



Holy Cross Physicians Association

Hall of Honor | 2022 Inductee

John Francis Potter, M.D.

Compiled by Dr. Robert Pollard '80

September 17, 2022

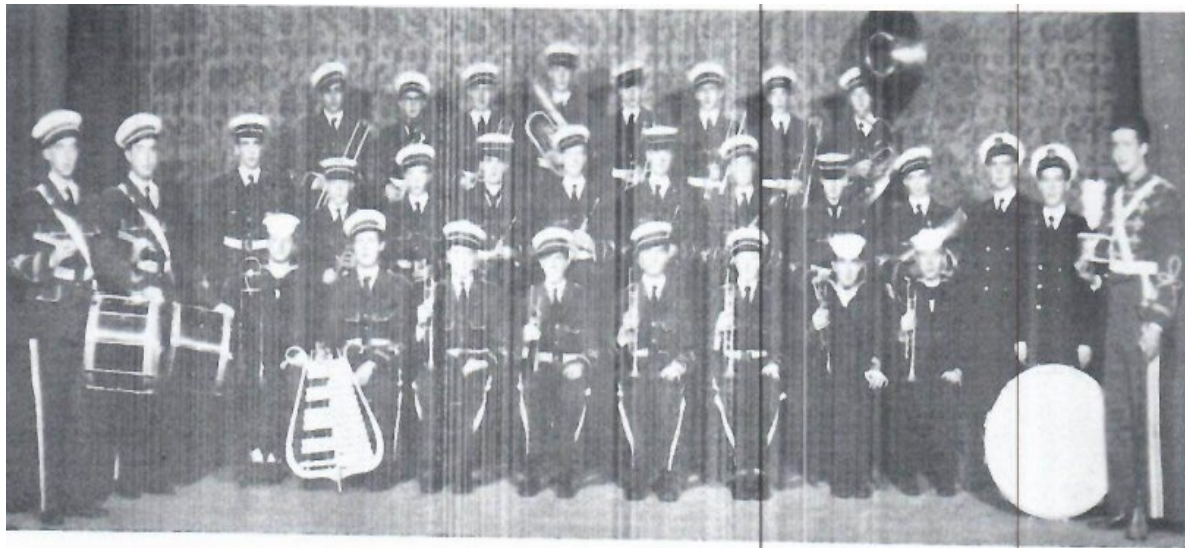
When we set out to celebrate one of our own within the Jesuit educated community, we find ourselves guided by some of the most fundamental tenets of Jesuit education and beliefs

“Men and women for others”

“Cura Personalis.... care of the total person”

