

# COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIRST

## *Commencement*



AT TEN-THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

FRIDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH OF MAY

TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN

## READING OF THE DEGREE

by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College

*Q.B.F.Q.S.*

*Et Rei Publicae Literariae Bene Vertat  
Collegii Sanctae Crucis S. J. Vigornii  
Praeses et Professores  
Has Literas Inspecturis S.P.*

*Illud apud politiores gentes veteri consuetudine invaluit, ut qui doctrinae laude praestent post studiorum emensum curriculum sollemni iudicio ad certos honoris evehantur gradus. Quod insigne decus studiisque fovendis adjumentum ne huic nostro Sanctae Crucis S. J. Vigornii Collegio deesset, sapienti Reipublicae Massachusettensis Concilio et auctoritate cautum est. Quare cum \_\_\_\_\_ studiis naviter peractis factoque periculo ea qua par est scientia praeditum/praeditam se nobis probaverit, ei Artium Baccalaureatum atque adjecta jura omnia et privilegia decernimus attribuimus et rite adeptum honorem gratulamur. His insuper eum/eam instruimus literis Collegii sigillo nostraque manu firmatis, quae promeriti collatique honoris certam legentibus fidem faciant.*

*die vicesimo sexto Maii anno bis millesimo septimo decimo*



As an augury of good fortune and prosperity, and  
as a boon to the Republic of Letters!

To all who shall read this document, greetings from the President and Faculty of the College of the Holy Cross, of the Society of Jesus, in Worcester. It has been a time-honored custom among the more cultivated peoples to distinguish by recognized titles of honor those who have completed a prescribed course of study and exhibited to the satisfaction of qualified examiners marked excellence in learning. And provision has been made by the learned and authoritative General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that the power of granting this distinction, as an aid to learning, should be vested in this our College of the Holy Cross, of the Society of Jesus, in Worcester.

Wherefore, since “\_\_\_\_\_” having successfully completed this course of study and undergone the prescribed examinations, has shown himself/herself to us to possess the required measure of learning, we confer and bestow on him/her the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereunto, and congratulate him/her on the distinction so justly attained. Furthermore we present him/her this diploma, signed by our own hands and authenticated by the Seal of the College, to certify to all readers that he/she has merited and received this honor.

The twenty-sixth day of May, 2017

## THE FOUNDING OF HOLY CROSS



From the beginning of his tenure as the second Bishop of Boston, Benedict Joseph Fenwick longed to establish a Catholic college within the boundaries of his all-New England diocese. Catholics in great numbers, fleeing religious persecution and famine, and seeking economic opportunity, were pouring into the region. He recognized the need to educate them and to provide priests for his growing number of parishes as a major challenge of his episcopacy.

An alumnus of Georgetown College, Bishop Fenwick later served twice as president of his alma mater. As a Jesuit, his religious life had been marked with a certain academic mentality that prepared him well to undertake the establishment of a college. He was enterprising and courageous. And he knew that he could call upon the resources of his fellow Jesuits of the Maryland Province if and when he needed them to staff a school.

The location in Worcester was fortunate. Other sites had been considered, but here, in 1836, Rev. James Fitton purchased 52 acres of land and began an academy for boys. The academy prospered but Fr. Fitton's pastoral responsibilities in Worcester, Rhode Island, and Connecticut left him neither time nor energy to manage a boarding school, and he gladly conveyed the property and buildings to Bishop Fenwick for his college. The Bishop's letters record his enthusiasm for the project as well as its location.

"Next May I shall lay the foundation of a splendid College in Worcester. ...It is calculated to contain 100 boys and I shall take them for \$125 per an. & supply

them with everything but clothes. Will not this be a bold undertaking? Nevertheless I will try it. It will stand on a beautiful eminence & will command the view of the whole town of Worcester."

He gave the College the name of his cathedral church, the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The cornerstone was put in place with great solemnity on June 21, 1843 and on the second day of November, with six students aged 9 to 19, the first classes were held. The College held its first Commencement in 1849.

Within three years, the enrollment had increased to 100 students. In spite of very limited finances, the College was beginning to grow until, in the summer of 1852, a catastrophic fire destroyed it. Were it not for the insistence of Bishop John B. Fitzpatrick, who had succeeded Bishop Fenwick, and the tireless labors of Father Anthony F. Ciampi, S.J., the fourth president, the Jesuits would have abandoned the project and returned to Georgetown. Funds were raised to rebuild the College, and in 1853, it opened for the second time.

Petitions to secure a Charter for the College from the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were denied in 1847 for a variety of causes, including anti-Catholicism on the part of some legislators. Nonetheless, the College conducted its business and awarded its diplomas, which were signed by the president of Georgetown. Finally, with the energetic support of Governor John A. Andrew, the Charter for College of the Holy Cross was officially granted on March 24, 1865.

