

courtesy of the Seelos Centre-New Orleans

Seelos Scholarship Honors LIFE OF MERCY, COMPASSION

BY SARAH O'BRIEN MACKAY

"I love the work of the missions more than anything else. It is properly the work in the vineyard of the Lord; it is entirely apostolic work."

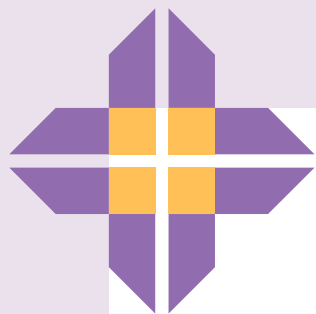
—Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Redemptorist, 1819–1867

A Holy Cross family, who wishes to remain anonymous, has established a scholarship fund at the College in honor of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a Redemptorist priest who ministered to poor and immigrant communities in the United States during the mid-



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19th century. Providing full tuition support, the *Fr. Francis Xavier Seelos Scholarship* will make a Holy Cross education possible for first-generation and non-traditional college students from the Worcester area.

“We are very grateful to these generous friends,” says Holy Cross president, Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. “The Seelos Scholarship will enrich our Holy Cross community and make an important contribution to our mission of building a more just and compassionate society. It will also honor a remarkable man in Father Seelos, who spent his life ministering to others.”

Champions of Fr. Seelos’ legacy, the donor family felt that a scholarship in his name was particularly fitting during this time of intense and sometimes divisive national debate on immigration reform. They were particularly pleased to support the higher-education aspirations of immigrants and those to whom Fr. Seelos ministered throughout his life.

The recipients of the Seelos Scholarship will be drawn from the Greater Worcester community, including its large and growing Latin American, Southeast Asian and West African populations. To help identify and recruit the most qualified students,

Holy Cross will publicize the Seelos Scholarship in a variety of outreach locations including neighborhood development centers, graduate equivalency degree programs, minority organizations, the Holy Cross Club of Worcester, English as a second language programs, churches and various adult education programs.

“For many years, Holy Cross has had difficulty attracting first-generation and non-traditional students, largely because of the financial barriers,” says Fr. McFarland. “The Seelos Scholarship will allow such students to enroll at the College without undue financial burden on themselves or their families, and to graduate free from the kind of debt that can affect for many years their choice of career or their ability to serve others.”

A blessed life

Born on Jan. 11, 1819 in Fussen, Bavaria, Germany, Francis Xavier Seelos felt drawn to religious devotion from an early age. As a young man, he studied philosophy at the University of Munich and then entered the diocesan seminary. One evening during his first year of theology studies, the Blessed Mother appeared to him. It was the confirmation he had been waiting for, and soon thereafter, he joined the Redemptorist appeal for missionaries in the New World. On March 17, 1843, Francis Xavier Seelos set sail for America.

Once in the United States, Fr. Seelos served for many years as a parish priest in the largely immigrant communities of Pittsburgh and Baltimore. Ministering in both English and German, he soon became known for his gentle and friendly manner and for the



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compassion he showed toward the poorest and most abandoned among his parishioners. Lines formed at his confessional as penitents traveled from near and far to seek his counsel.

In 1862, Fr. Seelos dedicated himself to the life of an itinerant missionary preaching sermons across the Midwest and Eastern United States. His travels took him through the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. "I love the work of the missions more than anything else," Fr. Seelos once wrote to his sister. "It is properly *the* work in the vineyard of the Lord; it is entirely apostolic work."

In 1866, Fr. Seelos was transferred to Saint Mary's Assumption Parish in New Orleans—a city that served as a bustling port of entry for immigrants to the United States. Although brief, his ministry in New Orleans was by all accounts extraordinary, as he worked day and night, ministering to those in sickness and distress.

Exhausted from caring for the victims of yellow fever, Fr. Seelos contracted the disease himself. He died at the age of 48 on Oct. 4, 1867. Thousands of mourners of all different nationalities, races and classes attended his funeral at St. Mary's, where a shrine is now located in his memory.

"Father died doing what he considered most important, ministering joyfully to the sick and disadvantaged," says one member of the donor family. "He became a legend in New Orleans, even though he was only there for such a short time."

