

CROSSING BORDERS OF EVERY SORT



The Holy Cross Institute
AT ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY



Welcome to Convocation 2025!

The theme of this year’s Convocation, “**Crossing Borders of Every Sort,**” is drawn from the **Constitutions (2:17)** and reflects the deep sense of **mission** that has inspired Holy Cross educators—past, present, and future. As educators in the faith, we come together to explore emerging best practices, exchange valuable insights,

and build connections that will help shape the future of the Holy Cross mission both nationally and internationally.

We are privileged to welcome a distinguished lineup of speakers, many from within our own ranks, who bring remarkable expertise and a strong commitment to **our shared mission**. Through their wisdom and experience crossing borders, they will illuminate the unique spirit of Holy Cross education. Our agenda includes inspiring keynotes and plenary sessions, interactive workshops and breakout discussions, and ample opportunities for networking and collaboration.

Convocation is about more than mission; it is about community. As we engage in discussions on a range of topics, let us embrace a spirit of curiosity, openness, and shared purpose. Cross borders early and often! Take time to connect with fellow Holy Cross educators from across the country and around the world. This gathering is not just an assembly but a community committed to evangelization and united by the call to be **disciples with hope to bring**.

This year, our keynote speaker and several of our guests come to us from Rome. They remind us that we are part of a universal Church, and that the mission of Catholic education envelops our work and orients us to search for, discover and communicate truth in every field of knowledge. Convocation is a privileged time for us to celebrate our Catholic identity and our common quest for truth, goodness and beauty.

Once again, welcome to **Convocation 2025!** May these days be a source of inspiration, learning, and lasting connections. Thank you for being part of this gathering—let’s make it a truly memorable experience.

Let our Convocation begin! Ave Crux, Spes Unica!!

Richard Bautch, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

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Find more information about the HCI here:



Monday, February 24 - Launch Day

9:00 AM	Prayer, Acknowledgment Statement and Welcome	JONES GEC
9:30 AM	Morning Plenary Session	JONES GEC
	Crossing the Closest Border: How Collaboration Fuels Mission <i>Dcn. Ricky Bevington, C.S.C., King's College</i> <i>Jessica Guerriero, St. Michael's Catholic Preparatory School (Austin)</i>	
10:15 AM	Break	
10:30 AM	Dialogue and Discoveries	JONES GEC
11:00 AM	Breakout Sessions	MABEE BALLROOM A&B
NOON	Daily Mass (All are welcome, OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHAPEL)	
	Lunch (AVAILABLE UNTIL 1:30 PM, MABEE BALLROOMS A&B)	
	HCI Open House (UNTIL 1:30 PM, PREMONT HALL 110)	
2–2:45 PM	Afternoon Session 1: K-8/High School Workshops	
	Best Culture, Best Outcomes	LUCAS 301
	<i>KC McKenna, Mo Loesch, Molly Pietch, St. Edward High School</i>	
	Diverse Paths, Common Ground	WINSTEAD 328
	<i>Jerico Abanico, Moreau Catholic High School</i>	
	Using Student Travel, Exchange Programs and Fields Trips to Help Your Students Cross Borders	HERNDON 321
	<i>Kim Jamell, Karen Hovanec, Rose Egan, Cathedral High School</i>	
	Afternoon Session 1: "Emerging Landscapes" Workshops	
	Branding and Messaging for the Future of Holy Cross	
	<i>Jason Curtis, Jamie Perkins, Paul Sears, Saint Francis High School</i>	
		BAIN BOARDROOM 330
	Moreau's Bold Vision: Challenging Holy Cross Today and Tomorrow	
	<i>Sr. Elaine Poitras, C.S.C., The Innovative Catholic School Network</i>	
		HOLY CROSS HALL 105

Across the Border: The Realm of the Public Juridic Person
Mike Truesdell, Mercy Education RICE ROOM 319

Updates on the Holy Cross Charism Initiative PREMONT HALL 110
Michael Glynn, The Holy Cross Institute

2:45 - 3:15 PM Coffee / Tea Break

3:15 - 4:00 PM Afternoon Session 2: K-8/High School Workshops

The Road to a Blue Ribbon School Award LUCAS 301
John Barnhardt, Patrick Flynn, Bishop McNamara High School

Educators in All Male Classrooms: Bridging the (Gender) Academic Achievement Gap HERNDON 321
Dr. Kelly M. Clark, Holy Cross New Orleans

Enriching Student Life and The Christmas On The Hill Experience! HOLY CROSS HALL 105
Katie Lewis, Ed Freije, Anthony Ernst, Cathedral High School

Engaging the School's Community: Donor, Faculty/Staff, Parent, Alumni, and Students WINSTEAD 328
Sabrina Lemus, Notre Dame High School (Calif.)

