

Holy Cross History

U.S. Province

Archives, P.O. Box

568, Notre Dame,

IN 46556-0568

43RD ANNUAL
HOLY CROSS HISTORY CONFERENCE
HOLY CROSS COLLEGE, NOTRE DAME, INDIANA
JUNE 14 - JUNE 15, 2024



Holy Cross College

The 43rd Holy Cross History Conference will be held in person at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Indiana, and virtually, via ZOOM, on Friday, June 14th through Saturday, June 15th. The conference will end on Saturday evening, June 15th, following the banquet.

Brother Phil Smith, CSC, archivist of Midwest Brothers will host the conference assisted by vice-president Brother Joe Fox, CSC. The theme for this year's conference will be *The Continuing History of the Congregation of Holy Cross*.



REGISTRATION FEES

Registration will be on Thursday afternoon from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
in the Pfeil atrium of Holy Cross College.

Complete package: \$50 includes presentations, all meals, socials and banquet.
Commuter: no charge for presentations with no meals or banquet.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our out-of-town participants will be housed at Columba Hall
on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

MASS

Mass will be celebrated at Saint Joseph Chapel at Holy Cross College.

MEALS AND BANQUET

All of our meals will be provided by Holy Cross College.
The annual banquet will be held on Saturday evening, June 15th.

TRANSPORTATION

The South Bend International Airport, [SBN], is about fifteen minutes from the conference.
You can arrange a pick-up with the transportation committee we are setting up.
It is a \$20.00 taxi ride. There will be a registration form in the Spring Newsletter.
Please include the time of your flight's arrival with your registration.
Car rentals are nearly impossible to make these days.

Holy Cross History is the publication of the Holy Cross History Association. It appears twice a year, in the autumn and the spring, and reports on the activities of the association, publications concerning the Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests, current research and archival holdings. It is sent to all members of the association. Dues: US \$5.00 / CAN \$6.25 per calendar year (January to December.) Contact regarding membership: Treasurer, Brother James C. Spooner, CSC, St. Joseph Place, 499 W, River Ridge Dr, P.O.Box 839, 46556-0639, jspooner@brothersofholycross.com.

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The 2023 Conference

The 42nd Holy Cross History Conference was held at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Indiana and virtually, via ZOOM on Thursday June 8th through Saturday, June 10th. Brother Philip Smith, CSC, archivist of the Midwest Brothers hosted the conference assisted by vice-president Brother Joseph Fox, CSC.

There were seven presentations of papers and or power point. (*See pages 5 to 11 for the summaries.*) There was also a presentation given by Brother Kenneth Haders, CSC, about his visit to India. There were photographs shown but no text accompanied them.

The meals were served by the Holy Cross College food service. All of them were served in our meeting room in the Pfeil Center. At the banquet on Saturday evening, Father James Connelly, CSC, was honored for his forty-two years of service to the Holy Cross History Association.

A special “thank you” is owed to President Brother Phil Smith who was the conference coordinator and his vice-president Brother Joe Fox. We are also most grateful to Jerry and Barb Ziliak for picking up the tab for the banquet. It was most generous of them.

Board Meeting

Brother Philip Smith, president of the HCHA, convened the meeting at 3:15 p.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023, in the Pfeil Center at Holy Cross College. Present were Brother Joseph Fox, Father James Connelly, Lisa Loughran, Father Chris Kuhn. Sister Jean Goulet joined via phone from Canada. Brother Donald Stabrowski submitted the treasurer’s report but was unable to attend because of mobility issues.

Father Connelly, the HCHA secretary presented Brother Donald’s treasurer’s report. It was noted that contributions from sustaining members had not been solicited this year because of the large surplus of funds - \$41,456.69 as of June 1, 2023 - in the HCHA account at the Notre Dame Credit Union. For the same reason, there had been no reminder to members that dues of \$5 per year were payable in January. The principal expenses besides the annual conference were \$509.50 to Starlight Technologies for maintaining the Association’s website and the design, printing and mailing for two issues of the newsletter, Holy Cross History. Brother Philip announced that Jerome and Barbara Ziliak have offered to pay the cost of the Association’s banquet at the end of this year’s meeting.