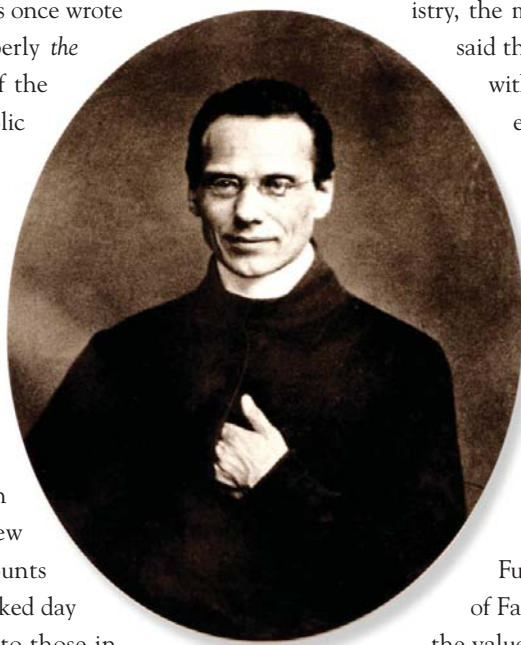
In 2000, Pope John Paul II beatified Fr. Seelos at a ceremony in Saint Peter's Square. Redemptorist Fr. Thomas D. Picton called Fr. Seelos' beatification "a testament to his life's work of mercy and compassion to welcome all people who experience themselves as strangers, alienated, marginalized and disenfranchised into a new communion of the human family." Today, there is a strong movement for Fr. Seelos' canonization.

A special kinship

In addition to their admiration for his ministry, the members of the donor family said that they feel a special kinship with Fr. Seelos because they traveled many of the same roads, starting out life together in Baltimore and Pittsburgh. They also have extended family members in New Orleans, who have been touched by the devotion that local residents still express for the man who was with them for such a short time.

"The purpose of the Seelos Fund is to publicize the example of Father Seelos' life and promote the values he held dear," says a family member. "We feel this money was a gift in many ways, so we are very happy to give some of it back and create a scholarship fund at Holy Cross. We are grateful to be able to spread the meaning and work of Father Seelos."

SARAH O'BRIEN MACKEY *is a freelance writer from Cambridge, Mass.*





The **ROBERT L. ARDIZZONE '63** Funds for **FACULTY EXCELLENCE**

BY KATHLEEN MADDAUS

courtesy of Pam Jones



Pam Jones and Robert Ardizzone '63 on Martha's Vineyard

“Quiet strength, intelligence and leadership”—these are hallmarks of the character of the late Robert L. Ardizzone '63, as expressed in a eulogy delivered by Michael Toner, his classmate and friend.

These are the same traits which engendered the idea for the *Robert L. Ardizzone Funds for Faculty Excellence* recently established in Ardizzone's memory. Pam Jones, Ardizzone's longtime companion, says that Holy Cross and

its faculty were a central focus in Bob's life—from the time he arrived on campus in the autumn of 1959—until his untimely death in August of 2005. For this reason, Pam and her brother, Michael Jones, and his wife, Dodie, have created two funds at Holy Cross that will benefit the work of faculty.

Frank Handler '63 was a lifelong friend of Ardizzone's. Both men joined the Navy after graduation and then pursued careers in New

“ THE *lifeblood* OF THE COLLEGE IS ITS *faculty*. ”

MICHAEL JONES

York City. Handler says that Ardizzone, who founded the private investment advisory firm, Litchfield Global Advisers, Inc., in 1994, liked to “grapple with problems and had a great curiosity about things.”

Michael Jones, a professor and member of the development office at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, says Ardizzone was a strategist who knew that a college’s success depends on the quality of its faculty—Jones adds that Ardizzone was “delighted with Holy Cross’ accomplishments” and knew that “the lifeblood of the College is its faculty.”

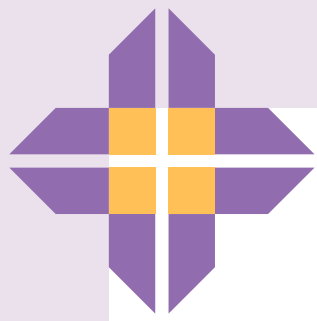
The Jones family was certain that Ardizzone would be pleased with their decision to pay tribute to him by contributing to faculty resources. With the assistance of Tom Flynn ’85, director of capital giving, the Jones family designated funds that would benefit junior faculty in two ways—through a faculty research grant and a summer research fellowship. The research grant will provide direct support to junior faculty members from any discipline, via a competitive application process monitored by the Faculty Committee on Fellowships, Research and Publication. The other component of the fund, the *Robert L. Ardizzone Summer Fellowships for Junior Faculty Scholarship*, will provide a summer stipend to help a junior faculty member bring a research project or scholarly work to completion.