Afternoon Session 2: "Emerging Landscapes" Workshops

The Apostolic Spirituality of Holy Cross: Crossing Borders in Higher Education BAIN BOARDROOM 330
Fr. Thomas Looney, C.S.C., Kings College

Contemplating the Sorrowful Mysteries with Our Lady of Sorrows RICE ROOM 319
Craig Dyke, Family Rosary USA

Forming Door Keepers: Creating a Positive Behavior Framework in the Holy Cross Tradition BODINE ROOM 329
Melissa Green, St. Joseph Grade School (South Bend)

5:00 PM Happy Hour at the Marriott South Hotel

(beverage tickets provided on location)

6:00 PM Dinner on Your Own

Tuesday, February 24 - Pinnacle Day

9:00 AM **Prayer, Acknowledgment Statement and Welcome**
JONES GEC

9:30 AM **Morning Plenary Session** JONES GEC

A Year of Holy Cross Mission
Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Superior General (Rome)

10:15 AM **Break**

10:30 AM **Dialogue and Discoveries** JONES GEC

11:00 AM **Breakout Sessions** MABEE BALLROOM A&B

NOON **Lunch** (AVAILABLE UNTIL 1:30 PM, MABEE BALLROOMS A&B)

On Tuesday during lunch, the SEU Ballet Folklorico will perform for us in the Mabee Ballroom. These Holy Cross students perform a variety of dances that reflect the traditions, beliefs, and cultures of different regions of Mexico. For this performance, musical accompaniment will be provided by the students of Moreau Catholic High School, in Hayward, California. We are grateful to all these students and especially to Rosalinda Valdez and Ann Khristine Tabora, the respective directors of the SEU Ballet Folklorico and Campus Ministry at Moreau Catholic.

2–3:00 PM **Afternoon Plenary Session 1: Crossing Borders**

The Journey to the Journey: Leaning into the Holy Cross Family to Ensure a Formative International Experience – Panel Discussion JONES GEC
Katie Yohe, Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sister Cynthia Godia Bianaan, C.S.C., Our Lady of Holy Cross School (Ghana)
Linda Ruskowski, Academy of the Holy Cross
Maika Walker, Academy of the Holy Cross

3:00 PM **Coffee / Tea Break**

3:15 - 4:00 PM **Afternoon Plenary Session 2: Crossing Borders**

The Expansion and Perpetuity of the Holy Cross Mission in Brazil
Geani Moller Cavallaro, Santa Cruz School (Brazil) JONES GEC
Márcia Regina Savioli, Santa Cruz School (Brazil)

4:30 PM Holy Mass (All are welcome, OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHAPEL)

6:00 PM Cocktail Reception (MUNDAY LIBRARY 2ND FLOOR)

7:00 PM Convocation Banquet – Presentation of Awards

MABEE BALLROOM

**SCHEDULE
UPDATES**



Wednesday, February 26 - Capstone Day

9:00 AM	Prayer, Acknowledgment Statement and Welcome	JONES GEC
9:30 AM	Morning Plenary Session	JONES GEC
	<p>A Snapshot of Holy Cross Higher Education <i>Michelle Landon, Kings College</i> <i>James McDonough, Kings College</i> <i>Kevin Myers, Holy Cross College</i> <i>Dinah Sbelgio, St. Edward's University</i> <i>Sarah Dvorak, St. Mary's College</i> <i>Scott Seseske, Stonehill College</i> <i>Christopher Perkins, University of Notre Dame</i> <i>Mai Nhia Xiong-Chan, University of Portland</i> <i>Evelyn Pajon, University of the Holy Cross</i></p>	
10:15 AM	Break	
10:30 AM	Dialogue and Discoveries	JONES GEC
11:00 AM	Breakout Sessions	MABEE BALLROOM A&B
NOON	Daily Mass (All are welcome, OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHAPEL)	
	Lunch (AVAILABLE UNTIL 1:30 PM, MABEE BALLROOMS A&B)	
	HCI Open House (UNTIL 1:30 PM, PREMONT HALL 110)	
2-2:45 PM	Afternoon Session 1: Higher Education Workshops	
	<p>Leading with Hope: Character Education in the Holy Cross Tradition <i>Karen Anderson, Colleen Ford, Stonehill College</i> LUCAS 301</p> <p>Corporate Social Responsibility: Meeting the Needs of Developing Countries <i>Kathleen Wilburn, St. Edward's University</i> RICE 319</p> <p>"Widening Our Circle of Family": Supporting International Students at Holy Cross Institutions <i>Maureen Schwenger, University of Notre Dame</i> BODINE 329</p>	

Afternoon Session 1: "Emerging Landscapes" Workshops

<p>Rooted in Mission: All Sorts of Borders to Cross with Parent Pledge, Board Support, and International Student Experiences <i>Liz Guneratne, Dotty McCrea, Elizabeth Berkes, Moreau Catholic High School</i></p>	BAIN BOARDROOM 330
<p>Creative Use of the USCCB Curriculum Framework: Viewing Contemporary Films Through a Sacramental Lens <i>Matt Cannaday, Cathedral High School</i></p>	WINSTEAD 328
<p>A New Plan for Summer Reading <i>Lucy Abbott, Notre Dame High School (Conn.)</i></p>	HERNDON 321

2:45 - 3:15 PM Coffee / Tea Break

3:15 - 4:00 PM Afternoon Session 2: Higher Education Workshops

<p>Leveraging Summer Research <i>Nyree McDonald, University of Notre Dame</i></p>	BAIN BOARDROOM 330
<p>Crossing Borders of Every Sort: Holy Cross Ministries in Texas <i>Mity Myhr, Joseph Howe, St. Edward's University</i></p>	BODINE 32
<p>Welcoming Autistic and Neurodivergent Students: A Conversation Between Professor and Student <i>Angelique Montgomery-Goodnough, Nia Botti, St. Edward's University</i></p>	RICE 319

3:15 - 4:00 PM **Afternoon Session 2: "Emerging Landscapes" Workshops**

Driven by Hope - Through the Lens of the Holy Cross Apostolic Mission
Jessica Plaspohl, Paul Acampora, Chris Haug, Chris Fahey, Spes Unica Associates

LUCAS 301

Implementing Equitable Grading Policies in the High School Classroom
Desiree Moyer, Michael MacDonald, Archbishop Hoban High School

WINSTEAD 328

Updates on the Holy Cross Charism Initiative
Michael Glynn, The Holy Cross Institute

PREMONT HALL 110

4:30 PM Closing Ceremony, Executive Director's Address, and Memorial Service
JONES GEC

6:00 PM Dinner on Your Own/ Post-Conference Gathering at an Austin Restaurant

**SCHEDULE
UPDATES**



KEYNOTE SESSION



Keynote, A Year of Holy Cross Mission
Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Superior General, Rome

As the Congregation of Holy Cross prepares to launch a Year of Mission on April 28, 2025—marking the anniversary of Blessed Basil Moreau sending the first Holy Cross missionaries beyond France—Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Superior General, will address this epochal event in his keynote at Convocation 2025.