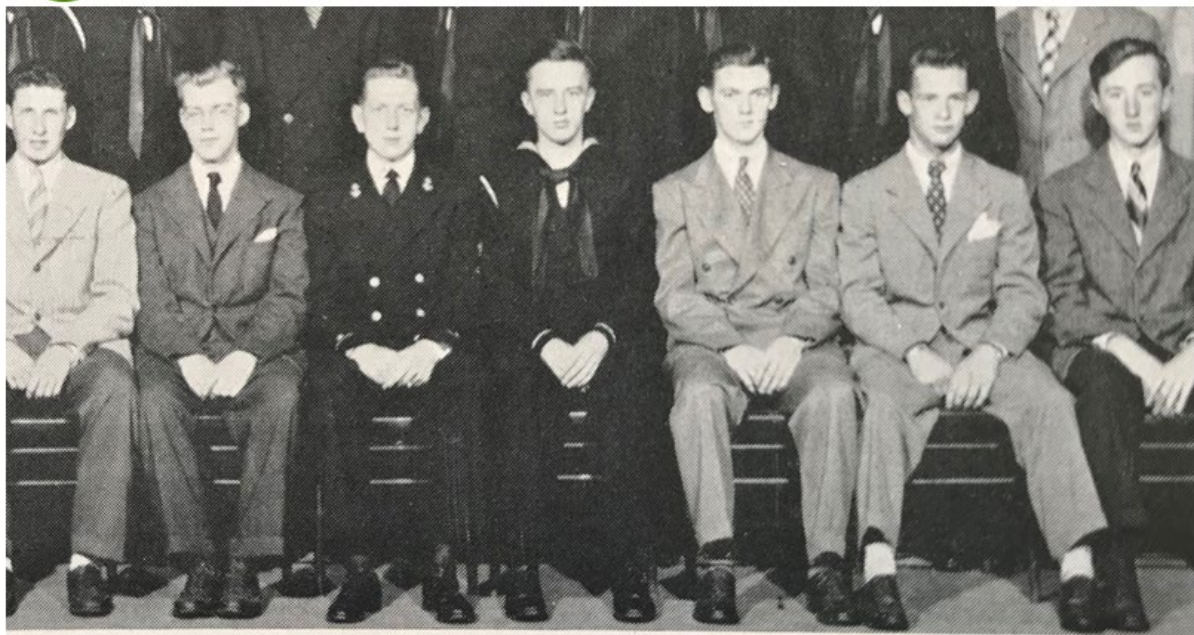
Dr. John Francis Potter was born in New York City and grew up in Scarsdale NY. He attended Jesuit institutions, enrolling at Regis High School, then attending Holy Cross for college and Georgetown University for medical school and then residency in surgery. While at Holy Cross, he was a member of the Marching Band, the Choir and enrolled in the Navy's V12 program which was overseen by Father Joseph “Bunny” Busam S. J. who was also director of the pre-med program and chemistry department. He would serve our country during World War II while at Holy Cross and was then recalled to active duty following medical school during the Korean War. He would then finish his training in surgery at Georgetown in the 1950s and as a researcher at the National Cancer Institute. He returned to Georgetown in 1960 where he oversaw the department of Surgical Oncology and would train several generations of Georgetown surgeons. At Georgetown, he developed a reputation for caring for medical students and his residents in training. He is probably best known as the driving force behind the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of our country's earliest cancer centers. At Georgetown, his career and presence were iconic as described in this testimonial with President DeGioia and in his own words(<https://vimeo.com/245414133>). Following a five-decade career at Georgetown University, he helped launch the U.S. Military Cancer Institute and was president and board chairman of the American Cancer Institutes.

The Holy Cross Physicians Association recognizes Dr. Potter as a man who lived his life for others and committed his career in furthering the Jesuit value of *Cura Personalis*!



First Row, left to right: T. Spellicy, H. Mallon, R. Gollmar, J. Hopkins, A. Bruno, T. Stark, N. Fisher, F. Wenger, D. Wilson, J. Potter, W. Miller, A. Driscoll, J. Graziadei. Second Row, left to right: R. Furlong, F. Warner, T. Smith, A. Grey, N. Theile, R. Henderson, J. Heffernan, W. Wettlauffer, W. Roche. Third Row, left to right: W. King, R. Tubbs, F. Casey, F. Rozelle, F. Kratina, T. Busch, E. Canning, R. Cook.

