

## CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street  
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787  
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street  
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687  
iccmarydel.org



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

January 14, 2024

2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

holycross

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am  
Wednesday – 8:15 am  
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,  
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8:30, 11 am  
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1  
Assumption, August 15  
All Saints' Day, November 1  
Immaculate Conception, December 8  
Christmas, December 25

*Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near*

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

*The seven Sacraments of the Church  
were instituted by Christ to confer grace.*

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

**Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

**Sacrament of Confirmation.** Young people in our

parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Marriage.** Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders.** If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

**Anointing of the Sick.** For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

Thank you to all our advertisers in  
our bulletin.

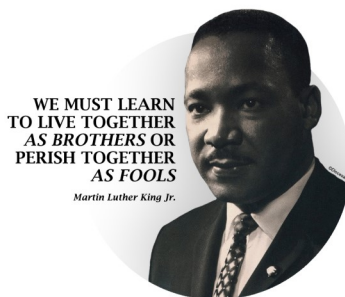
We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to  
advertise in the bulletin,  
please contact  
Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Monday, January 15, 2024 is Martin Luther  
King Holiday.

Offices will be closed that day.

Mass will be held at 9 am only on the 15th.



## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 31, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$43,608	\$27,440	\$16,168
YTD	\$729,402	\$727,300	\$2,102
Needs	\$1,511	\$1,712	(\$201)
Christmas	\$33,493	\$27,500	\$5,993

## WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending December 31, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,008
Second Collection	\$554
New Year's	\$2,777

Dear Parishioners,

It has been a tough time here at Holy Cross at the start of 2024, as we suffered the loss of our Pastor Emeritus Msgr. Daniel McGlynn, who passed away on New Years Day. Msgr. McGlynn having served as Pastor from 2002-2013, remained a regular face here (as well as at Immaculate Conception) throughout his years of retirement.

It is worth noting that between January of 2022 and January of 2024, Holy Cross lost three of its long-time pastor.

Fr. Thomas Hanley (1938-2022) who served as Pastor of Holy Cross from 1989-2002, left us on January 6, 2022 at age 83. He was ordained to the Priesthood in 1965 and was Pastor at Holy Cross during a period of historic growth of both our parish and its school. He was pastor during the building of the “new” (current) Church. During his priesthood, in addition to Holy Cross, he also served as Pastor of St. Paul (Wilmington) as well as leading Catholic Charities and serving as the Diocesan Director of Planning.

Fr. John “Jack” Kavanaugh (1931-2023) who served as Pastor of Holy Cross from 1971-1978, passed away this past year, on September 13, 2023, at age 92. Having been ordained to the Priesthood in 1957, he was the longest-ordained priest in the Diocese of Wilmington. During his priesthood, in addition to Holy Cross, he also served as Pastor of St. Edmund (Rehoboth), Ss. Peter and Paul (Easton), St. Peter’s Parish (New Castle), and, for 18 years, St. John the Beloved (Wilmington).

**Unique Circumstance.** And now Msgr. McGlynn, ordained in 1982, has now, also, left us, having passed away at age 84. One odd fact that these three deaths (having happened in such a short period) leave in their wake is that for the first time in its history, Holy Cross has only one living pastor — and he is writing this column.

**This Column.** In any event, I wrote an obituary and reflection regarding Msgr. McGlynn to our staff the day after he passed away. And rather than a regular Pastor’s Column

on church teaching, or Catholic practice, or the lives of the saints, I will instead use this column, being prepared in the wake of Msgr. McGlynn’s funeral (which was on Thursday, January 11), to present that obituary and reflection.

**Prayers and Thanks.** Please keep Msgr. McGlynn, his family and his friends in your prayers. I would also like to thank the many, many parishioners of both Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes who attended Msgr. Dan’s funeral and repast, or expressed their condolences on his passing. I would also like to thank the many members of our parish and staff who selflessly gave of themselves helping Msgr. McGlynn, especially during the past year or two as his health decline. Your service has been and is appreciated.

—

### **Obituary and Reflection on Msgr. Daniel McGlynn (1939-2024)**

With heavy heart, I am reporting to you this morning on the passing of Msgr. Dan McGlynn. Our thoughts and prayers are, of course, with his family, but also with those who were blessed to know him. His absence indeed marks an gaping absence for all of us here at both Holy Cross, in Dover, and Immaculate Conception, in Marydel.