Drawing from his recent circular letter, Continuing to Cross New Borders, Br. Paul will explore how the mission of Holy Cross remains constant yet must be continually renewed in response to the evolving needs of the Church and society. He will explore the theme of the upcoming Year of Mission: "Hope Beyond Borders." He will encourage us to discern new pathways for mission, moving beyond past practices to embrace new opportunities for evangelization and service.

This keynote will also highlight the congregation's new Holy Family Mission in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, as a living example of the ongoing call to cross borders of every sort and bring hope to the world.

PLENARY SESSIONS



Crossing the Closest Border: How Collaboration Fuels Mission

Dcn. Ricky Bevington, C.S.C., King's College; Jessica Guerriero, St. Michael's Catholic Preparatory School (Austin)

Bl. Basile Moreau knew that it was from our unity that we could go out to make God known, loved, and served among God's diverse people. This session addresses this connection between inward unity and outward service. Collaborating well among ourselves as partners in mission is challenging, especially when there are many visions for how to move forward. Transcending the borders of our personal work to collaborate in a common mission allows lay professionals, brothers, and priests in Holy Cross to truly educate in the faith. How do we discern the ways in which personal mission can be put at the service of shared mission? How do we collaborate well when we disagree? The presenters' collective experiences in Holy Cross circles will ground a model for moving through collaboration to mission.



The Expansion and Perpetuity of the Holy Cross Mission in Brazil

Geani Moller Cavallaro, Santa Cruz School, Brazil; Márcia Regina Savioli, Santa Cruz School, Brazil

Under the inspiration of Bl. Basile Moreau, the Congregation of Holy Cross, since its origins, considers the geographical boundaries limitless and has been overcoming challenges and strengthening its vocation to expand the mission. In Brazil, along the last 80 years, we have 3 schools, 9 social projects, 2 parishes, formation and fraternal life houses. Driven by the mission essence - educating minds and hearts, we seek to contribute to the formation of better times, based on dignity, equity and social justice. The best expression of Holy Cross mission in Brazil is the family spirit, which unites, nourishes and articulates pastoral, social and educational areas in favor of strengthening the charisma of Holy Cross and the zeal for the perpetuity of the work. Wherever we are serving, in schools, parishes or social programs – we are all Holy Cross educators!



The Journey to the Journey: Leaning into the Holy Cross Family to Ensure a Formative International Experience

Katie Yohe, Assistant Dir. of the Holy Cross Justice Collaborative, Sisters of the Holy Cross; Linda Ruszkowski, Dir. of Campus Ministry, Academy of the Holy Cross, Maryland; Maika Walker, Dir. of Social Justice, Academy of the Holy Cross, Maryland; Sister Cynthia Godia Binaan, C.S.C., Our Lady of Holy Cross School, Ghana



Last spring, the Academy of the Holy Cross traveled to Ghana to serve alongside the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The Spes Unica

Service Trip set out to achieve an educational and transformational experience for students. Over the course of six months, the team spent time in preparation developing key partnerships, leaning into the history of the Holy Cross Family, and creating a plan to implement the Holy Cross Pillars into their service. This session invites you to a conversation on international travel, specifically as we aim to strengthen Holy Cross Family connections across borders. Are you designing a service trip with students? Are you been wanting to do more with Holy Cross Religious? Are you curious about how to integrate meaningful times of reflection throughout the service experience? Accompany us as we share the "journey to the journey" with presenters sharing unique perspectives from the Academy and the Sisters of the Holy Cross.



A Snapshot of Holy Cross Higher Education

Michelle Landon and James McDonough, Kings College (pictured here); Kevin Myers, Holy Cross College; Dinah Sbelgio, St. Edward's University; Sarah Dvorak, Saint Mary's College; Scott Seseske, Stonehill College; Christopher Perkins, University of Notre Dame; Mai Nhia Xiong-Chan, University of Portland; Evelyn Pajon, University of the Holy Cross



This session provides a snapshot overview of all eight Holy Cross colleges and universities across the United States. It's an enlightening opportunity to understand how Holy Cross is shaping higher education and how we are uniquely and unitedly transforming minds and hearts. There will be a 5-minute presentation made by each of the colleges and universities. The presentations will highlight the opportunities that each college and university provide to help their students gain an education in the Holy Cross tradition.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Workshops are listed alphabetically

The Apostolic Spirituality of Holy Cross: Crossing Borders in Higher Education

Fr. Thomas Looney, C.S.C., Kings College

The apostolic spirituality of the Congregation of Holy Cross provides our higher education institutions with an invaluable resource to assist the crossing of borders across boundaries of belief, academic disciplines, institutional organization, and hierarchies in order to serve the students who entrust themselves to us. By way of introduction this presentation will provide an understanding of spirituality and its apostolic focus that is inclusive of, but not condescending toward those who do not share Catholic faith. Its body will explore several aspects of a Holy Cross Apostolic Spirituality rooted in the spiritual legacy of Blessed Moreau and developed in the course of the Congregation's history. This exploration will lead to practical suggestions for conversations among colleagues at Holy Cross institutions.