(1945/46) As member of the Holy Cross Band, fourth from left with a trumpet



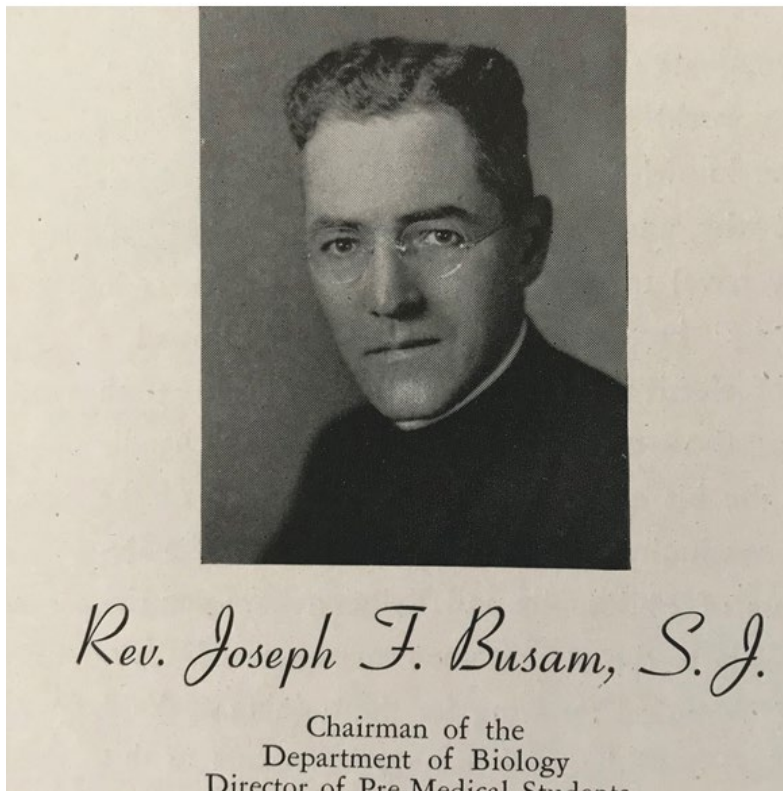
ly, P. McCormack, W. Davis, D. Welch, T. Phelan, J. Potter, J. McKiernan, Benedict, D. Smallcombe, J. Curran, J. Burkard, D. Garrigan, J. Gibbons, Toole, F. Pesanelli. Third Row, left to right: J. King, J. Wiley, T. Bush, F.