Father Connelly presented the secretary’s report. In answer to a question, Father Connelly noted that as secretary he customarily sent a letter to the sustaining members at the beginning of each year soliciting a donation of \$100. He agreed to write each of the sustaining members explaining why they were not asked to donate in 2023. There was a brief discussion of the site for next year’s history conference. Moreau Seminary and Holy Cross College were mentioned as possible sites. It was agreed to ask Holy Cross College to host the 2024 conference.

Brother Philip presented nominations for the various positions that need to be filled: Brother James Spooner to replace Brother Donald Stabrowski as treasurer, Lisa Loughran as vice-president in 2023-24 and president in 2024-25, Father James Connelly as secretary in 2023-25, Sister Jean Goulet and Father Christopher Kuhn as board members in 2023-2025, Brothers Chester Freel and Philip Smith as board members in 2023-2024. All were unanimously elected.

Brother Philip led a discussion of this year’s Holy Cross History Conference. He reported that fifteen



had registered to attend the conference in person and seven via Zoom. The presence of walk-in attendees was noted. Forty people were present for today's session. The show of interest by Christopher Haug, Director of Apostolic Ministry and Charism, and Michael Jeswiak, from the Holy Cross Mission Center, both from the U.S. Province, was noted and appreciated. There were some problems with technology for the Zoom connection. A microphone and speakers should be provided in the future for those delivering presentations. Otherwise, all thought the conference had gone well and the work of Brother Philip and of Brother Joseph Fox with meals was commended.

Brother Philip closed the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Connelly, CSC, Secretary



*Pfeil Hall, Holy Cross College
The Entrance Arch at the college*





The 2023 Conference Presentations

SERVANT OF GOD, BROTHER COLUMBA O'NEILL, CSC, (1848-1923) THE BINDING UP OF LEPERS by Brother Philip Smith, CSC, was the first presentation at the conference.

Brother noted that on November 20, 2023 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Brother Columba O'Neill's death. In this presentation, Brother Philip discussed the lifelong desire of Brother Columba to be a missionary who served the lepers of India or Molokai. He was never able to realize this desire. But he never gave up his dream.

Instead of becoming a missionary, Columba was assigned to St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum in Lafayette, Indiana. The first two brothers sent to the orphanage were shoemakers, Columba O'Neill and Raymond Guilfoyle. Br. Raymond was appointed the director and superior. Brother Benoit Crowe was sent to join the two brothers in January 1877. After nine years at the orphanage Brother Columba was recalled to Notre Dame in 1886 and would remain here for the rest of his life.

In 1890, Brother Columba was assigned to be the night nurse for the ailing Father Sorin. After Sorin died on October 31, 1893, Columba and Brothers Denis and Felix sent a letter to the new Superior General Gilbert Francais. In this letter they requested to be assigned to the Mission in Bengal or Molokai. Father Francais, the Superior General, sent a very kind letter in January 1894 which postponed any decision on their proposal.

The next opportunity for Columba to realize his desire to serve lepers came later in that year when the state of Louisiana set up a Leper Board. The first director, Doctor Isadore Dwyer was chosen and a hospital for lepers was being considered. New Orleans' Mayor, John Fitzpatrick blocked the building of the hospital in his city. He stood to lose

\$25.00 per month paid to him for each leper patient entrusted to him. The leper hospital was built in Carville, Louisiana under the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

Brother Columba wrote another letter to Father Francais asking to be assigned to assist Damian of Molokai. Once again, Father Francais denies him permission. Sometime before February 1, 1895, Br. Columba wrote a letter to Doctor H.J. Scherck to request to minister at the proposed New Orleans Leprosarium. Scherck responded on February 1, 1895 with a very positive letter welcoming Br. Columba to serve the "unfortunate people." But Columba would need to clear it with his superiors Fathers Corby and Francais. Neither granted permission.