Best Culture, Best Outcomes

KC McKenna, Mo Loesch, Molly Pietch, St. Edward High School

In June 2024, St. Edward High School was named one of the three best places to work in Northeast Ohio (and the best school to work at in Northeast Ohio). That ranking is a result of a very thoughtful and deliberate workplace culture that empowers and celebrates every member of the community as a transformational educator. This presentation will offer insight into how every decision is made with people in mind, and how becoming the best workplace has led to the best outcome for students.

Branding and Messaging for the Future of Holy Cross

Jason Curtis, Jamie Perkins, Paul Sears, Saint Francis High School

This presentation will focus on the importance of clear, thoughtful branding and messaging for Holy Cross schools, especially as we reach broader audiences who may be new to our mission and charism. We'll walk through our school's experience in defining our brand by updating logos and messaging, sharing both the challenges and successes along the way. This session will also introduce new technological tools, including AI, to enhance branding discussions and the potential development of an AI agent to support schools in crafting communications by sharing texts, narratives and history rooted in Holy Cross traditions. We hope to gauge attendees' interest in engaging in this collaborative project.

Contemplating the Sorrowful Mysteries with Our Lady of Sorrows

Craig Dyke, Family Rosary, U.S.A.

This workshop will offer practical tools for religious educators in their efforts to present the rosary as a contemplative prayer. With the beginning of Lent on March 5th, this workshop aims to equip participants to help their students spiritually encounter our Lord through the eyes and heart of his Blessed Mother.

Corporate Social Responsibility: Meeting the Needs of Developing Countries

Dr. Kathleen Wilburn, St. Edward's University

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to businesses meeting societal needs while also generating profit. This presentation will showcase examples of businesses that fulfill Pope Benedict XVI's call to address the needs of stakeholders like employees, customers, suppliers, and communities (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2011). Many companies practicing CSR run programs in developing countries that support women and ethnic minorities in farming, promote regenerative agriculture, and provide aid to impoverished communities. Using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, the presentation highlights successful CSR initiatives by Unilever, Johnson & Johnson, PepsiCo, Cargill, Nestlé, Knorr, and Amy's Kitchen.

Creative Use of the USCCB Curriculum Framework: Viewing Contemporary Films Through a Sacramental Lens

Matt Cannaday, Cathedral High School

"The present-day conditions of the world add greater urgency to this work of the Church so that all men, joined more closely today by various social, technical and cultural ties, might also attain fuller unity in Christ." (Lumen Gentium, 1) In light of this teaching, Cathedral High School has asked, "How can we creatively apply the tenets of the USCCB Framework?" Through selective theology courses, and in this presentation specifically the movement of the Holy Spirit in contemporary movies, we seek to preach the gospel with zeal into the secular world, seeking "...to make God known, loved, and served, and thus to bring knowledge of salvation to others" (Christian Education). The purpose of this presentation is to introduce other Holy Cross institutions of secondary education with innovative ideas on how to implement the USCCB Curriculum Framework in a non-traditional fashion, using primarily primary sources of theology.

Crossing Borders of All Kinds: How Might Father Moreau's Bold Vision Challenge Holy Cross for Today and Tomorrow?

Sister Elaine Poitras, C.S.C., Innovative Catholic Schools Network

Blessed Basile Moreau was undoubtedly a man of his times but with a vision that saw beyond the horizon. We know, without doubt, that geographic borders have successfully been crossed. This presentation will explore what "borders" Holy Cross must acknowledge and cross to sustain and nourish our charism into the future. The purpose of this presentation is to inspire creative visioning in the spirit of Basil Moreau in order to perpetuate our mission into the future. The goal will be to once more stir our passion for mission and to awaken our spirits to new and perhaps unforeseen possibilities.

Crossing Borders of Every Sort: Holy Cross Ministries in Texas

Mity Myhr and Joseph Howe, St. Edward's University

Holy Cross religious working in Texas since 1870 have served diverse populations in many different ministries and locations in Texas. We are all familiar with Holy Cross schools, but did you know that priests, brothers, and sisters also built parish ministries, health care institutions, and social service organizations? Many of these diverse ministries were in response to shifting geographic and social boundaries and changing demographics in different regions of Texas. Often, they established the first foundation and then turned the ministry over to other religious orders or groups of lay people to continue. This presentation will share some of the lesser known ministries of Holy Cross and their impacts in Texas communities.

Diverse Paths, Common Ground

Jerico Abanico, Moreau Catholic High School

Diverse Paths, Common Ground is an interactive workshop designed to help educators explore the diverse narratives of students' lives while integrating social justice education into their teaching. Participants will engage in discussions and activities designed to challenge personal perspectives, encourage self-reflection, and foster a deeper understanding of how students' narratives shape the classrooms we teach in. Through interactive exercises, participants will learn strategies to create more inclusive spaces that honor diverse experiences while highlighting the significance of social justice education. Educators will be equipped with the understanding and confidence to promote equity and social justice, helping to ensure that all students have the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or identity.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Educators in All Male Classrooms: Bridging the (Gender) Academic Achievement Gap

Dr. Kelly M. Clark, Holy Cross New Orleans

In reviewing academic achievement gaps across U.S. school districts, research shows males statistically outperforming females in math, while females excel in reading and language arts. With strict policies promoting equity, research on male, single-sex classrooms remains limited. This study explores best practices for teaching male students through observations and interviews, using Multiple Intelligence theory to analyze instructional decision-making. Two major themes emerged: movement and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), along with motivation, organization, and relationships. Findings contribute to understanding instructional decisions in all-male classrooms and may help improve male academic success by enhancing engagement and reducing achievement gaps.

