

December 2007

Dear '02,

Finals Week at Holy Cross

Twas the middle of Finals Week, when all through the Class
Not a Crusader was stirring, not even at the 10 PM Mass.
The purple stockings were hung along Easy Street with care,
In hopes that vacation soon would be there.

The studious were gathered all studying on their beds,
While visions of straight-A's danced in their heads.
And Midnight Breakfast was hopping, the crowd two hundred strong,
While I knew that my paper would be due in not too long.

When out on the Quad there arose a loud clatter,
I jumped from the keyboard to see what was the matter.
Away to the Carlin bridge I flew like a bat,
Buttoned by jacket and put on my hat.

I tried not to slip on the freshly fallen snow,
Yet my mind was drawn to something. What? I did not know.
When I looked out before me, I was immediately wowed.
I saw a glistening tree, and a merry HC crowd.

The group was huddled outside the O'Kane clock tower.
I looked around; not one face was dour.
Hot chocolate was flowing; Holiday cookies one could not miss.
Wait a minute...is that Kimball's very own "Sis?"

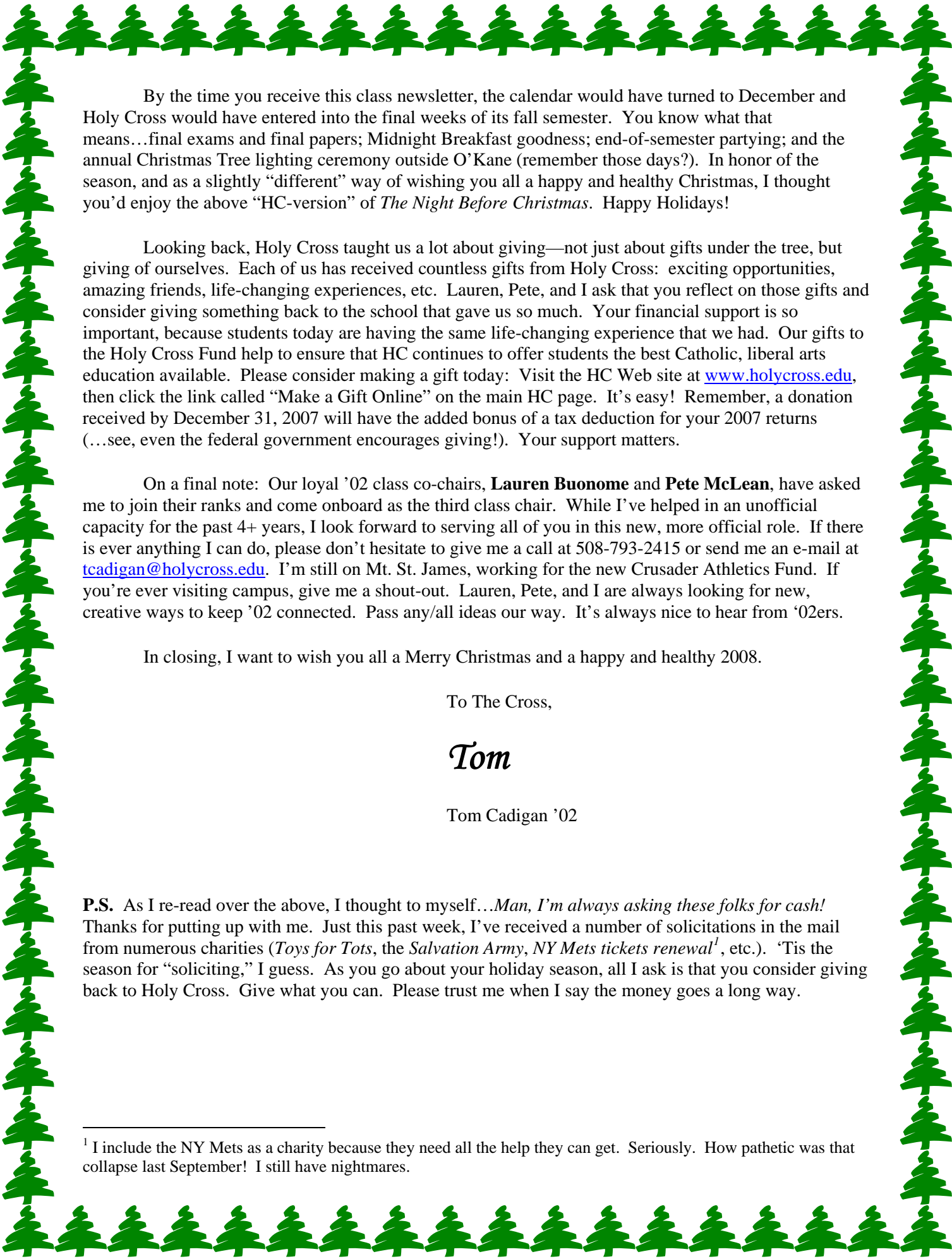
The Marching Band was playing; voices were singing.
I couldn't believe it: my ears were ringing.
While a little bit bare, the tree was still cheery.
Suddenly I didn't feel at all weary.

