

## House of the Week

By: Caitlin Moore '08

This week's House of the Week article features a residence that is a bit different from the customary houses. Forget Caro, Boyden, Clay, Southbridge, Electric, and all the usual suspects; this week we travel back on campus to highlight Ciampi, the Jesuit Residence. Pronounced "Champ-ee" and named after Anthony J. Ciampi who served as the President of Holy Cross three different times, the grey building that is set off from the campus remains a mystery to many students. This edition of HOTW aims to shed some light on the house on the hill for all those curious students.

Before Ciampi was built, the Jesuits lived in Loyola Hall and some seasoned veterans, like Fr. Pomeroy, used to live on the fourth floor of Fenwick before Loyola housed the members of the Society. Frs. Hayes, Worcester, Vodoklys, and Ford were also once residents of Campion before they transformed their rooms into offices. The transition was a positive one; they are able to see much of the action on campus and instead of feeling like a dormitory, Ciampi feels like a real house.

There are twenty one Jesuits that live at the house. Frs. Clark and Miracky live down the street on Cityview but remain heavily involved in community activities at Ciampi. The large dining room seats 40 people and the floor to ceiling windows allow ample sunlight to fill the room. The sun also shines through the stained glass in the chapel, casting colors of deep orange, red, and yellow that often set on the statue of the Virgin Mary late in the afternoon. As you can imagine from these well-educated men, Ciampi is full of books. Shelves line the wall at the top of the stairs of each floor and the large library holds a variety of encyclopedias and theology books. The gentlemen enjoy their own room and private bath, and the house also boasts a recreation room for socials and meetings, a large living room, an exercise room, a room for computer use, a TV room, as well as several guest rooms for visiting Jesuits or family members.

When the men of the Society of Jesus are not teaching classes, saying masses, or leading retreats, they participate in a variety of activities at Ciampi. Monday nights are Community Night where everyone meets for mass, followed by dinner together as a group. This is a time that all the Jesuits can plan to reconnect amidst their busy schedules. Gatherings to celebrate Christmas, Easter, the Feast of St. Ignatius, and birthdays are regularly organized and are held on these special Monday nights. Ciampi also hosts college faculty, staff, and students for events such as Jesuit Identity discussions, Jesuit Heritage Week, and lucky students may be invited for lunch by a Jesuit professor.

Each Jesuit belonging to the Ciampi community has his own special interests and talents. While some students know many Jesuits from courses or involvement in campus ministry, many Crusaders are unfamiliar with these valued members of our Holy Cross community. So by way of introduction, I've included a brief description of each man's role on campus and the Jesuit community.

Fr. Hayes, the Rector of the Jesuit Community, is familiar with many students due to his involvement with the Spiritual Exercises. A master of remembering names and important

information about students, he works to develop and enhance the College's mission and identity. Fr. Howard is new to Ciampi this year after many years at Boston College. He is the Minister of the Community and gave me a detailed guided tour through Ciampi. Fr. Campbell has been in and out of the gates of Holy Cross the past four years as a result of his tertianship and his important administrative role at the Nativity School. He will soon leave Holy Cross to serve as the president of Cheverus High School in Maine. Fr. Markey can be found in the Admissions Office, interviewing prospective candidates and helping the Admissions staff select students from the increasing number of applications each year. He is one of the best supporters of Crusader pride, as is made evident by his vast selection of purple Holy Cross gear. Fr. Kuzniewski, another devotee to Crusader Athletics, is the chaplain for the athletic program and can be found traveling with various teams and working out at the Hart Center. He also looks out for the birds and squirrels in the winter by setting up feeders outside Ciampi. Fr. Reboli has a passion for art, music, and opera and enjoys going to concerts and visiting museums. He is an avid runner and spends many afternoons jogging up at the track.

Fr. McFarland is another running enthusiast and tries to fit in a jog amidst his busy schedule as the President of the College. He enjoys attending a variety of Crusader athletic games and events. Fr. Vodoklys was once a Fenwick Scholar at Holy Cross and now serves as the Treasurer for the Jesuit Community. He also participates in the Exercises as a spiritual director. Fr. Reiser is known about the Jesuit community as the greatest baker of birthday cakes. One of the Jesuits who helped design Ciampi, he also assists at a local parish with Spanish masses and keeps the libraries in Ciampi stocked and in order. Fr. Miracky heads up the English Department and has a passion for twentieth century British literature. He leads the initiative to find a good quality, inexpensive wine to serve at Ciampi and reports his findings to the group when he feels he has found a good sample. Fr. Brooks, once a President of the College, played an integral role in making Holy Cross a co-educational institution. He now serves as President Emeritus and works in the Development Office to fundraise for Holy Cross projects and events. Fr. Dunn is the Associate Director of Planned Giving. He has taught all over the country but returned to Holy Cross to help in the facilitation of fundraising and development.