**Ordination and Service.** Msgr. Dan, as he was commonly called, was ordained to the Priesthood in 1982. He served as a parochial vicar in his early years at St. Elizabeth’s in Wilmington, Corpus Christi in Elsmere, and St. Francis de Sales in Salisbury. In 1993, he started a 10-year-long stretch of service as Pastor of Immaculate Conception in Elkton, Maryland. In 2002, he was made Pastor of Holy Cross in Dover, Delaware, following the illness of then-Pastor Fr. Thomas Hanley (who passed away January 6, 2022).

**Chaplain to His Holiness.** During his time at Holy Cross, in 2010, was when Fr. Dan McGlynn became Msgr. Dan McGlynn,

*(continued on page 10)*



## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F. Pastor  
 Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus  
 Rev. Brennan Ferris Parochial Vicar

## HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt Deacon  
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon  
 Mr. Richard Kosior Deacon  
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon  
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon

## HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787  
 Jane Green Receptionist, ext. 110  
 Diane Belt Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113  
 Kenneth Trojan Business Manager, ext. 119  
 Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116  
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118  
 Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext. 122  
 Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123  
 Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director  
 Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135  
 Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Church of the Holy Cross*  
 631 S. State St.  
 Dover, DE 19901

## ICC STAFF

Parish Office 410 482 7687  
 Marilyn Dixon Office Manager  
 Alicia Poppiti DRE Religious Ed.  
 Susan Venezia Bookkeeper  
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Immaculate Conception Church*  
 P. O. Box 399  
 Marydel, MD 21649-0399

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8  
 302 674 5787  
[holycrossdover.org/school](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Holy Cross School*  
 631 S. State St.  
 Dover, DE 19901

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those who recently passed:

- Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
- Fran Hettinger
- Mary McGinnes

May their soul and souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

## BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Lorenzo Everardo Paneda
- Rafael Antonius Dumadag Racho
- Israel Isidoro Garcia Limon
- Charlotte Alexandra James Grosso
- Emily Victoria Castrejon
- Ejemen Jachimma Obhafuoso
- Joel David Rivas Soto

## VOCATIONS

**Did you Know ...** we all have a "vocation"? The way we live our life is our vocation— Marriage, Priesthood Religious life or the Single life! It is how **YOU** are meant to live and contribute to the Body of Christ? Pray for discernment of your call.

## 3RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JAN 21)

### FIRST READING: JONAH 3:1-5, 10

Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance. They hear his call and return to the Lord.

### SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

Life is short. Do not waste it on passing things.

### GOSPEL: MARK 1:14-20

Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 1:00PM at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Reservations are required by February 2, 2024.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. .

Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org.

Registration can be completed by using the following link –

<https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/k1uxe9k20m649mn/>

## SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest? We are still in need of additional sisters to give:

- One Holy Hour
- One Day a Week
- One Priest
- One Heart of Prayer

MEN are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry as substitutes.

PICK UP A PAMPHLET IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND contact: Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez --

email: 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

## RETROUVAILLE:

Rediscover the love in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises.

## MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY

### 15 MONDAY

HC 9:00 am Maria Antonetta Maddalena

### 16 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Josephine Nardone

### 17 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am John Novack

### 18 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Joan Santelli  
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

### 19 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Paul Sargent

### 20 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am David Gonzales  
HC 5:00 pm Kathryn Landry Miller

### 21 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Carmen Campanicki  
ICC 8:30 am Robert Yarber  
HC 9:30 am Renata Kosior & Dm Motyka Fam.  
ICC 11:00 am Rebecca Wynn  
HC 11:30 am Maria Dolores Portugal  
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR  
1/14–1/20 IS FOR BOB BRESNAHAN (LI).*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR  
1/14–1/20 IS FOR MSGR. DANIEL MCGLYNN.*

The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, January 20th, we talk with the Executive Director of La Plaza Delaware, Mary Dupont, and learn about their work in support of Latino entrepreneurs in Sussex County. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640.