(1945/1946) As a member of the choir at Holy Cross, fourth from right

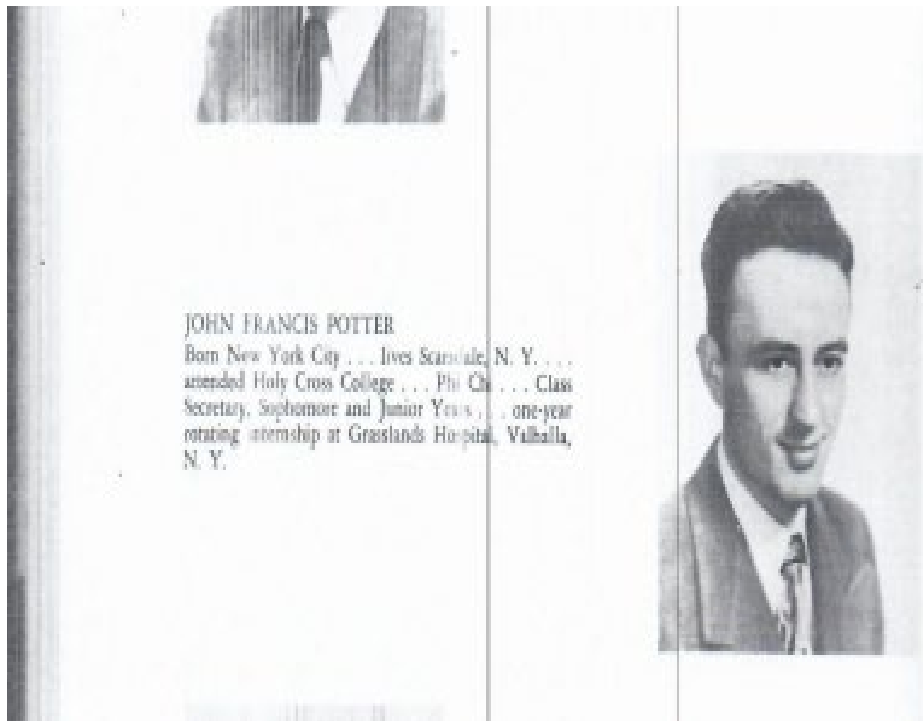
Cross On Campus: V12 Program



(1945/46) Navy V12 program members drilling on Holy Cross campus



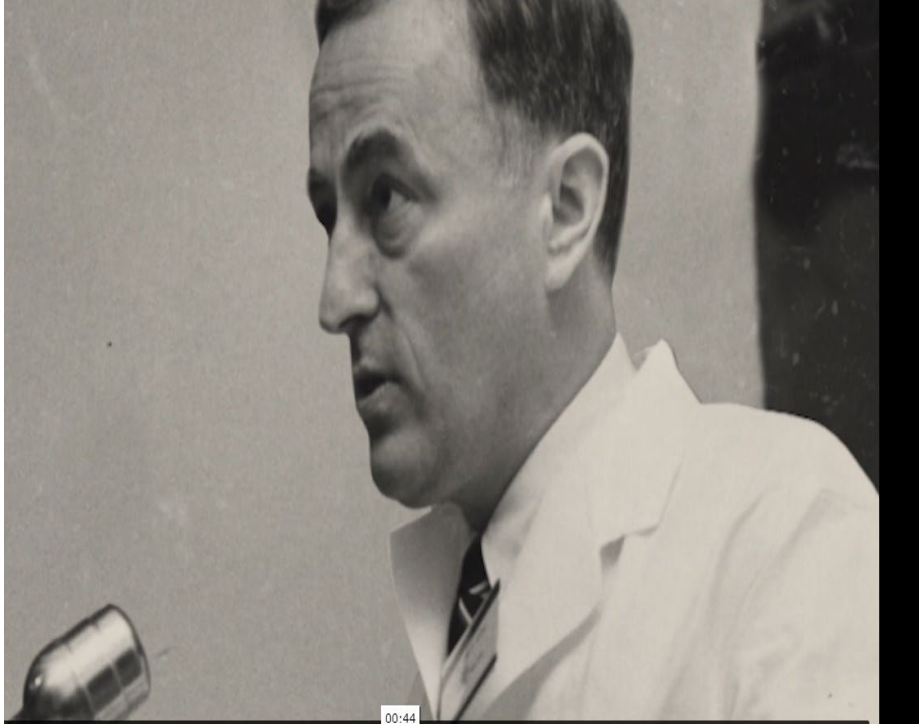
(1945/1946) Fr Joseph Busam, director of the Holy Cross Pre-Medical program and the Navy V12 program.



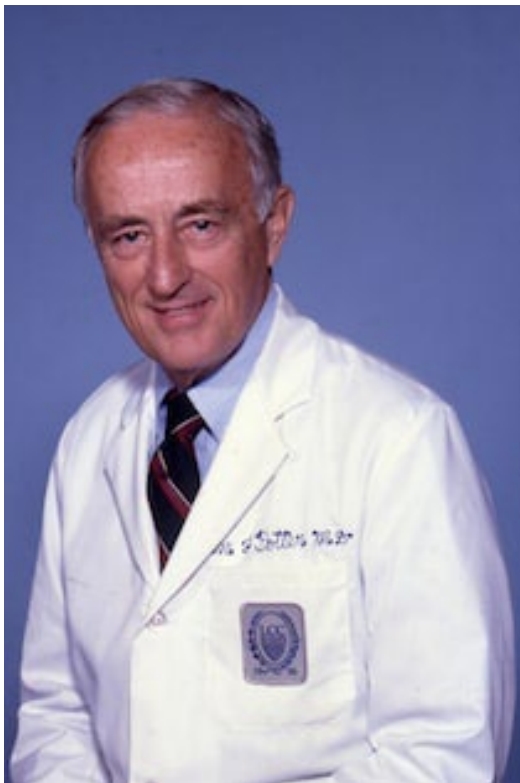
(1949) Graduation bio from the Georgetown University Medical school yearbook



(1950s) Dr. Potter recalled to active duty to serve as a medical officer as part of a mine sweeper squadron in Charleston South Carolina.



(1970s) Dr. Potter lecturing at Georgetown University Hospital



Dr. Potter as director of the Lombardi Center



(2018) Dr. Potter reflecting on the development of the Lombardi Center.

RP 9/17/2022