



College of the Holy Cross Class of 2004

December 2007

Dear Classmates,

I don't know about you, but I can't believe we are already into the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. It doesn't seem that long since I turned the calendar to January 2007. With the busy lives that we all lead, it seems the best gift any of us will receive this season is time—whether it is time to visit with family and friends, time to accomplish the items on our “to-do” lists, or time to quietly reflect on the true spirit of Christmas.

The spirit of Christmas was always easy to find on Mt. St. James. I loved coming back from Thanksgiving break to find the Crèche displayed in front of Dinand and the candelabras lining the aisle of St. Joseph Chapel marking Advent, the season of light. Of course, the spirit of Christmas wasn't just the physical changes to campus. As students we had so many opportunities to mark the season of giving. We gave our time as SPUD volunteers. We donated Toys for Tots at Mass or put together a package for the Giving Tree. Of course, we also shared the gift of friendship with each other, as we spent a few last hours together before we departed for the semester break.

I loved the traditions of this time of year. No matter how much work I had to do, I always made time for the tree lighting in front of O'Kane. It was the perfect break from studying. Do you remember “Christmas Dinner” in Kimball? It was arguably one of the best meals of the year, and who could forget the Festival of Lessons and Carols. Even those of us who couldn't sing would join in that night.

I'm so grateful for these memories. Looking back I think 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. I ask you to reflect on those gifts and to consider giving something back to the school that gave us so much. Your support is so important, because students today are having the same life-changing experience that we had. Our gifts help to ensure that HC continues to offer students the best Catholic, liberal arts education available. Remember, gift by December 31 will have the added bonus of a tax deduction for your 2007 returns.

Thank you for taking this walk down memory lane with me. I hope that it stirred some fond memories for you. I wish you and your families a very joyous Christmas and many blessings in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Katie Leader

John O'Donnell

Kate Meyers Gilbert