JAN 20/21, 2024			
EMHC		SERVERS	
5:00 PM	D. Field	M. MacLeish	J. Novack
	C. Helwig	M. MacLeish	J. Novack
			LECTORS
			L. Christiansen H. Walker
7:30 AM	A. Fischer	P. Jackson	L. Boggs
	J. Fischer	W. Thomas	L. Thomas
			LECTORS
			K. Meire
9:30 AM	F. Hanlin	D. McGiknnis	E. Ksenich
	S. Lascano	V. Pepper	A. Wilk C. Wilk
			LECTORS
			C. Petka M. Sherlock
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez	M Richard	TBD
	E. Pastori-za		LECTORS
			TBD
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	TBD		
	LECTORS		
			T. Woodeshick
11:00 AM	TBF		
	LECTORS		
			L. Soule
1:00 PM	TBD		

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

## ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings. Call John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at [jkm2015@verizon.net](mailto:jkm2015@verizon.net) to schedule.



This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. What better time is there to select an open hour in our Adoration Chapel and spend some time with Jesus weekly. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 pm
WEDNESDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm
THURSDAY	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Knights of Columbus will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, January 20 in the Parish Hall from 4 to 7 pm.

Proceeds from this will benefit "Right to Life" programs.

The menu will include your choice of both gluten & "gluten-free" pasta, plain & meat sauce, salad & rolls. Take-out dinners will be available.

## PURSE BINGO

**Mark your calendars!** Our annual purse bingo to raise money to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer will take place on Saturday, **March 9.** please contact Linda Darling in the parish office for tickets or by email [ldarling@holycrossdover.org](mailto:ldarling@holycrossdover.org). Please plan on joining us for a fun evening.



- Nuestro agradecimiento a todos los que contribuyeron en nuestras festividades Navideñas, muchísimas gracias.
- El Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche con el padre Brennan Ferris. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” donde todo el año las clases se centrará en la EUCARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria: el domingo, 4 de febrero celebraremos la fiesta de la Candelaria. Los anfitriones traerán los tamales y todos pueden traer sus niños dioses para levantarlos.
- Conquistando Las Naciones para Cristo: Retiro de Sanación Interior, febrero 9-11 del 2024 para Hombres y Mujeres en la parroquia de Holy Cross. Inscripción el viernes, 9 a las 6:30pm. Donación es de \$125. Para más información llame al 302-442-5887 - 302-415-5036 – 302- 685-8192
- Peregrinación Diocesana Nuevamente la diócesis nos ha pedido que participemos en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig el sábado, 23 de marzo, 2024 en Wilmington. Los Jóvenes y adolescentes que desean participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Tendremos los ensayos todos los miércoles a de 7-8:30PM en el salón de nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel , comenzando el 24 de enero día del santo patrón de nuestra diócesis . ¡San Francisco de Sales ruega por nosotros!
- Este mismo elenco también presentara la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia .
- Pase un día en peregrinación con el Señor Obispo por las calles de Wilmington. Se les invita a todos los jóvenes y a las familias a participar de la Peregrinación, el 23 de marzo de 2024 de 9:30 am a 5:15PM para la 13.<sup>a</sup> Peregrinación de CYM. Se espera reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. Los eventos del día incluyen:
- .Oración de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en St. Elizabeth,
- Pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial de los pacientes,
- Servicio de Reconciliación en San Antonio de Padua
- Experimentar las Estaciones de la Cruz en Padua Academy con nuestros jóvenes de Holy Cross y ICC.
- Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento en la iglesia de San Pablo
- Regresar a St. Elizabeth para la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa de las 4:00 pm.
- Ya están abiertas las inscripciones, hay que inscribirse en línea antes del 15 de marzo

## ICC

- **Clases de Preparación Sacramental:**
- Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comunión: Primera Sesión el martes 23 de enero en el salón.
- Primera Reconciliación: sábado, 27 de enero, al 12 meridiano en la Santa Cruz, Dover
- Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión # 4 el domingo 14, de enero de 3:00 – 5:30 en el salón.
- Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para la peregrinación con el Señor Obispo para el 23 de marzo. Para más información hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

**Next Class:** January 21st at 3:00pm-5:00pm

### Save the Date!

**February 28th at 7pm** in the Parish Hall  
 "Mark's Gospel" presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"The one-person performance is not a "reading" or a "talk" but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It's fast paced, energetic, up close and personal."

### All are welcome!

The families of all Holy Cross students LAFF, and Religious Education Students are encouraged to attend.

## LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

**Next LAFF class** is January 14 at 10:30 am. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. See above for a special Lent formation opportunity.

**Is your family interested in joining the Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis with Deacon Vince?** Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

**Tuesday offerings: Note new start date (offered at 9 am or 7 pm)**

**January 16th-February 6th Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession**

"Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bout of God's love.