Engaging the School's Community: Donor, Faculty/Staff, Parent, Alumni and Students

Sabrina Lemus, Notre Dame High School Los Angeles

Notre Dame High School fosters a vibrant and engaged community through a series of thoughtfully curated events aimed at strengthening connections among donors, parents, faculty, and alumni. The Endzone Club at football games provides a relaxed environment for parents to reconnect over food and beverages, while exclusive pre-game socials promote camaraderie among faculty and staff. The distinguished Presidents' Dinner recognizes major donors with a formal, high-end event, while the annual gala raises crucial funds for tuition assistance and warmly introduces new parents to the Notre Dame community. Additionally, booster clubs play an integral role in supporting athletic and band programs, and reunion weekends offer alumni the opportunity to celebrate and renew their enduring ties to the school.

Forming DOOR Keepers: Creating a Positive Behavior Framework in the Holy Cross Tradition

Melissa Green, St. Joseph Grade School, South Bend

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a multi-tiered framework for teaching and reinforcing positive behavior in the school setting. This workshop is an opportunity to learn about PBIS and how St. Joseph Grade School in South Bend, Indiana, has adopted the framework with a particular emphasis on our CSC identity. Learn how we have established St. André Bessette, C.S.C., as a central figure in teaching children about positive behavior and a core set of virtues for making God known, loved, and served.

Implementing Equitable Grading Policies in the High School Classroom

Desiree Moyer and Michael MacDonald, Archbishop Hoban High School
Presenters will share techniques for implementing equitable grading in high school English and math classrooms, based on Feldman's "Grading for Equity" (2019). They will discuss their motivation for changing grading practices and policies on late work, extra credit, assignment weighting, and assessment retakes. Challenges and successes will be addressed to ensure students and parents understand how grades accurately reflect student achievement. Equitable grading aligns with the Holy Cross value of zeal, as Moreau emphasized encouraging all students to excel. By adopting these policies, educators foster inclusivity, helping every student succeed while breaking down barriers in the classroom.

Leadership Nuances in Stepping Across the Border into the Realm of a Public Juridic Person of the Roman Catholic Church

Mike Truesdell, Former President Holy Cross High School (New York), Board Member Mercy Education

The president/educator serves as the liaison to the governance board of the school. Whether the school is owned by a diocese with the bishop limiting a board to his final approval as the corporate sole; or whether the school is sponsored and owned by a religious congregation, with both a board of limited jurisdiction responsible to a top-tier board of corporate members, ultimately guided by a provincial; or whether the school is owned by the board whose members are elected by donors who contribute a set amount annually, it is critical to help directors/trustees understand their roles. From my recent experiences as a president of diocesan, Jesuit, and Holy Cross high schools, the move to the PJP structure as described in Canon Law presents a significant opportunity.

Leveraging Summer Research

Nyree McDonald, University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame's Graduate School Summer Research Program (SROP) supports first-generation and low-income students through summer research opportunities, stipends, housing, travel, GRE prep, and mentoring. Established in 2010, it has hosted over 150 students. A key feature is external fellowship support, introduced in 2015. Since then, students have successfully enrolled in graduate programs, often securing fellowships like NSF GRFP, Fulbright, McNair, and GEM. Some used these awards to gain admission to previously rejecting institutions. SROP exemplifies The Graduate School's commitment to expanding access to higher education and supporting marginalized students in their academic journeys.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

A New Plan for Summer Reading

Lucy Abbott, Notre Dame High School Connecticut

Students were failing summer reading. They hated it. They didn't do it, watched the movie, or used Sparknotes. Many people thought it a waste of time. Defending the practice, assignments, and grades became exhausting and time-consuming. But students need to read, and summer provides the time. The opportunity arose to redesign Notre Dame High School's summer reading program—equity, diversity, and the social-emotional needs of students guided and inspired a creative approach. Recent titles were sought out to create grade-level appropriate book lists. Each book list included books and authors representing diverse backgrounds and cultures. Students earned grades by completing creative tasks and activities rather than taking a test or writing a paper. The goal was to create a positive reading experience that develops a lifelong love of reading.

The Road to a Blue Ribbon School Award

John Barnhardt and Patrick Flynn, Bishop McNamara High School

This session will highlight the strategic initiatives implemented by Bishop McNamara High School that led to its recognition as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School. We will discuss key strategies, including: Evolving our data culture, implementing the NWEA MAP assessment, utilizing NWEA MAP for instruction, restructuring our academic leadership, investing in faculty professional development, and organizing and developing themes for the Blue Ribbon application. Participants will gain insights into our journey towards academic excellence and learn practical approaches to enhance their own school's performance. We will share our experiences in fostering equity among student subgroups and using this vision as a catalyst for overall school improvement.

Rooted in Mission: All Sorts of Borders to Cross with Parent Pledge, Board Support, and International Student Experiences

Dr. Liz Guneratne, Dr. Elizabeth Berkes, Dr. Dotty McCrea, Moreau Catholic High School

We all want to reach out, cross borders, and engage our community in a way that supports our institution's Holy Cross mission. This workshop will encourage learning from colleagues, as well as the president, director of advancement, and a board member from Moreau Catholic High School, as we share experiences on effectively crossing three borders: parent, board, and student. We'll discuss best practices in implementing a parent engagement program, managing a board focused on mission, and expanding transformational student learning experiences through international travel. Together, we'll explore these challenges and strides, as Holy Cross educators committed to our mission.