The Funds for Faculty Excellence commemorate the spirit of intellectual curiosity, love of scholarship, and devotion to Holy Cross so inherent in the character of Robert L. Ardizzone. Anyone interested in supporting this initiative can contact Tom Flynn by phone, at (508) 793-2359, or, by e-mail, at tflynn@holycross.edu.



courtesy of Pam Jones

Robert Ardizzone '63 in Zermatt, Switzerland, February 2003



Philosophy professor leaves

\$1.1 million bequest

BY SARAH O'BRIEN MACKAY

John J. O'Neill '39, a philosophy professor and world traveler, has left Holy Cross a bequest of more than \$1.1 million to endow a scholarship fund. In accordance with his wishes, the *John J. O'Neill Scholarship* will provide educational opportunities for young men and women who demonstrate solid academic standing but could not aspire to Holy Cross without financial assistance.

"John O'Neill has honored his alma mater by making this final gift to the College he loved," says Holy Cross president, Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. "The O'Neill Scholarship will ensure that John will be remembered in perpetuity at Holy Cross, where his name will be spoken aloud each time his scholarship is awarded."

O'Neill was born in Dover, N.H., on Sept. 24, 1917, the son of Terrence W. and Mary C. (Rogers) O'Neill. After graduating from Dover High School, he attended Holy Cross for two years. He then traveled to Rome, where he spent three years pursuing seminary studies. After deciding against ordination, he earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy at the Gregorian University. Upon his return to the United States, O'Neill began his teaching career at Fitchburg (Mass.) State College; he then became a professor of philosophy at the former Boston State Teachers College, now Bunker Hill Community College, where he taught for more than 30 years until his retirement.

Although O'Neill's time at Holy Cross was brief, the College never left his heart. He enjoyed

reading any news about Holy Cross—and 15 years ago, he was thrilled to discover that his new attorney, Paul R. Cox '60, was a graduate.

"He always remembered his days at Holy Cross and wanted to do something for the school," says Cox. "He was delighted when we discovered that we both had gone to Holy Cross, and he was even more delighted about creating this scholarship. He knew how important it could be to a young person. It wouldn't surprise me if he had this gift in his mind all his life."

The bulk of O'Neill's bequest came from properties that his father built in New Hampshire and in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. By making such a bequest, O'Neill joined the College's 1843 Society, which is comprised of more than 800 alumni and friends who have provided for the future of Holy Cross through their planned gifts. Since the very beginning of Holy Cross, bequests have provided critical support for the College and its mission. After receiving its very first bequest in 1852 from Jesuit Scholastic Patrick Healy, Holy Cross was able to rebuild Fenwick Hall, which had been destroyed by fire.

Living the quiet but ever-curious life of a scholar, O'Neill filled his home with books and opera recordings. Never married, he traveled whenever he could. "He was truly a philosopher," says Cox. "Even at the end, when he was very sick, a conversation about St. Thomas Aquinas could always get him going."

HOLY CROSS FUND NEWS AND NOTES

■ Sullivan concludes President's Council leadership; Supples are new co-chairs

Tom Sullivan '70 will conclude his chairmanship of the President's Council this summer after leading the College's principal giving society for more than seven years. Under Sullivan's leadership, the Council has grown by an impressive 33 percent, increasing its membership from 1,800 to 2,400.

"Tom Sullivan exemplifies the Holy Cross spirit of men and women for others," says College president, Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. "The President's Council has thrived under his leadership, and we are very grateful for all that he has done to steward and strengthen this distinguished group of alumni and friends."

Sullivan will be succeeded by Bill '81 and Mary Lynch Supple '82, the first couple ever to lead the President's Council. Longtime members of the Council, they are also active Holy Cross volunteers. A senior vice president

of Boston Partners Asset Management, Bill Supple has served as a class chair since graduation, and both Mary and he are class agents. Part of a large Holy Cross family on both sides, the Supples live in Needham, Mass., with their four children. Their license plate reads HC 8182.

