

Volume Nine: April 24, 2024

Delving into the Twenty-First Century

Continuing the Mission and Legacy of the Founder

School Leadership 2000-2024

Holy Cross Headmasters

Brother Stephen Walsh
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Devastation, Recovery, and Resilience at Holy Cross

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the city of New Orleans devastating the original school complex at 4950 Dauphine Street. After a few weeks of platooning at a satellite location near the Baton Rouge area, Cabrini High School generously hosted the Holy Cross students during the second semester. The school temporarily moved back into trailers at the old campus until a new campus was located and built.

In 2007 Holy Cross entered a new chapter in her long, rich history. In order to continue the mission of Holy Cross in the New Orleans area, the Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the Board of Directors selected a site in Gentilly to relocate the campus.

On March 20, 2010 Holy Cross School solemnly dedicated the twenty acre campus at the new location in Gentilly, and in 2015, the school opened a primary campus on Elysian Fields, to add a program for boys in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. The primary school was moved to the main campus for the 23-24 school year.



The school's legacy is summed up by its motto: "Become the Man You Are." To meet this challenge the faculty has committed itself to creating a sequential curriculum for all grades, Pre-K-12.

Today more than half of the young men are students of legacy having followed a great-grandfather, grandfather, or father to Holy Cross. This legacy is embodied in the school code "The Holy Cross Man" and quoted from memory by Holy Cross men young and old.

Our Lady of Holy Cross Grows and Evolves from College to University of Holy Cross

During the 2014-2019 Presidency of Dr. David "Buck" Landry, the College achieved University status – acknowledging that the institution offers doctoral-level degrees in Counseling and Executive Leadership. The University of Holy Cross has grown to over fifty programs and concentrations by way of three Colleges: Nursing and Health Sciences; Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Counseling, Education and Business. Additionally, the first-ever Residence Hall opened on campus in 2018 and a new Health Sciences building opened in 2020.

In 2016 the University transitioned to an independent Board of Trustees for governance. The University is committed to the mission of the Marianites of Holy Cross. Marianite Sisters serve among the members of the Board of Trustees. The mission of the Marianites guide daily campus and classroom life towards the University's core values of excellence, respect, integrity, inclusion, and compassionate service.

The Marianite Ministry... Not Just Education; Not Just New Orleans

In 1856 the Sisters immediately began to serve the people by teaching at the new school in Opelousas, the Academy of the Immaculate Conception. Through their dedication, the school earned State approval in 1927 and on December 8, 1929, it celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary! Today, under the name of **Opelousas Catholic**, the mission of Catholic education continues to grow and develop through the countless students who profit from the seeds sown.

The service of the Marianites was expanded beyond education in the 1950s when the St. Landry Parish Police Jury requested that the Marianites assist in opening **Opelousas General Hospital**. Generously responding to the need, the Sisters worked diligently to assure the success of the hospital. To this end, the Marianites served as the first three hospital administrators, the first office manager and dietary manager. In addition, Marianite registered nurses served in supervisory positions in various clinical areas. Sr. Madeleine Sophie Hebert, MSC was the first administrator of the hospital.

Continued Growth and Expansion

In order to be of continued service in the Opelousas area, **Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility** was built in 1965 and opened July 13th by the Marianites to meet the needs in this area and surrounding communities for long term health care and short term rehabilitation services in a spiritual and loving environment. Sr. Margaret Lafleur, MSC was the first administrator.

On the same property in 1986, **C'est la Vie: Independent Living Center for Seniors** was added with 34 apartments. C'est la Vie Apartments provided a unique and enriching environment. The apartments offered gracious living in a caring and Christian environment. Each of the thirty-four units included a fully equipped kitchen and central air and heat. The outdoor courtyard invited residents and visitors to sit and relax while enjoying the beauty and majesty of God's creation. Invited to participate in the spiritual and cultural activities of the nursing home, residents could choose their own involvement in the activities. Activities were also offered at C'est la Vie including Bingo, card and board games, holiday, and birthday celebrations. In safe surroundings, residents were offered the independence and freedom to live life to the fullest – C'est la Vie!

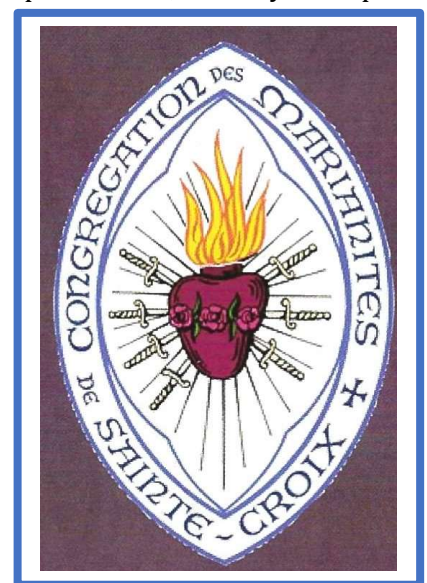
In 2002, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility added a new entrance. This entrance led to a new chapel, administrative offices, a day room and two wings of 20 semi-private rooms named St. Mary and St. Joseph halls

In 2005, Prompt Succor Convent and Assisted Living Center was completed on the rear property of the nursing home. With 13 bedrooms and private bathrooms, a chapel, a large dining area and day room, the center is designed to meet the needs of sisters and residents who need some assistance with their daily care in order to live their lives to their full potential.

In 2009, Prompt Succor Nursing Facility completed a new replacement facility. The replacement facility of 44,000 square feet houses 80 private rooms, administrative offices, and rehabilitation center and ancillary services. The new addition replaced the two original wings. It was blessed on September 22, 2009 by Bishop Michael Jarrell and in November residents moved into the new addition.

The decision to look for a system to acquire OLPS and C'est La Vie was one that came with prayer and reflection. In November 2023, TrustCare acquired the facility with the pledge that the Marianites would always have a home. The decision was based on the desire of the owner to continue the mission that has been planted.

If we can say anything regarding life in Opelousas it is that "Zeal for the mission" has always been the compelling force that enables education and health care to mark the mission of the Marianites. We will be in Opelousas for a long time to come as we have worked to impart that zeal to many employees who are now MSC Associates.



Come join us in celebration...



Sunday, April 28, 2024

11:00 am Mass • St. Louis Cathedral • New Orleans

Celebrant:

Reverend Patrick J. Williams

Vicar General & Executive Director of Clergy, Archdiocese of New Orleans

Rector, St. Louis Cathedral

Holy Cross Man, Class of 1980