Brother Columba wrote one last request to Father Francais to be assigned as a missionary to the lepers in October of 1917. Francais reminds Columba of his age (69.) He recommends raising money for the Bengal Missions instead of going to Bengal.

THE PROVINCE OF EAST AFRICA by Father William Blum, CSC, was the second presentation.

The Province of East Africa was created this year at the U.S. Provincial Chapter. Father Bill went to Uganda in 1965. After going to Rome to earn his STD, returning to Uganda, he proposed that Holy Cross begin a formation program for African students. He went to Nairobi and began Dandora Parish and others began the formation program. Holy Cross was one of the founding congregations of Tangaza College. Father Bill became the Academic Dean to Holy Cross in East Africa has grown rapidly and is now a Province in the Congregation. There are over one hundred ninety-nine professed Africans

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belonging to the Province. The community has apostolates and houses in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

Father Bill showed a slide presentation of photos from his years of ministry in East Africa. He showed many of the members of the Province together with many of the houses and ministries of the Province. This presentation will be made into format for broadcast on YouTube. He also gave the paper he wrote on his work in East Africa in 1987 for a previous Holy Cross History Conference.

BASILE MOREAU, R.I.P., 150 YEARS, 1873-2023. by Father James Connelly, CSC, was the third presentation.

Father Jim is member of the committee to find ways to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Father Moreau's death in 2023-2024. Father Jim searched in vain for Moreau's last words. Unfortunately, Moreau was virtually unconscious in his last hours. Father Moreau resigned as superior general in 1866 at age of sixty-seven. He had endured opposition from several senior members of his Congregation, especially Edward Sorin, Victor Drouelle and Louis Champeau.

With the permission of Pope Pius IX, Moreau chose to live at the Institut Sainte-Croix, the school Moreau had founded in Le Mans. When the Congregation sold the Institut Sainte-Croix in 1870 in order to pay its debts, Moreau moved out and into the house of his sister, across from the school. When Moreau moved there were no longer any community members living in Le Mans. The Marianite Sisters provided his meals, and Father Moreau supported himself by preaching parish missions and substituting for priests who were ill or needed to be away from their parish.

Moreau took sick at one of these parish missions at a village near Le Mans. They brought him to his sister's house. He died there on January 20, 1873. No Holy Cross priests or brothers were present. Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors with several Marianites were with him and their chaplain,

Father Charles Moreau. There was no record of Basile Moreau having said anything just before he died. At the time of his death and since the sale of the school, he was the only Holy Cross priest or brother still in Le Mans. Two Holy Cross priests and two brothers came from Paris to his funeral three days later.

Father Edward Sorin, superior general at the time was in North America and read about Moreau's death in a newspaper. He issued a circular letter to the Congregation announcing Father Moreau's death. "our venerable Founder . . . to whom we are all indebted for our Religious existence as an Order in the Church." Sorin prescribed the full suffrages for a deceased superior general and never mentioned Moreau again.

The superiors of the Province of France appear to have omitted any reference to Moreau by name in their circular letters over the next twenty years. As far as the members of the Congregation knew, the 1866 general chapter's circular letter blaming Moreau for the community's financial problems, the accusation was true.

When Father Sorin died twenty years later in October 1893, his successor, Father Gilbert Francais immediately undertook to revive the memory and veneration of Father Moreau as the founder of the Congregation. Francais invoked our "pious founders, Dujarie and Moreau in his first circular letter. In his second letter he asked the Congregation to honor the memory of Moreau and Sorin. A year later, he referred to Moreau as the "founder" of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Father Charles Moreau, the founder's nephew, had resigned from the Congregation in 1868, and was justifiably angry over the treatment of his uncle. He had possession of his uncle's papers and was at work on a biography of his uncle. His work was published posthumously in 1900 by his cousin Mari-Joseph Bouleau to whom he left the papers. Francais tried to prevent publication of this book. The work was not translated into English. Finally, Francais managed to acquire Basile Moreau's papers and transferred them to the Archives of the

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Canadian Province.