Student Services: Enriching Student Life and the Christmas On The Hill Experience!

Katie Lewis, Ed Freije, Lisa Finn, Aly Weaver, Cathedral High School

Last year, we transformed Cathedral into a dazzling winter wonderland, creating a magical day filled with fun and unforgettable memories for everyone. From snow-covered pathways to twinkling lights, it was an experience like no other, capturing the joy of the season and bringing our community closer together. This year, we're thrilled to take things to the next level! Join us as we share the behind-the-scenes stories, the lessons we learned along the way, and the creative vision that made it all possible. You'll discover new ideas, hear about exciting plans for the future, and get a sneak peek at how we're building on last year's success to create even more incredible moments this time around. Whether you're looking for inspiration or just curious to know more, we can't wait to show you why we're so excited about this new event!

Using Student Travel, Exchange Programs and Fields Trips to Help your Students Cross Border

Kim Jamell, Karen Hovanec, Rose Egan, Cathedral High School

In this informative session, three high school Spanish teachers will share their ideas and experiences from traveling with students on trips to Europe and Costa Rica; organizing a Guatemalan exchange program; and taking students on field trips within their own city during class time. Participants are encouraged to come with questions and/or ideas to share as well. Travel provides innumerable learning benefits to students. It helps them develop a broader global view and increase their empathy towards others. In this presentation we hope to inspire teachers to consider a variety of ways both to take students out of the classroom and to bring global visitors to the classroom.

Updates on the Holy Cross Charism Initiative

Michael Glynn, The Holy Cross Institute

The Holy Cross Charism Initiative offers a series of ten online training modules, designed to immerse educators, staff, and leadership in the rich traditions and values of the Congregation of Holy Cross. This comprehensive resource explores key aspects of Holy Cross history, pedagogy, spirituality, and mission, along with other essential topics. Since their launch in 2023, Modules 1-4 have been widely praised for their accessibility and depth. Modules 5-7, released this past fall, have further strengthened engagement as participants continue to embrace the Initiative as a means of deepening their commitment to Holy Cross. The final modules will roll out in 2025 and 2026, completing a program that is setting the standard for professional development in Holy Cross education and ministry.

SHUTTLE INFORMATION

Welcoming Autistic and Neurodivergent Students: A Conversation Between Professor and Student

Angelique Montgomery-Goodnough and Nia Botti, St. Edward's University
A St. Edward's University professor and an autistic student attempt to answer this question by engaging in an open conversation: How can we be more welcoming for our autistic and neurodivergent college students? Participants will be challenged to formulate questions and discuss ways to help our students navigate higher education, including ways to overcome obstacles and take advantage of their unique gifts. The presenters are interested in sharing their experience as a professor and a student in the classroom; and both discussing with and learning from the workshop participants. They share the Holy Cross Mission of educating hearts and minds, including the hearts and minds of those who are not neurotypical.

"Widening Our Circle of Family": Supporting International Students at Holy Cross Institutions

Maureen Schweningen, University of Notre Dame
In an increasingly globalized world, we should be highly invested in developing strong support systems for international students studying in the US; Holy Cross institutions are uniquely positioned to do so in great ways. From my personal experience with Holy Cross abroad, as well as their eight institutions of higher education in the US, and from my reading of Fr. Moreau, I believe that C.S.C. colleges and universities are best positioned to support international students. The Holy Cross "benefit" comes from its charism of family and emphasis on the education of the whole person, as well as the pre-existing global C.S.C. network and mission around the world. Mother Teresa once said, "The problem with the world is that we draw the circle of our family too small." I see international student support as one important way of widening our circle of family, and Holy Cross education can contribute uniquely to this conversation.

HOTEL PICK UP

The conference hotels are the Marriott South, the Fairfield Inn, and the Courtyard by Marriott. They are near one another, and there is only one pick up spot. Please walk over to the Marriott South for the shuttle.

4415 S I-35 Frontage Rd, Austin, TX 78744

1st bus leaves at 7:45 AM

2nd bus leaves at 8:10 AM

3rd bus leaves at 8:35 AM

*last bus arrives to campus at 8:50 AM

HOTEL DROP OFF

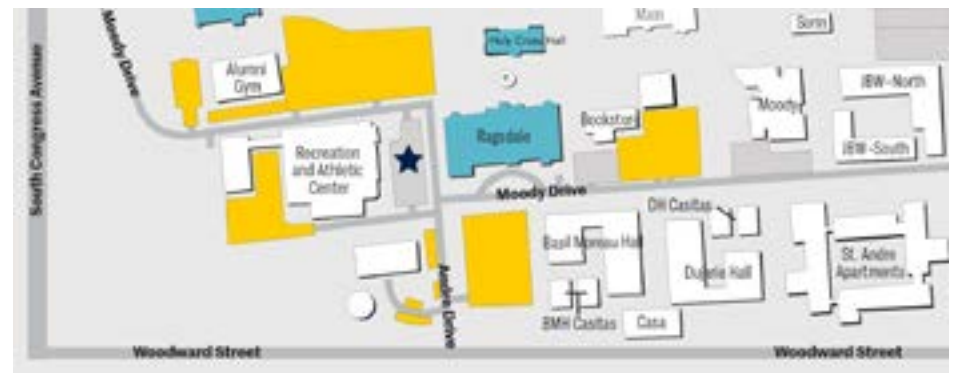
Monday at 4:30 PM

Tuesday at 8:30 PM

Wednesday at 6:00 PM

RIDE SHARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your driver should take Woodward Street and enter campus on Andre Drive. The drop off is the Ragdale Center on the corner of Moody Drive and Andre Drive.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Holy Cross Conference for Student Leaders (HCC4SL)