# ORDER OF EXERCISES



## INTRODUCTION OF THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

Frank Vellaccio, *Senior Vice President of the College*

## ACADEMIC PROCESSION

*Pomp and Circumstance*, Op. 39, by Sir Edward Elgar

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

by John Stafford Smith, arr. Eric Culver

## INVOCATION

Marybeth Kearns-Barrett, *Director of College Chaplains*

## READING OF THE DEGREE

Margaret N. Freije, *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College*

## DEGREES IN COURSE ARE CONFERRED

Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., *President of the College*

## PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Haylie Marie Butler

## HONORARY DEGREES ARE CONFERRED

Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., *President of the College*

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Chaplain Clementina M. Chéry  
Rev. Robert Edward Kennedy, S.J.  
James J. O'Connell, M.D.

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

James J. O'Connell, M.D.

## BLESSING

Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, D.D., *Bishop of Worcester*

## ALMA MATER

## RECESSIONAL

**MARSHAL-IN-CHIEF**

Patricia M. Ring

**ASSISTANT MARSHALS**

John T. Anderson

M. Estrella Cibreiro-Couce

Francisco Gago-Jover

Patricia E. Kramer

Shawn L. Maurer

**MARSHALS OF THE FACULTY**

Stephanie Crist

Bridget Franco

Thomas Gottschang

Geoffrey Findlay

Rev. James Hayes, S.J.

Kendy Hess

André Isaacs

David Karmon

Denis Kennedy

Blaise Nagy

Gary Senecal

Karen Turner

Helen Whall

**THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIAL BAND**

Eric Culver, *Conductor*

## HONORARY DEGREES



### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

**Chaplain Clementina M. Chéry**

Following the fatal shooting of her 15-year-old son Louis David Brown in 1994, Chaplain Clementina M. Chéry founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Boston to teach young people the value of peace, to leverage the assets in her community and to transform society's response to homicide. As the president and CEO, she developed the Institute's core program, Survivors Outreach Services (SOS), with funding from the Boston Public Health Commission to offer emotional and practical support for families in the days immediately following a homicide. She went on to establish innovative programs and publish tools for families of victims and the providers who serve them, including "Always in My Heart: A Workbook for Grieving Children" (The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, 2011) and the "Survivors Burial and Resource Guide" (The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, 2013). She also coauthored an article titled "Homicide Survivors: Research and Practice Implications" published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2005. Chéry founded both the Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims Providers Network and the Massachusetts Survivors of Homicide Victims Network. She has trained thousands of public health professionals, law enforcement officials, and religious leaders across the country in best practices for supporting families and interrupting cycles of retaliatory violence.

In 2016, Chéry was selected as a Social Innovator by the Social Innovation Forum. She was also named one of Boston's 100 most influential leaders of color by Collette Phillips Communications, Inc. and received the Impact Award by Phillips Brooks House Association at Harvard University. She was awarded Salem State University's Champion of Peace Award in 2014 and was named Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers in 2011. Chéry was ordained as a senior chaplain with the International Fellowship of Chaplains, Inc. in February of 2012.

### DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

**Rev. Robert Edward Kennedy, S.J.**

The only American Jesuit priest who has also been installed as a Zen roshi (master teacher), Rev. Robert Kennedy, S.J., Roshi, is professor emeritus of theology at St. Peter's University in Jersey City, N.J., where he lives with the Jesuit Community. Fr. Kennedy holds doctorates in theology and psychology, and has published two books on the intersection of Christianity and Zen Buddhism: "Zen Spirit, Christian Spirit: The Place of Zen in Christian Life" (Bloomsbury Academic, 1995) and "Zen Gifts to Christians" (Continuum, 2001). Fr. Kennedy's practice embodies the principles articulated in the Jesuit statement on mission and interreligious dialogue which calls the Jesuits to engage in a dialogue of life, action, religious experience, and theological exchange.

He has lived his mission of conversation and collaboration in Mexico, Ecuador, England, Wales, Ireland and several centers in the United States. After joining the Jesuits in 1951, immediately following his graduation from Xavier High School in New York City, Fr. Kennedy studied and taught in Japan for eight years and was ordained a priest in Tokyo in 1965. He studied with three Zen masters: Yamada roshi of Kamakura, Japan, Maezumi roshi of Los Angeles, and Glassman roshi of the Zen Peacemaker Order in New York. Glassman roshi installed Kennedy as a Zen teacher (sensei) in 1991 and as a Roshi in 1997.

# HONORARY DEGREES



## DOCTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**James J. O’Connell, M.D.**

The president and founding physician of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) and assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, Dr. James J. O’Connell has dedicated his medical career to caring for Boston’s homeless. His leadership has contributed to the growth of the BHCHP since its founding in 1985 to become the country’s largest and most comprehensive program of its kind, serving more than 12,000 homeless people a year in two hospital-based clinics and more than 60 shelters and outreach sites. Throughout his 30 years at the helm, Dr. O’Connell has continued to serve on the team of doctors that meets patients on the streets, offering food and warm socks, medical treatment and the support of trusted friends.

