

College of the Holy Cross

MISSION
COMMITMENTS

Our Jesuit, Catholic identity adheres our academic and community life to the tenets of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, which require a relentless pursuit of truth and meaning by incorporating diverse perspectives and integrating faith and reason for a mutually enlightening understanding of our world and our place in it.



To this end, and in accordance
with our mission, the
College of the Holy Cross
engages in reflection, dialogue,
and collective action.

The Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus
further guide our understanding of our Jesuit, Catholic mission:

1

SHOWING THE WAY TO GOD

Our work flows from a deep spiritual foundation, rooted in Ignatian discernment, and a faith that does justice.

3

JOURNEYING WITH YOUTH

We seek to form young people into leaders of conscience, competence, and compassion who will work to heal and renew the world.

2

WALKING WITH THE EXCLUDED

We stand in solidarity with marginalized communities, addressing the conditions that create injustice and exclusion.

4

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME:

In solidarity with the teaching of Pope Francis in his defining encyclical *Laudato Si*, we recognize the deep interconnection between ecological justice and social justice, responding to the urgent need for environmental sustainability.

Our interpretation of our
call has yielded three
distinct but interconnected
Mission Commitments. —→



MISSION COMMITMENT TO THE

Dignity *of* Persons, Reconciliation, *and the* Common Good —————>



“The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity... As a community, we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development.”

– POPE FRANCIS, FRATELLI TUTTI, NO. 118

As a member of the global network of Jesuit, Catholic institutions, the College of the Holy Cross is deeply committed to advancing justice, equity, belonging, and the dignity of each person. In alignment with our mission and the 500-year-old tradition of Jesuit education, we are rooted in our purpose to foster “the intellectual, social, and spiritual growth of all members of our community” (*Mission Statement*, College of the Holy Cross). Accordingly, we affirm the call to honor the God-given humanity of every individual and to create a campus where all can live, learn, and work in a spirit of mutual care and respect.

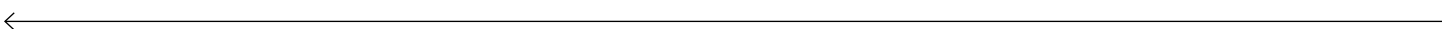
The Jesuit, Catholic understanding of the common good, as articulated in *Catholic Social Teaching*, calls us to create social conditions that promote the flourishing and dignity of all people, with a preferential option for and solidarity with those who are poor, vulnerable, or otherwise on society’s margins. Rooted in this vision, we affirm that “diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are not simply ancillary values; they are intrinsic to the mission of Jesuit higher education” (*Just Universities: Reflections on the Contributions of DEIB to the Mission of Jesuit Higher Education, AJCU*). Therefore, justice and belonging are essential to every

dimension of our campus life, from academic inquiry to community engagement. As the 36th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus urges, we collaborate with the Society of Jesus who have as a goal to be “companions in a mission of reconciliation and justice” (Decree 1), actively working to heal divisions, advocate for those who are marginalized, and transform unjust structures that exclude, oppress, or diminish human dignity.

Guided by our mission to educate and inspire students to “engage the greater good of our world” (*Mission Statement*), we continually strive to create a community that reflects the inclusive love of God and the Gospel imperatives of justice, peace, and unity in the building up of the kingdom where all of humanity is valued. As a community, we seek to respond with courage, imagination, and hope to God’s call to reconciliation—that we might be reconciled with a God from whom we sometimes stray; that we might make peace with others, against whom we too often make war; and that we might restore harmony with Creation itself—that visible sign of God’s love and life for us that we repeatedly treat with neglect (*Decree 1, General Congregation 36*). As Pedro Arrupe, S.J., declared in 1973: “Our prime educational

objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God;... men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors.” We humbly dedicate ourselves to the ongoing work of building a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world—one that reflects God’s love and the transformed vision of a common humanity and shared home.

We share our commitment to “the service of faith and the promotion of justice” (*32nd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus*) with all Jesuit works around the world. Fidelity to this commitment compels us to confront the interconnected injustices that harm human dignity and the natural world. We ask questions that transform hearts and minds: How might we foster a campus culture where diversity enriches our shared life, equity creates opportunities for all to thrive, and belonging invites each person to contribute authentically to the common mission? In doing so, we integrate academic inquiry, critical reflection, and Jesuit ideals into the pursuit of sustainable solutions, compassionate action, and the formation of leaders who will work not only to change the world, but also to heal it. ■



a College Entrance; Linden Lane Gate.

b Rhiannon Hurst '25 volunteers with children for OpporTUNEity at the Joy of Music School in Worcester as part of her Fenwick Scholar Project.

c Students enjoying a Holy Cross game.