HCC4SL returns this summer to two locations! Student leaders are invited to gather with leaders from other Holy Cross schools to delve more deeply into our shared heritage and the mission and charism of Holy Cross. Students will learn more about the history of Holy Cross and our leaders as well as the founding of educational ministries here in the U.S. and abroad. They will explore several questions about the educational charism of Holy Cross: What makes Holy Cross schools unique? What is unique about your school? How is the mission and charism of Holy Cross lived at your school? For more information, see the contact information below.

St. Edward's University Austin, TX | June 11–15, 2025

Contact Nichole McGowan, nmcgowan@moreaucatholic.org

Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, IN | June 24–28, 2025

Contact Dr. Tymothy Tagliaferro, tagliaferro@brothersofholycross.com

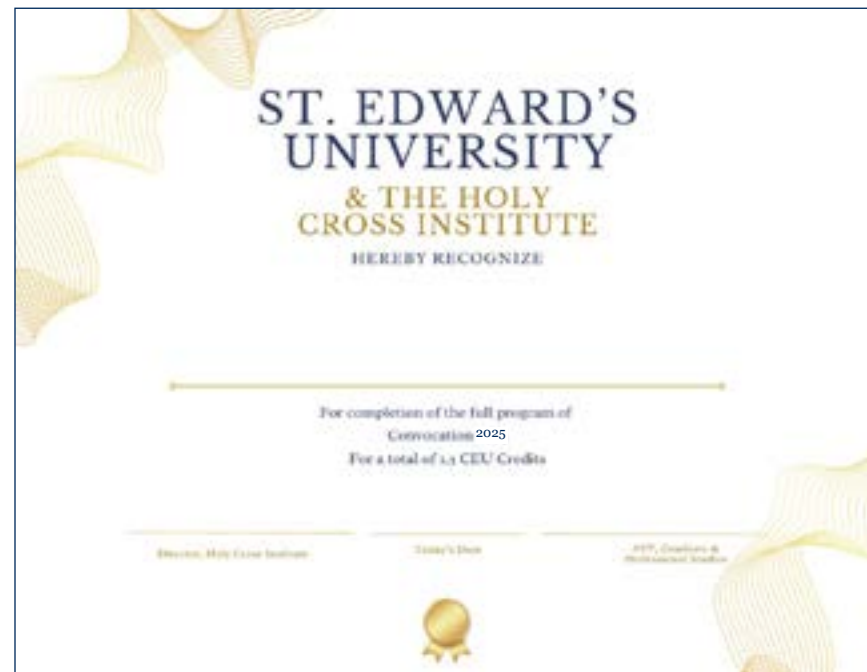
Holy Cross Charism Initiative

The Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University is pleased to announce this academic year, the publication of three additional modules of the Holy Cross Charism Initiative. Following the publishing of the first four modules last year, our interactive educational platform now boasts seven modules accessible free of charge. These three new modules focus specifically on the spirituality of Basile Moreau and education in the Holy Cross tradition. The Holy Cross Charism Initiative (HCCI) is a resource of the Holy Cross Institute that informs, forms, and transforms educators working in Holy Cross schools, colleges, and universities around the country. Ultimately consisting of ten educational modules, the Charism Initiative brings the great story of Holy Cross to life; from history and charism to leadership and pedagogy, the Charism Initiative is a comprehensive and engaging introduction to all things Holy Cross.