In 1920, a new seminary was named after Moreau at the University of Notre Dame, the first building in the Congregation to be so named. In 1931, the new Superior General James Donahue was able to purchase the conventual church in Le Mans, Sainte Croix, that had been secularized in 1903.

In 1937, the church was reconsecrated during the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the Congregation. In 1938, the new Superior General Albert Cousineau presided over moving Father Moreau's remains to the crypt of the Church from the funeral chapel in the Congregation's cemetery.

In 1955, the Congregation introduced at the Vatican the case for the canonization of Basile Moreau. More than eleven biographies in French or English have been published, all attesting to Moreau's saintly life. Pope Benedict XVI gave his approval to the beatification of Basile Moreau in 2006. In a ceremony in Le Mans, on September 15, 2007, Basile Moreau was inscribed among the *beati*, of the blessed in the Catholic Church.

BASILE MOREAU: HIS LEGACY IN CANADA: EXPERIENCE OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN ARCHIVES AND THE MUSEUMS OF HOLY CROSS IN MONTREAL by Gael Jeannin, France Thiabouot and Ana Luiza Colares Prasser was the fourth presentation.

Gaël Jeannin is the archivist of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross. He has a Master's degree in History and Spanish (University of Fribourg, 2010) and a Master of Advanced studies in Archival Library and Information Science (Universities of Lausanne, 2014.) His specialization is in the religious parishes and congregations, dealing with Heritage libraries and archives at Passeur's archives. Since the summer of 2019, he is in charge of the Archives of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Ana Luiza Colares Prasser is the archival technician at the Archives of the Canadian Prov-

ince of the Congregation of Holy Cross was born in Brazil. She holds bachelor's degree in Language and Literature from the University of Sao Paulo, as well as a minor in Philosophy and a Master of Information Studies from the University of Montreal. She began her professional career in Sao Paulo at the Paulista Museum, an institution specializing in history and material culture. In Canada since 2016, she had contracts at the Archives of Avataq Cultural Institute, the Societe Historique et Cululturelle du Marigot and St. Josphe's Oratory Museum. Since September 2022, she is an archival technician at the Archives of the Canadian Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

France Thiboutot, museologist and head of the Sisters of Holy Cross' archives is a graduate of Universite Laval in anthropology and of Universite de Montreal in museology. She earned a Master of Arts degree in in each university. Since 2015, she has been working at Sisters of Holy Cross Community Museum and Archives in the midst of great upheaval. The museum closed in 2020 and since then, France has been working to organize the relocation of the museum's collections as well as archival materials. Her main career objective is to protect the religious heritage and to ensure that it is promoted through various outreach projects.

THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE 1968-2006 by Father Peter Logsdon, CSC, was the fifth presentation.

Father Pete gave a preview of his book on the History of the Southern Province which will be completed later this year (2023). It is a project which Father Pete began in 2011. He focused his book on the Priests Southern Province, and will not include a comprehensive history of the Brothers' South/West Province nor the Marianites' Province.

Holy Cross' presence in Louisiana began in the mid-nineteenth century. The Marianite Sisters and Holy Cross Brothers came to New Orleans in late 1848 to run an orphanage. Eventually a Holy

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Cross priest showed up to help in 1849. In 1871, the Holy Cross Brothers founded St. Isidore School by the Mississippi River. In 1879, Archbishop Joseph Perche asked Holy Cross to start a new parish on Canal Street in an area called mid-city out towards Lake Ponchatrain. The Parish was called Sacred Heart of Jesus after the patron of the Holy Cross Priests.

The presence of Holy Cross in Texas began later in 1872. Father Edward Sorin was offered a donation of land in Austin, Texas. Mrs. Mary Doyle donated her farm in Austin on the condition that Father Sorin started a Catholic School like the one that he had at Notre Dame, Indiana. Sorin also asked the bishop to allow Holy Cross to take over the only Catholic parish in Austin, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. By 1874, Father Sorin started the school and Holy Cross took over St. Mary's Parish.