Professors and Chaplains all joined in the fun.
Fr. McFarland was there, as was Dean Peterson.
Coaches and Trainers, TAs and Staff,
Everyone started to smile and laugh.

In the midst of Finals and instant sleep loss,
The season's true meaning had come to Holy Cross.
Despite all the stress and the angst and the fear,
It was nice to know that Christmas was here.

Though we may be removed from snowy Mt. St. James,
Please know that HC's traditions remain just the same.
If you ever get sad or feel kind of blue,
Remember: you will always be a part of the Great Class of '02.





By the time you receive this class newsletter, the calendar would have turned to December and Holy Cross would have entered into the final weeks of its fall semester. You know what that means...final exams and final papers; Midnight Breakfast goodness; end-of-semester partying; and the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony outside O’Kane (remember those days?). In honor of the season, and as a slightly “different” way of wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas, I thought you’d enjoy the above “HC-version” of *The Night Before Christmas*. Happy Holidays!

Looking back, Holy Cross taught us a lot about giving—not just about gifts under the tree, but giving of ourselves. Each of us has received countless gifts from Holy Cross: exciting opportunities, amazing friends, life-changing experiences, etc. Lauren, Pete, and I ask that you reflect on those gifts and consider giving something back to the school that gave us so much. Your financial support is so important, because students today are having the same life-changing experience that we had. Our gifts to the Holy Cross Fund help to ensure that HC continues to offer students the best Catholic, liberal arts education available. Please consider making a gift today: Visit the HC Web site at www.holycross.edu, then click the link called “Make a Gift Online” on the main HC page. It’s easy! Remember, a donation received by December 31, 2007 will have the added bonus of a tax deduction for your 2007 returns (...see, even the federal government encourages giving!). Your support matters.

On a final note: Our loyal ’02 class co-chairs, **Lauren Buonome** and **Pete McLean**, have asked me to join their ranks and come onboard as the third class chair. While I’ve helped in an unofficial capacity for the past 4+ years, I look forward to serving all of you in this new, more official role. If there is ever anything I can do, please don’t hesitate to give me a call at 508-793-2415 or send me an e-mail at tcadigan@holycross.edu. I’m still on Mt. St. James, working for the new Crusader Athletics Fund. If you’re ever visiting campus, give me a shout-out. Lauren, Pete, and I are always looking for new, creative ways to keep ’02 connected. Pass any/all ideas our way. It’s always nice to hear from ’02ers.

In closing, I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2008.

To The Cross,

Tom

Tom Cadigan ’02

P.S. As I re-read over the above, I thought to myself...*Man, I’m always asking these folks for cash!* Thanks for putting up with me. Just this past week, I’ve received a number of solicitations in the mail from numerous charities (*Toys for Tots*, the *Salvation Army*, *NY Mets tickets renewal*¹, etc.). ‘Tis the season for “soliciting,” I guess. As you go about your holiday season, all I ask is that you consider giving back to Holy Cross. Give what you can. Please trust me when I say the money goes a long way.

¹ I include the NY Mets as a charity because they need all the help they can get. Seriously. How pathetic was that collapse last September! I still have nightmares.