**February 13th-March 19th No Greater Love:** A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion. "Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life."

### Special Lent offering:

**February 28th at 7pm** in the Parish Hall

**"Mark's Gospel"** presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"The one-person performance is not a "reading" or a "talk" but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It's fast paced, energetic, up close and personal."

For more information, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call Tammy Korosec at (302) 674-5787 X 122.

## MONDAY MORNING CLASS

A new class has started on 1/8/24. We will be beginning The Three Stages of the Spiritual Life from Matthew Leonard's the Science of Sainthood. We meet in St. Luke's room in the ELC at 9 am. All are welcome.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

### Confirmation Classes:

Next classes are Sunday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 24

### Confirmation Retreat:

For those teens unable to attend our overnight retreat, we will meet January 27 at 8 am in the Matthew Mark room. If you have a conflict with this date, please contact Linda Darling.

### Youth Formation:

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 pm in the Luke room 2nd floor ELC building. This is open to all high school teens - please join us for games, food, faith, music - a great place to meet some great people.

## SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th

### Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Reconciliation: Sacrament of

1st Reconciliation: Saturday, January 27th, 12noon at Holy Cross, Dover

**First Communion:** Prep Session #1 begins on Tuesday, January 23rd, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

**Confirmation Session #4:** Sunday, January 14th, 3-5:30pm in the Parish hall.

Information is available for the CYM Pilgrimage in Wilmington on March 23, 2024. Please see Alicia Poppiti for more information and registration forms.



We all know the angst, the allowance of sufficient time, the extensive planning that precedes the arrival of important guests. Every little detail need be seen to, the menu, comfortable accommodations, making certain that all in the family are properly attired with perfect posture, and on their very best behavior. Maybe it's mom or dad's boss, or someone of higher stature, maybe it's someone who doesn't visit too often. But when they do; it's a huge deal, this is not just a hot dog and paper plate kind of affair.

The date was December 5th. I had been given fair notice, and I was as prepared as I thought I could be. The guests were set to arrive in advance of the day's proceedings which were scheduled to commence at 9:00 am. I waited in nervous anticipation of their coming before our guests from the Catholic Schools Office arrived. Dr. DeAngelo was joined by his colleagues; Miss Carol Ripkin the Associate Superintendent, Mrs. Mary Filappone, the Director of Personnel, Ms. Shiela McGirl the Director of the Office of Development, and Mrs. MaryAnn Whalen, Director of Religious Education. Always pleasant, gracious, and kind our visitors and I began the day with an overview of the daily schedule for each teacher with visitation assignments established. We progressed into a discussion of the strengths of our school and the challenges we encounter or that we foresee lying ahead. A candid discussion was had with input from all in attendance prior to our parting company. I, to my own appointed rounds and our guests to the classrooms and/or other personnel to which they had been assigned. Before the end of the day a rather thorough examination of our school and all that makes it tick would be completed. We would plan to gather later in the afternoon for an overview of their observations. A written report would follow in the upcoming weeks in which an in-depth account of Holy Cross as seen through their eyes on that brisk December day.

In due time I received the School Visit Report from Dr. DeAngelo. The report consists of an overview letter which is followed up with a report containing Commendations and Recommendations. It is the collective hope of all who visited our school that portions of the document be shared with stakeholders, namely parents and faculty/staff, and where relevant, the students. The words that follow are those of the Superintendent, but serve as a combined reflection and viewpoint of all who journeyed to Dover and spent their day at Holy Cross School.

*"The school visit team report is organized around areas of focus important to the life of the school. Holy Cross School is blessed in many ways related to these areas of focus and we are pleased to offer commendations related to them. The commendations are strong building blocks to serve as a foundation for future growth. In addition, there are recommendations related to these areas that emerged from our visit. The recommendations provide areas to be addressed so that the school affords the best quality Catholic education possible to its students."*

#### **Commendations: Catholic Identity**

Weekly Mass is offered for students.

Visible reminders of the diocesan theme and the liturgical year were very much present throughout the school.

Classrooms have prayer tables prominently reflecting the liturgical season and enthroning the Bible.

Prayer is evident throughout the day in all grades.

The daily recitation of the mission statement by students is an effective way to reinforce the core vision and beliefs of the school.

#### **Commendations: Academics/Professional Development**

A solid academic program is in place at all grade levels.

Student engagement in the learning process was evident through classroom observations.