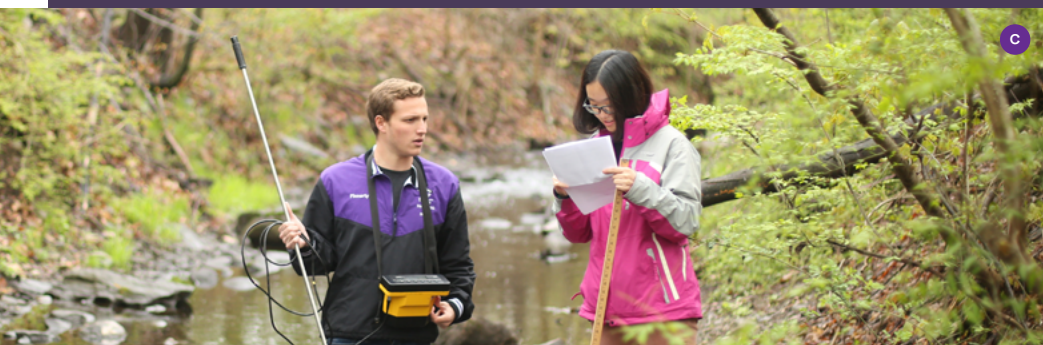


“The real measure of our Jesuit [institutions] lies in who our students become and the adult Christian responsibility they will exercise in the future toward their neighbor and their world.”

– PETER HANS-KOLVENBACH, S.J.,
THE SERVICE OF FATHER AND THE PROMOTION
OF AMERICAN JESUIT HIGHER EDUCATION

MISSION COMMITMENT TO

Holistic Student Growth *and* Development





At the College of the Holy Cross, our commitment to student growth and development is grounded in our Catholic and Jesuit identity and conveyed in our mission to educate the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. As a Jesuit Catholic liberal arts college, we are dedicated to forming individuals who seek truth, foster justice, and serve others with compassion and humility.

Jesuit education is distinguished by its holistic approach to learning and living in community. Therefore, we believe that intellectual excellence must be joined with moral and spiritual development. Because we understand each person as made in the image of God who labors directly, *cura personalis*—the care for the whole person—is not a goal but a constant, animating principle of our work. We attend to each student personally, nurturing their unique talents and aspirations while helping them discern their purpose and

how they are called to contribute their talents in the world.

Drawing upon our 500-year-old tradition, we affirm that Jesuit education enables students to grow in wisdom and virtue, to value deep interior freedom, to strive for greater knowledge of self and others, and to lead lives marked by gratitude, service, and hope. From the beginning, Jesuits honored the benefits to the greater community conferred by the education they provided to its youth. Therefore, education at Holy Cross is not solely preparation for a career, but the beginning of a lifelong journey of growth in conscience, character, and compassion.

Consistent with the Characteristics of Jesuit Higher Education, we commit ourselves to fostering a campus environment in which students are challenged intellectually and supported personally; where dialogue, reflection, and discernment are practiced daily;

where difference is embraced; where community is valued; and where every student is empowered to become a just and thoughtful leader in service of the common good.

In partnership with faculty, staff, and peers—and inspired by the Ignatian values of *magis*, discernment, and accompaniment—students at Holy Cross are invited to engage deeply, reflect purposefully, and act courageously. Our mission compels all of us—particularly student-facing staff, mentors, and coaches—to walk with students as they discover who they are, who they are becoming, and how they might best use their gifts for others in a world in need.

This is our sacred trust and our joyful responsibility: to form individuals of integrity and purpose who are intellectually distinguished, morally grounded, and committed to justice, faith, and the flourishing of all. ■



a Holy Cross Students enjoy the good weather on the first day of classes, August 26th, 2025.

b Members of the Holy Cross community gathered in the Mary Chapel for a Multi-faith Prayer at the College of the Holy Cross on Monday January 22, 2024.

c Students investigate a stream off St. Paul Drive in Worcester during a Watershed Hydrology Lab led by Associate Professor Sara Mitchell of the Biology Dept.



“Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other’s point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns. Based on their identity and experience, others have a contribution to make, and it is desirable that they should articulate their positions for the sake of a more fruitful public debate....Let us not forget that ‘differences are creative; they create tension and in the resolution of tension lies humanity’s progress’”

– POPE FRANCIS, FRATELLI TUTTI, NO. 203

MISSION COMMITMENT TO THE

Catholic Intellectual Tradition



As a Jesuit, Catholic liberal arts college, Holy Cross is grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, an enduring and dynamic dialogue engaging faith and reason in the pursuit of truth and understanding. This tradition offers Catholic colleges and universities a mission, identity, and foundation that connects academic communities across region, culture, and time. It is a living tradition that asks fundamental questions about the nature and pursuit of justice, the cultivation of virtues and the avoidance of sin and despair. It teaches us how to advocate for and pursue justice.