Thus by the end of the 1870's, we have the four pillars of the future Southern Province—St. Edward's School and St. Mary's Church in Austin and St. Isidore School (soon to be called Holy Cross School) and Sacred Heart Church in New Orleans. Before 1945, the Holy Cross Priests and Brothers were all in the same province.

Another very important ministry on which the Southern Province was founded was the 'Texas Missions' or the 'Home Missions.' It began in 1907 when Father Patrick O'Reilly was sent from Notre Dame to Austin, Texas. He was sent there to recover from tuberculosis or to die. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Father O'Reilly recovered. He then founded Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in downtown Austin for Mexican Americans and Mexican Nationals. This was a big event for the mostly Protestant Anglos in Texas.

In 1917, for health reasons, Father O'Reilly left Guadalupe Parish, and moved to St. Edward's University in order to get well. He got well enough to travel north of Austin to serve Mexican Americans and Mexican Nationals in towns like Georgetown, Round Rock and others. He celebrated Masses in Spanish in homes, fields and in cemeteries. Thus, he was called "the Father of Hispanic Ministry in

Central Texas."

In 1935, Superior General Father J. Wesley Donahue, the Provincial of the Indiana Province, sent five newly ordained priests to Austin. These priests greatly expanded the number of Texas missions. Father Al Mendez, the future Bishop of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, organized eight Spanish speaking mission churches in Central Texas. The principal church, San Jose Parish in South Austin, became known as the "Queen of the Missions."

The next priest from the class of 1935 was Father Frank Weber. He founded Holy Cross Parish the first parish for African American Catholics in Central Texas. He built the Church and school by hand. When he found that his parishioners were barred from the white hospitals, he led his parishioners in building their own Holy Cross Hospital. He was nicknamed "the carpenter priest." The third priest from the class of '35 was Father Pat Duffy. In 1937, he started St. Ignatius Martyr Parish. He celebrated Masses in a funeral home on South Congress Avenue. In 1940, he built a new church and invited the Holy Cross Sisters to open a school in the basement of the church. Father Tom Culhane, class of '35, cared for several Hispanic communities north of Austin. He is credited with building several chapels that are now parishes in the Austin Diocese.

Father Joe Houser was the fifth priest from the class of '35. He began his ministry at St. Edward's University, but eventually he was named pastor of San Jose Parish in South Austin and became Superior of the Hispanic Mission Churches. Father Fred Schmidt was sent to Austin two years later, in 1937. Immediately, he began to minister in Spanish north of Austin. He founded St. William's Parish in Round Rock and Christ the King Parish in Belton. Later, he would serve in Mexico for another thirty years. By the mid-1940's, there were twenty Holy Cross Parishes and chapels in Texas.

By the 1940's, the Holy Cross community was growing in Central Texas. A suitable gathering



place was acquired in 1949 by Father Joe Houser. It was a huge World War II barracks on two and a half acres of land on the shore of Lake Austin. For the next fifty-seven years, Holy Cross priests and brothers in Texas gathered there every month. In effect, the Holy Cross priests in Texas had their own District or Province long before it was official.

In 1963, the Indiana Province created a "District of Texas." The former Superior General, Father Christopher O'Toole was appointed "District Superior." From the beginning, Father O'Toole wanted the District to become a province. But it was too small. So he developed what Pete Logsdon calls an "Interstate 10 Strategy." He recommended that two new parishes in Louisiana be staffed by Holy Cross. He also encouraged Holy Cross to be visible and help out in Florida. He was able to get a donation of a motel in Fort Lauderdale. This motel was sold back and a different motel in Cocoa Beach was purchased. This motel was turned into a Holy Cross residence named Christopher Lodge. In 1966, Father O'Toole got the Indiana Province Chapter to create a "District of the South" by combining the District of Texas with Holy Cross places in Louisiana and Florida.