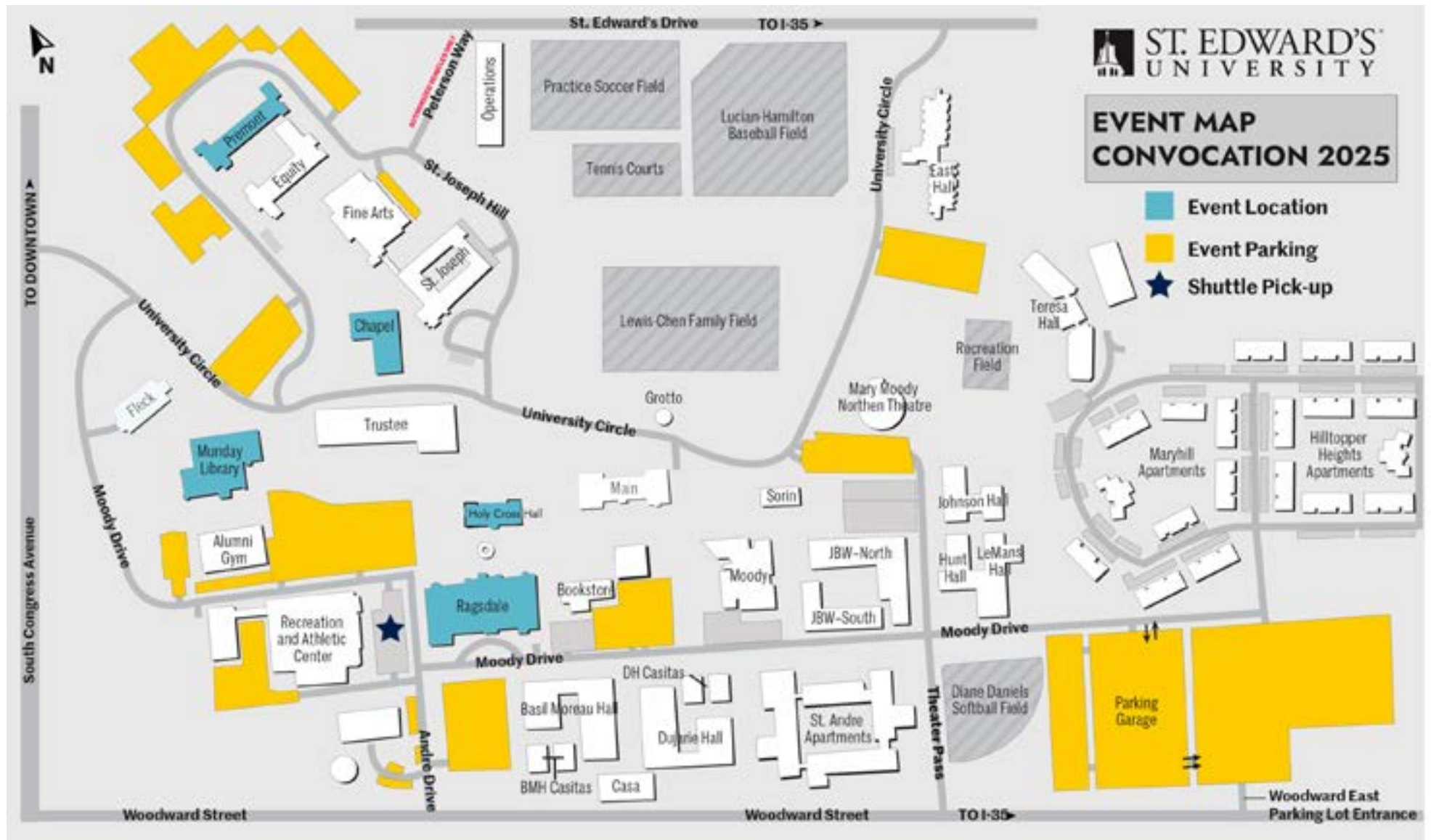
The HCCI is hosted on a polished, engaging, and easy-to-navigate online learning platform that is readily accessible to Holy Cross educators. With hundreds of users nationwide, the Charism Initiative continues to grow as an indispensable part of mission integration efforts in Holy Cross educational institutions around the country. These seven published modules are accessible at <http://holycrosscharism.org/> - please sign up to start learning if you have not already! We trust that your communities will find the Holy Cross Charism Initiative transformative, and we pray that it will form you in our common Holy Cross mission and equip you to be disciples with hope to bring. Ave Crux, Spes Unica!

CEU CREDIT

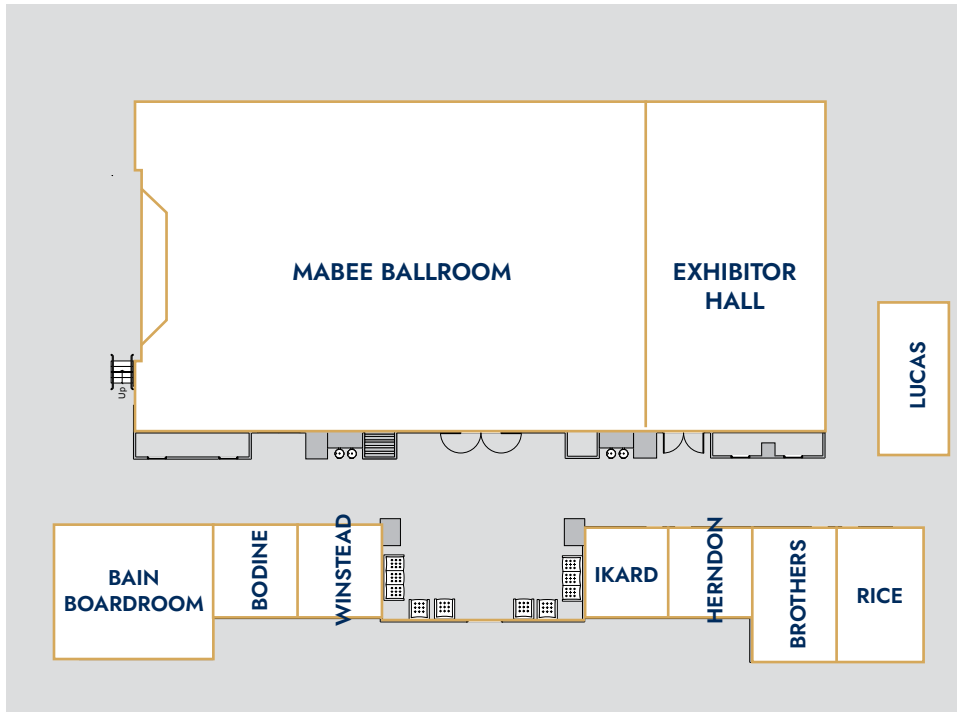
This year the Holy Cross Institute is pleased to award 1.5 CEU credits to Holy Cross educators and ministers who complete the full program of Convocation 2025. A certificate will be issued upon request, which can be done through the QR code below. We thank Collin Gillenwater for providing this credential through the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at St. Edward's University. He is director of the OGPS. Ave Crux Spes Unica!



CAMPUS MAP



RAGSDALE FLOOR 2



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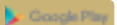

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