Holy Cross belongs to a diverse and global community of Catholic institutions of higher education. In *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Pope John Paul II provides a “magna carta” for Catholic universities. They are “born from the heart of the Church,” and serve as “incomparable centre[s] for creativity and the dissemination of knowledge for the good of humanity” (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Introduction). Across the distinct charisms and cultures, all Catholic colleges and universities share essential Christian characteristics and a common purpose. Holy Cross is no exception, as we engage in an “ardent search for truth and its unselfish transmission to youth” (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Introduction). We do this so that our graduates may, in the words

of our mission statement, “make the best of their own talents, to work together, to be sensitive to one another, to serve others, and to seek justice within and beyond the Holy Cross community.”

At Holy Cross, the Catholic intellectual tradition is animated by the College’s identity as a work of the Society of Jesus. We inherit and promote a charism that calls our faith into action. We endeavor to find God in all things and work for justice as people for and with others. As a liberal arts college, we seek to understand and transform our world through scholarship, teaching, and learning in the service of common flourishing. We celebrate the creation and transmission of new knowledge, confident in the belief that our shared intellectual, moral, and spiritual enterprise contributes to and is enriched by the tapestry of human experience and perspective that makes up our community.

Catholic intellectual life supports a culture of encounter in which we move beyond our divisions and differences toward a society, “where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. Each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable. This also means finding ways to include those on the peripheries of life.” (*Fratelli Tutti* 215) We

are committed to a concept of social friendship that requires us to build a community that gives a voice to the voiceless and empowers those who are weak, and economically disadvantaged.

As an academic institution, ours is an active faith, for “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” (James 2:17). This expression through works is a defining aspect of our Jesuit charism.

This is evident in how we pursue teaching and learning. Our faculty cultivate learning environments that encourage the search for truth and the dissemination of knowledge. Our students become adept at the necessary and challenging work of engaging faith, reason, and the search for truth through dialogue across differences. Catholic colleges and universities have long cultivated vibrant academic communities diverse in ideology, faith, and identity, and have emphasized providing access to those often excluded from higher education. This has, for generations, included students who are the first in their families to attend college and those with significant financial need.

The search for truth goes hand in hand with academic freedom, a cornerstone at Holy Cross and at Catholic colleges and universities across the United States. Academic freedom,



a St. Joseph Memorial Chapel window detail.

b St. Joseph Memorial Chapel exterior.

c Students at Gateways Convocation in the St. Joseph Memorial Chapel.



as traditionally understood, “consists in the freedom of mind, inquiry, and expression necessary for proper performance of professional obligations” (For the Common Good, p. 38). This freedom upholds and protects the work of knowledge creation, teaching, and learning. Because the creation of knowledge requires unfettered inquiry and bold curiosity, this work can lead to fierce disagreement, discomfort, and even offense — especially when orthodoxies and received views are challenged.

In placing great emphasis on tradition, we may risk an incomplete engagement with the contemporary and its challenges. Our College’s identity and purpose are shaped by our Jesuit foundation and by the Catholic intellectual tradition. Rather than limit us, these traditions, and how we practice them and share them, are core to how we express our Catholic institutional identity, how we interpret the signs of the times, and how we encounter the world.

We do all of this for the promotion of justice and in community with others. Here, the intellectual is no recluse nor the College a retreat from the world. As scholar-teachers, our faculty advance a holistic and transformative education for our young people by inviting them to participate in the essential work of knowledge creation. Our students pursue that education in preparation for a professional life, to be engaged and thoughtful citizens, and to embark on a life of service to others. Our administrators support this educational mission and protect the “identity and life” of the College (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, The University Community).

This service to College and community requires freedom of travel, cultural exchange, the dissemination of knowledge and truth, and the authentic celebration of difference rooted in respect for the dignity of all. Policies that separate our College from our global Church, our Jesuit network, and the wider world threaten our identity, faith and practice.

As a Jesuit, Catholic liberal arts college, we participate in and advance a 2,000-year-old dialogue of faith and reason. We pursue excellence in teaching, learning and research. And we work for the promotion of justice, truth, and knowledge to honor our shared humanity, understand His creation, and enrich our world. ■

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