In 1968, the General chapter created "the Southern Province." Father O'Toole was named the first provincial. When the Province began there were fifteen Holy Cross parishes in Texas and three parishes in Louisiana. There were also chaplaincies at hospitals and prisons. In its first Provincial Chapter of 1970, the election of the Provincial became a divisive issue. The seven young priests were going to vote for Father Larry LeVasseur, but Father O'Toole became the first elected Provincial. The Southern Province had seventy-four members, about ten postulants, novices and seminarians, and eight priests from other provinces.

The 1976 Provincial Chapter became a disaster. Father O'Toole decided not to run for another term. Father Jack Miller, whom Father O'Toole appointed, had been placed in charge of overseeing the election process. The new process used mailed-in ballots which were manipulated by Father Miller. He was Provincial for only four years. He was removed

by an extraordinary Chapter led by Superior General Tom Barros. The vocation crisis was also a serious problem for the Southern province. In the first twelve years there had only been three ordinations. In the next twenty-six years there were only seven ordained.

The Extraordinary Provincial Chapter of 1980 elected Father Pete Logsdon. After eight years, Father Len Collins succeeded him for nine years. Father John Korcsmar then served for ten years until the end. The Southern Province turned over its parishes to the Diocese of Austin and two Dioceses in Louisiana. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans and Sacred Heart Church. In 2006, The Southern Province voted (twenty-four to one) to rejoin the Indiana Province.

PROVINCE OF WEST AFRICA: THE FIRST JOB OF A MISSIONARY IS TO WORK HIMSELF OUT OF A JOB by Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC, was the sixth presentation.

Brother Raymond traced the evolution of the District of West Africa to the Province of Ghana. In December 1957, Brother Rex Hennel and Eduardo Michalik came to Takoradi Harbor, Ghana to take over the administration of St. John's High School. They took over the administration on January 1, 1958. Raymond joined them in 1959. An elderly brother took Raymond aside and told him "Remember Raymond, the first job of a missionary is work himself out of a job."

By 1960, there were six brothers at St. John's. There was a lot of political tension at that time; the cold war was causing much of the tension. The United States and the Catholic Church were under attack. The future of the Ghana mission was being questioned. Fortunately the Assistant Superior General, Brother Theophane visited Ghana. Brother Theophane encouraged the brothers to start a Ghanaian community of Holy Cross. In 1962, the first candidates were admitted into Holy Cross. Brother Joe Tsiquaye was one of the first Ghanaian recruits.

In 1967, Ghana became a District giving

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them a degree of independence to make their own decisions as to how move forward. In 1986, the District headquarters was founded at Brafoyaw. It has developed into the District's headquarters with offices and rooms for the brothers. The Scholasticate was built near the Catholic University where our brothers continue their education.

In 1979, Brother Joe Tsiquaye became District Superior. For the last forty-four years the District has been led by Ghanaian brothers, Brothers Joe Annan, Michael Amakyi, Paul Mensah, Dan Dardoe and John Affum, who is now their first Provincial. Brother Michael Amakyi was District Superior for nine years and is now head of the education department at Cape Coast University. Brother Dan Dardoe took over the Technical School and built it into a major educational institution. Brother Nicholas Arthur for many years was an assistant to the Superior General.

The brothers still teach in three schools: St. John's in Sekondi, St. Augustine's in Cape Coast and Brother Andre High School in Kaspa. There is also a Technical school in Anaji. There is a Home of Hope for "at risk" young men from the area. Brother Nee Wayo is now Assistant General in charge of formation for the entire congregation. He was novice master and retreat director for priests. Brother Ken Dunditani has taken over the administration of a leprosarium in Northern Ghana.

In 2023, the District of Ghana became the Province of Ghana in the Congregation of Holy Cross. There are now nearly fifty Ghanaian brothers. One is an assistant Superior General. There are no American brothers now working in Ghana. Clearly, we have followed the advice of our elderly brother. We have worked ourselves out of a job.

THE TRI-SOCIETY HISPANIC MINISTRY COMMITTEE OF HOLY CROSS by Father John Phalen, CSC, was the seventh presentation.

For thirty-six years from 1976 until 2012, Holy Cross sisters, brothers and priests joined forces

to form what came to be a type of professional organization to train and support members of the four congregations and their lay associates. They served the Hispanic populations of the United States and Monterrey, Mexico. It was named The Holy Cross Tri-Society Hispanic Committee. It both contributed to and often responded to the conclusions and methods of the *National Enuentros*, the Pastoral Letter and the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

National meeting were held annually and regional meetings semi-annually. The meetings took place in thirty areas where Holy Cross ministry to Latinos took place especially in California, Texas, Arizona, Louisiana, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New York, New Hampshire. Many experts in the field of Hispanic ministry addressed the Committee over the years. There were also members of Holy Cross who addressed the annual meetings.

The committee served as both initiation in Hispanic Ministry for those who were new to it, as well as on-going formation for both Hispanics and non-Hispanics who ministered to Latino communities and/or individuals. The apostolates to Hispanics in which members of the Committee participated included parish, schools, medical clinics and hospitals, community organizations, movements such as *Cursillo de Cristiandad* (A Short Course on Christianity) and Charismatic Renewal, campus ministry, ministry to campesinos (farmworkers), immigration and legal advocacy, prison ministry, youth ministry, Catholic Charities, bilingual education, missionary work in El Salvador, Mexico, Chile, and Peru, the Valley Missionary Program, ministry to addicts, spiritual direction, housing programs, prayer ministry, rural ministry, day care, catechesis, social service centers such as La Casa de Amistad, (House of Friendship) in South Bend and San Antonio. In 1986, the community directory of Holy Cross Hispanic Apostolates showed sixty-nine settings where Hispanic ministry took place involving one or more of the four Holy Cross Congregations.

It was the practice for Hispanic ministry

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committee meetings to begin with lively music, prayer and a welcoming session for both travelers and local religious and laity. All sat in a circle and when the time came, they felt free to speak frankly and share their successes and challenges. They shared difficult encounters and sometimes even outright experiences of racism. The Hispanic Ministry Committee held regional meetings called Convocations. This gave the regional group an opportunity to invite speakers and topics most important to their region. The most important issue was how the participants were dealing with isolation or accompaniment support or lack of the same, their health, both physical and psychological.

A watershed moment in the history of the Committee was the result of the first two National Encuentros of Hispanics and those ministering among them. In 1983, the US Bishops approved *The Hispanic Presence*, a pastoral letter on Hispanic ministry. This was followed by the Third National Encuentro of 1985, which established the guidelines for the writing of the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry which appeared in 1987. Implementing these documents and especially the Pastoral Plan became the objective of the National committee and its regional components. It was a time of great hope for the future. Terms such as “*Pastoral de Conjunto*” which means collaborative, or team ministry, became a model of Church.

The Committee has also submitted a proposed Pastoral Plan for Holy Cross Hispanic Ministry to Provincial Chapters in 1982 and 1983 and another in 1987. Statements from provinces and generalates addressed Nicaragua, El Salvador, the Sanctuary Movement, the Dreamers and ICE’s separating children from their undocumented parents.

The Committee definitely increased contact among members of the different Congregations, with sisters, brothers and priests assisting each other’s projects by giving retreats, training sessions, talks and the like. The Southern Province created houses of formation for predominantly Hispanic young adults in Austin and San Antonio and the Mexico Project in Ciudad Guadalupe, Monterrey, Mexico.

In 2016, Father John Korcsmar called upon the men’s congregation to consider how much Hispanic ministry had grown in the previous thirty years. Hispanic parishes, Spanish Masses, are served by Holy Cross in Phoenix, Coachella, South Bend, Portland, three parishes in Austin. Notre Dame, King’s College, Stonehill College and St. Edward’s College are working with Hispanics and migrants. Holy Trinity in Chicago and Holy Cross in San Antonio educate primarily poor U.S. Hispanic immigrant Latino students. Holy Cross has created houses of formation in Texas, for those who will work with Hispanics and Latinos. It has also created four houses of formation in Monterrey, Nuestra Senora de la Luz.



Newsletter of the Holy Cross History Association



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