Fr. Lapomarda's passion is history but he does not limit himself to the events of the past; he is always up on the latest current events and encourages others to do the same. He is notorious for clipping articles out of the New York Times and leaving them on the bulletin board for the other Jesuits to read. Fr. Pomeroy is known as the "computer guy" in Ciampi for his great knowledge of technology. He often helps out at the 4:30 mass in the Mary Chapel and assists a local parish with its weekend liturgies as well. Fr. Rule was once a professor in the English Department and after 35 years of teaching – at Holy Cross and other schools – he retired. He remains active in the College community and works to promote the continuing education of alumni. Fr. Hamel is active in the Exercises as a spiritual director and serves as the sacristan of the chapel, spending much of his time prepping for daily masses at Ciampi. He often accompanies Fr. Reiser to seminars to contribute to discussions about Ignatius and Jesuit Spirituality. Fr. Worcester teaches history and focuses much of his study to early modern France and Italy. He and Fr. Miracky team up to plan special dinners for holidays at Ciampi.

Fr. Stempsey is a philosophy aficionado but possesses a great interest in medical ethics. Before Holy Cross, he even served as a resident of pathology at various Boston hospitals and devotes a

portion of his week to visit the psych ward at local Worcester hospitals. Fr. Clark teaches in the Religious Studies Department and assists as a spiritual director on the Exercises. He also attracts many students to weekend liturgies in the Mary Chapel. Fr. Smith's duties take him to the Nativity School in Worcester where he works as the chaplain and admissions director. He has traveled to various third world countries and promoted pastoral ministry for prisoners. Fr. Curry has the busy job of being the chaplain at St. Vincent's Hospital. While students may not recognize him due to his off-campus commitments, he helps Fr. Vodoklys with the treasury responsibilities and has the important position of handling Ciampi's bills. Fr. Keegan's duties as a pastor in New Hampshire often take him beyond the gates of Holy Cross. He remains an integral member of the Jesuit community and visits Holy Cross when he is not in the Granite State.

The Jesuits have also been privileged to have several visiting Jesuits in the past few years, including Fr. Moran, Fr. Daka, and Fr. Toussaint Kafarhire. These men often teach classes, assist at weekend masses, and give lectures on various topics. Fr. Farrugia is a visiting scholar from Malta. His specialty is theological anthropology, which examines human existence in conjunction with Christian faith.

From Hogan, the residence looks rather large but the architecture is such that it blends into the neighborhood on Cityview and does not seem obtrusive or incongruous. Fr. Reiser likes the fact that while most other buildings on campus are made of brick, the wood exterior of Ciampi creates a visual break, denoting a division between an academic building and a residence. Fr. Pomeroy appreciates the intimate quality of the community and enjoys getting to know his fellow Jesuits. Everyone loves the sunlight that Ciampi receives each day and that you can see both the sunrise and sunset from the building.

All of the Jesuits look forward to Christmastime, when the house is decorated and they each place an ornament on the banister. Each year at Christmas, Fr. O'Halloran, who just recently passed away, dresses up as Santa and calls up each Jesuit to give him his Christmas gift as he tells a little story about each man. This year was particularly special because Fr. O'Halloran kept the Jesuits in stitches with his witty remarks. Fr. Nelligan, another familiar face around campus, also passed away earlier this year but is fondly remembered by students for greeting everyone he met walking around campus. Both men are missed greatly by the Jesuits and the college community but the imprint they left on the college remains.

So to quell any rumors going around that Ciampi holds a giant wine cellar or that the Jesuits eat filet mignon and lobster every night, the Jesuit Residence is not a place of decadence; instead, it is comfortably humble and provides the hard working men of the College with an environment that supports strong relationships and College involvement. The men of the Society of Jesus give more to the College than just their talents in the classroom and their energy at mass. This year alone, the Jesuits gave away \$2.15M for scholarships, the International Jesuit fund, the Jesuit Lecture Series, the Jesuit Identity Program, and the Nativity School. As Fr. Hayes says, "Do a day's work, ask for what you need, and turn the rest of your earnings in."

While this week's HOTW was not your typical Caro Street antics, Ciampi is a place where few students ever venture yet is home to many important figures of the Holy Cross community. A far

cry from the halls of Fenwick or Loyola, Ciampi provides these dedicated men of the Society of Jesus with a welcoming and restful home where they can socialize and relax after their many hours of commitment to the students, faculty, alumni, and friends of Holy Cross and the greater Worcester community.

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**FIRST ROW:**

Pomeroy, Brooks, McFarland, O'Halloran, Smith

**SECOND ROW:**

Clark, Miracky, Howard, Lapomarda, Vodoklys, Daka, Stempsey, Markey

**THIRD ROW:**

Worcester, Reboli, Hayes, Hamel, Kuzniewski, Rule, Reiser

**FOURTH ROW:**

Campbell, Keegan, Curry, Moran