual basis.

45. Summary of Vice-Provincial Visit to Stonehill College, March 20, 1951, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.
46. Boland to Connerton, September 4, 1951; Connerton to Boland, September 10, 1951, Stonehill College Papers, AHCFE; Christopher O'Toole to Boland, October 15, 1951, Boland Papers, ASC.
47. In November 1951 the Superior General, Christopher O'Toole, published a settlement. The loan received by Stonehill College of \$175,000 was to be repaid in ten years. The loan of \$24,102.16, received by Stonehill from the mission band (part of the original loan to construct the science building) was to be assumed by the Vice-Province. This, together with the unpaid assessments (June 1948 to June 1951) which Stonehill owed the Vice-Province for services of religious on campus, would be regarded as payment in full for seminary maintenance and tuition during the same period. Beginning in January 1952 the cost of operation for the lay seminary, plus tuition for professed seminarians at St. Pius X and other Eastern Vice-Province members studying at Stonehill was to be regarded as the return for services of community members assigned to teach at the college. All present College buildings and the land they occupy was to be given to Stonehill, along with an adjoining one hundred acres for future development. Although it took a few months for all parties to accept the specifics of the decision, O'Toole declared in late January 1952 that the issue was settled.
48. Boland to Connerton, June 4, 1952, Boland Papers, ASC; Boland to Connerton, February 6, 1953, January 9, 1953, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.
49. Financial Statements Stonehill College, 1951, 1952, 1953, Financial Papers, AHCFE. The per year breakdown on the profit was: July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951--\$37,466.02; July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952--\$43,804.51; July 1, 1952 to June 30, 1953--\$10,250.27.
50. Vice-Provincial Council Meeting Minutes, December 19, 1953, AHCFE.
51. Connerton to Boland, May 29, 1954, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE. In the spring of 1954 King's was visited by representatives of the Middle States Accrediting Association which denied the school accreditation. One of the reasons given for the rejection was the large loan to Stonehill. Surprisingly, the local council at King's was apparently never asked or consulted about the six payments of \$175,000 made to Stonehill between August 1948 and November 1949. Since Connerton was President of King's at the time of his appointment as Vice-Provincial, it is probable that the loan could have been made secretly, although it is difficult to see how the King's community could have remained ignorant of the transaction for so long. See "A Brief on the Loan to the Province of Our Lady of Holy Cross," August 1954, Archives King's College

(hereafter AKC), Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

52. Boland to Connerton, June 1, 1954, Provincial Papers-Connerton; Connerton to O'Toole, June 19, 1954, Superior General Papers-O'Toole, AHCFE. Connerton admitted to O'Toole that Boland had inside information from the accreditation team that he received even before Kings.

53. Boland at this same time had initiated a development campaign to construct new facilities at Stonehill which were badly needed due to the increase in enrollment.

54. Connerton to O'Toole, June 8, 1954, Superior General Papers-O'Toole, AHCFE.

55. Boland to Connerton, June 14, 1954, Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

56. Connerton to O'Toole, June 19, 1954, Superior General Papers-O'Toole; Connerton to Boland, n.d. (Feast of Corpus Christi, 1954), Provincial Papers-Connerton, AHCFE.

57. Connerton to William Beston, CSC, August 28, 1954, AKC; Provincial Council Meeting Minutes, August 27, 1954, AHCFE.

58. O'Toole to Boland, October 2, 1954, Boland Papers, ASC.

59. Hilary Paszek, CSC to William Beston, CSC, August 8, 1954, AKC; Provincial Council Meeting Minutes, June 28, 1954; O'Toole to Connerton, November 18, 1954, Superior General Papers-O'Toole, AHCFE.

60. O'Toole to Connerton, November 18, 1954, Superior General Papers-O'Toole, AHCFE.

61. Application for Loan, November 22, 1954, Financial Records Statement, n.d. History of Stonehill Papers, ASC; O'Toole to Connerton, December 7, 1954, Superior General Papers-O'Toole, AHCFE. On March 25, 1955 a check for \$6,777.31, to cover interest was submitted by Stonehill as final payment of the debt.