The classroom environment is nurturing in that students appear comfortable to raise questions, make mistakes, and offer opinions, all of which enhances the learning environment.

The visual and performing arts program and the robotics program enhance the core curriculum.

#### **Commendations: Advancement**

Enrollment is strong and consistent, reflecting positive interest and engagement within the broader community.

Return of the annual report will tell the school story and engage participation in the school by time, talent, and treasure.

#### **Commendations: School Community**

The Principal, faculty, and staff are committed to their ministry as Catholic school educators.

The Home and School Association seeks to assist HCS in a variety of ways

Students are welcoming, engaging, and genuinely interested in learning.

The local community beyond the school recognizes the value of HCS as a community resource.

#### **Recommendations: Catholic Identity**

Consider the inclusion of elementary students in service opportunities.

Diversify service opportunities between middle school and elementary students.

#### **Recommendations: Academics/Professional Development**

Communicate learner targets (student objectives) both visually and verbally in all classrooms.

Include higher-order thinking skills and questions at all grade levels in order to stretch student thinking.

Plan for an upgrade of faculty technology.

Create an annual professional development plan prior to the start of each school year and communicate it to faculty.

There is always room for improvement. As a school community we will take the well-intended words of recommendation to heart. We are a cohesive team of educators committed to the well being and education of our students. Given that cohesion and spirit of team-work, we will use the opportunity presented by this Middle States year of self-study to target ways of addressing areas of need and overcoming our challenges.

I am grateful to Dr. DeAngelo and his colleagues for their candor and objectivity in composing the School Visit Report. We do not rest on our laurels, but use the sincere words of commendation as a springboard to bolstering our strengths. There is always room for improvement, and in working with the dedicated faculty of HC, I am confident of our ability to make the strong stronger, and add further luminescence to the glow.

receiving the title, “Chaplain to His Holiness” by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. He was formally invested as a Monsignor on May 30, 2010.

**Pastor and Pastor Emeritus.** Msgr. Dan served at Holy Cross for 11 years, from 2002-2013. In 2013, he retired from active ministry due to health issues at that time. He continued to reside at Holy Cross, being given the honorific of “Pastor Emeritus.” During his first year or so of retirement, he dealt with several health issues and overcame them. Thereafter he was able to partake fully in parish life, in the post-pastor portion of his priesthood.

**Health.** In more recent years, Msgr. Dan suffered several health setbacks, but continued to plow on in priestly service. In the past year, he encountered many health challenges, especially in the later half of 2023. He passed away on the first day of the New Year, January 1, 2024.

**Reflection.** On a personal note, let me say that I lived with Msgr. Dan for nearly 17 years — and that is longer than most marriages last these day. He was a wonderful housemate, spiritual and pastoral advisor, friend, and brother priest.

When I became Pastor of Holy Cross in 2013, I developed a routine of stopping at Dan’s room twice a day — once earlier in the day and once at a later time. I’d always ask the same question: “How are you doing?” “Anything new?” and “If I go out, do you need me to pick up anything for you?” The answer to those questions, respectively, was usually “I’m fine, how are you?” (unless he was really feeling bad). “Nothing new... anything happening in the parish?” and (most commonly) “I don’t think I need anything right now.”

As much as I took that routine for granted, I do and will find myself missing that routine, and that regular interaction with Msgr. Dan.

Msgr. Dan once said, and repeated often, that “Retirement has been very good to me.” Now, this statement wasn’t about being retired in the sense of just sitting around, because in that sense he never really retired. He said it in the sense that no longer being a Pastor, and dealing with administrative matters, allowed him to be the Priest he was ordained to be. And he did that with aplomb. Meeting with people, counseling, hearing confessions, visiting the sick, etc. Msgr. Dan had a great Priesthood and great Pastorates in our Diocese, but also had a tremendously blessed period of retirement, during which he worked just as hard as before retirement.

In the latter half of 2023, when Msgr. Dan was ailing greatly, he would occasionally say to me, “I’m ready to go to sleep and wake up with Jesus” or “I’m ready to wake up and open my eyes in heaven.” To be sure, he was not being fatalistic, rather he was being his usual faith-filled self. He was living out the scriptural observation of St. Paul (Philippians 1:21-24): my life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.

Msgr. Dan has completed his “fruitful labor,” and now, in hope, will “depart this life and be with Christ” — and enjoy that reward which is “far better.”

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.*

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor