



# *Saints today. Saints for all eternity.*

## From the desk of Dr. Marco Clark

“Listening, Learning, Leading”

187 years ago, in the fall of 1835, Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, wrote to the priests and brothers indicating his intention to start a school, “You might inform those parents who may wish to send their children to school at Le Mans [France] that I intend to establish a boarding school at Sainte Croix.” This simple statement of intent began the story and charism that has persisted to this day in more than 120 Holy Cross colleges, schools, and universities around the world.

In a time of great social and political turmoil in post-Revolutionary France, Fr. Moreau and his band of priests, brothers, and sisters set out to bring hope to a world that was hurting. Holy Cross schools were formed to teach students all that they should know while expanding their worldview to include awareness of the injustices of our world so that they might have the competence to see and the courage to act. Moreau invited students to learn in a diverse setting, one in which they could learn with and from each other. He set out to break down barriers that separated people by race, class, educational aptitude, and religion, build bridges to one another, and thus bring hope. Ultimately, he challenged his teachers to form students to be the change that the world so desperately needed.



This charism, which has been passed on from one generation to the next, serves as a source of passion and provides direction for Holy Cross College. For Moreau, to bring needed change to the world, life, and especially educational life, could no longer be left to continue as usual. To accomplish the ends of his schools, students would be listened to, real needs would be identified, and a comprehensive plan would be designed so students as individuals would be the primary beneficiaries. Further, they would be guided to use the benefits received for making a difference in the world.

This mission would aim at nothing less than personal and social reconstruction, regeneration, and resurrection. Even a cursory glance at our society and world today makes it evident that Moreau’s insight about the need for transformation, for a work of resurrection, is as urgent today as it was in 1835. Now, as then, that work begins with the individual and expands through the quality of our relationships with students, colleagues, parents, benefactors, anyone associated with the school community. By our sharing in the legacy, mission, and charism of Holy Cross, the challenge remains: to regenerate society, to transform the world around us, to educate minds and form hearts.

The work we are embarking upon today through the strategic planning process at Holy Cross College also demands of us to listen to our students, faculty, staff, and community, to identify the real needs of the world and each individual who we are privileged to serve, and develop a comprehensive plan for the future of Holy Cross College. To do this effectively, we need your input. You are invited to join with us in this planning process by attending a variety of community listening sessions and taking the time to complete our community survey. Imagine what we can accomplish together! With your input and support, together we will be co-creating a plan that educates and forms global citizens with the competence to see and the courage to act, to regenerate society and transform the world.

Thank you all again for your love, prayers, and support. I hope to meet you all very soon. Until then, let’s remain Saints today and saints for all eternity.

Ave Crux, Spes Unica,

Marco J. Clark, Ed.D.