■ Fund welcomes new national chair

In other leadership news, Connie Eagan '81 will be stepping down this summer after serving for five years as national chair of the Holy Cross Fund. Eagan will be succeeded by Ken Padgett '66, P10, 07, 05, a longtime member of the

New York Leadership Council, class chair, and gift chair of his 40th reunion.

The national Holy Cross Fund chair oversees an organization of 140 class chairs and 2,500 agents spread across the country and around the world. As chair, Eagan was known for her dedication to keeping this vast network, and indeed all Holy Cross alumni, connected with both the College and their class.

"Connie was always someone we could count on to help us see the forest for the trees," said Gary Carskaddan, director of the Holy Cross Fund. "She is a forward thinker, concerned about both the present and the future of Holy Cross. We can't thank her enough for her leadership."

■ Fund helps Holy Cross athletics level the playing field

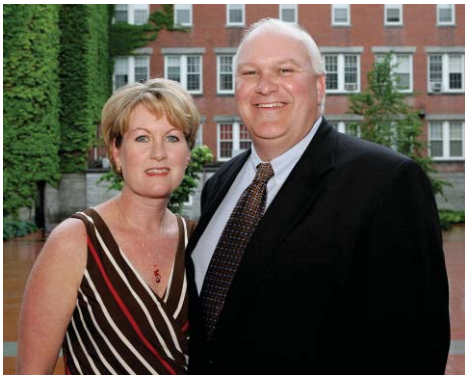
This fall, the Holy Cross Fund will give alumni and friends a new opportunity to support the College's athletics programs along with their annual giving. Gifts for athletics will strengthen Holy Cross' competitive position by providing increased resources for recruiting, coaching, equipment and travel.

"Holy Cross is one of the few Division I schools, and the only Patriot League school, that hasn't done this before," said Athletics Director Richard Regan '76. "We're very excited that this initiative will be helping us to level the playing field, so to speak. Our programs have achieved some important successes recently, but, of course, we want to achieve more—and new funds will help us do that. Alumni who support athletics in this way will truly be able to make a difference."

To learn more about opportunities for supporting Holy Cross athletics, please contact Tom Cadigan '02, associate director of the fund for athletic fundraising, by phone, at (508) 793-2415, or, by e-mail, at tcadigan@holycross.edu.

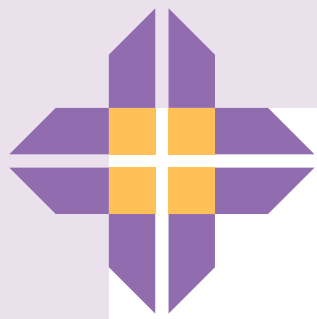


Ken Padgett '66,
national Fund chair



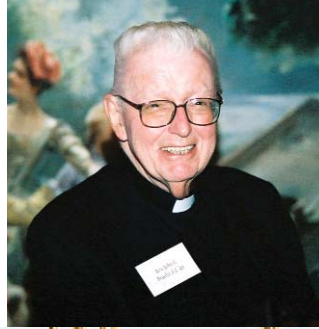
New President's Council Co-Chairs Mary Lynch Supple '82 and Bill Supple '81

S.O'B.M



Campaign I *The Scene*

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS



The Holy Cross Leadership Council of New York fundraiser honors Rev. John E. Brooks, S.J., '49, president emeritus. (From top to bottom, left to right): the honoree; Michael Collins '77, Fr. Brooks, Fr. McFarland, William Phelan '73 and Lawrence Doyle '83; Eric Starkman, Patricia and Stanley Grayson '72, Marguerita Gonzales '83, Alix Dejean '04, Bernadette Semple '82, Ron Lawson '75, Charles Presbury '75, and Theodore Wells '72; Margaret Millard McGrath '85 and Jeffrey Haley '84; Mark and Jennifer Thompson Mermel '92; Roseann Fitzgerald '78, Stephen Lovelette '78, Katherine Garrahan '79, Harry Thomas '78, Fr. Brooks, Carrie Giardino '97, and Fr. Earle Markey '53.



MAY 18, NEW YORK PALACE

Custom Corporate Photography, Thomas Kieren '53



Holy Cross families celebrate at the College's 160th Commencement Exercises. (From top to bottom, left to right): The Dinardo Family; The Robert Family; The Frazier Family; The Mullan Family; The Truxler Family; The Krajci Family; and The Hayden Family.

John Gillooly