Dr. O’Connell served as the National Program Director of the Homeless Families Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1989–1996. In addition to publishing articles in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Circulation*, *American Journal of Public Health* and *Journal of Clinical Ethics*, he is the editor of “The Health Care of Homeless Persons: A Manual of Communicable Diseases and Common Problems in Shelters and on the Streets” (BHCHP Press, 2004). He published his first book, “Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor” (BHCHP Press), in 2015.

The recipient of numerous awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award in 2012 and the Trustees’ Medal at the bicentennial celebration of Massachusetts General Hospital in 2011, Dr. O’Connell is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Cambridge University and Harvard Medical School.

## THE COLLEGE SEAL



The College's seal identifies Holy Cross as an educational institution founded by Rev. Benedict J. Fenwick, S.J., second Bishop of Boston. The outer circle of the seal states in Latin "College of the Holy Cross, Society of Jesus, Worcester, Massachusetts."

The inner shield contains an open book, which is a symbol of learning, and a cross of gold symbolizing the Christian faith. The Latin motto on the book is associated with Constantine the Great. According to Eusebius of Caesarea (chapter 28, *Life of Constantine*, dated 339) God had sent the Emperor a vision of a cross of light in the heavens with an inscription "in hoc signo vinces" (in this sign you will conquer). Shortly thereafter, Constantine defeated his co-emperor Maxentius at the battle of the Milvian Bridge in 312 to become sole emperor of

Rome. In 313, he proclaimed the Edict of Milan, which allowed Christians freedom of worship. The breadth of the Emperor's tolerance was clear: "to no one whatsoever should we deny liberty to follow either the religion of the Christians or any cult of his own free choice."

The cross divides the lower part of the shield into quarters, which are alternately red and sable, the colors on the ancient shield of Worcester, England.

The upper part of the shield has in its center the emblem of the Society of Jesus, a blazing sun with the letters IHS, the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek. On either side is a martlet, reminiscent of those on the ancestral crest of Bishop Fenwick.

## THE COLOR PURPLE



There are two theories of how College of the Holy Cross chose purple as its official color. One suggests that it was derived from classical Roman tradition that clothed a triumphant general in a solid purple toga during his state celebration. Thus the Emperor Constantine was dignified by the "purple." As a corollary, the imperial family had exclusive control of an Egyptian quarry that produced purple porphyry stone for portraits and funerary monuments.

The other story is attributed to Walter J. Connors, an 1887 graduate, and was printed in the October 1940

issue of the *Alumnus*. According to the account, there was a disagreement during the 1870s between Holy Cross students from Massachusetts and those from Connecticut concerning the colors of the school's baseball uniforms. The students from Massachusetts purportedly favored the crimson of Harvard, while those from Connecticut favored the deep blue of Yale. Legend has it that a fellow student with a sense of diplomacy resolved the dispute in the chemistry lab, where he mixed copper sulphate (blue) with iron oxide (red) to produce the color of purple.

## THE COLLEGE MACE



Originally used as a weapon of war, the mace was an emblem of physical strength in the Middle Ages. Its look changed with its purpose: Maces were once heavy clubs with spike-covered metal balls attached to the ends or swinging from short chains. By the 16th century, maces were decorated with jewels and precious metals and no longer used as weapons. Today, the mace is viewed as a symbol of intellectual authority and is often carried during ceremonial academic and ecclesiastical processions.

At Holy Cross, it is tradition for the College's registrar to carry the mace while leading processions at the baccalaureate Mass, commencement, special academic convocations, and at inaugurations of the College's presidents.

Holy Cross' own intricately designed, hand-crafted silver mace was presented to the College in 1984 by blacksmith

Kenneth Lynch Sr., the late owner of Connecticut-based ironwork firm Kenneth Lynch & Sons. It replaced a wood and metal mace that was a gift of the Class of 1940, now stored in the College's Archives and Special Collections. In a 1984 edition of *Crossroads*, the precursor to *Holy Cross Magazine*, Lynch explained that he gifted the mace because two of his brothers were Jesuit priests, and he was a great admirer of Holy Cross. (Lynch also worked on the wrought iron fence along College Street).

The gleaming result measures more than three feet in length with three layers of polished silver covering its bronze base. The names of the College presidents and their years of service are inscribed on the head of the mace, which features a cross-topped dome. The bottom of the mace bears the College's seal.



## ALMA MATER

OH, HEAR THY VOICES ONE IN SONG  
HOLY CROSS, O HOLY CROSS.  
THY SPIRITS LOYAL, TRUE AND STRONG  
HOLY CROSS, O HOLY CROSS.  
THY PURPLE BANNER FLOATS ON HIGH,  
WHILE SONGS OF PRAISE SWELL TO THE SKY,  
THY HONORED NAME SHALL NEVER DIE,  
HOLY CROSS, O HOLY CROSS.

Words: Augustine P. Conniff, Class of 1902  
(Revised 19 Jan. 1976)

Tune: *My Maryland*



COLLEGE OF THE  
**Holy Cross**