Thank you Tom

Wow

25 Years

- Holy Cross

- How many times has someone asked you “Where did you go to College?” And after you said Holy Cross, the reply could be one of a few responses. If you’re outside of New England, it might be “Holy Cross, Where is that?” But if someone knows the school and knows the students, the response frequently is “The Cross!” What a great school - everyone loves that place who goes there. And they might ask, “What is it about Holy Cross that everyone loves it there?”

- Well it is why we are here tonight.

- It is why we come back.

- It is the impact that Holy Cross has on each of us.

- It is the indelible print that Holy Cross, “The Cross”, has left on our character, on our being, on our whole person.

- It stems from the friendships, the teachers, the curriculum, the entire Jesuit experience that makes us who we are today.

- We were here quarter of a century ago, but I can assure you that the Holy Cross each of us know and love is alive and well.

- Three years ago, I joined another Holy Cross club. In addition to being an HC Alumni, I became an HC parent for the first time and one year ago an HC parent for the second time. So now, we have two daughters as students, a rising senior and a rising sophomore.

- It is interesting seeing HC through a parent’s eyes.

- It is incredibly reassuring – the friendships that our daughters have - the students are engaging, interesting, energetic, aware, just wonderful individuals…and they are funny as hell.

- To come back though is interesting. Our first Parent’s Weekend – after a dinner with our daughter Molly and her friends - we came back to drop her off at Mulledy. Of course I said, “So where are we going
tonight?”, “Where is the Party?” EZ Street, Caro Street, (maybe there is a modern day Tom Bacon), the Quad. “Dad”, she said, “I don’t know where I’m going tonight, but I know where you’re going - Back to the hotel!”

- But the core of HC is alive and well, thanks to the great work of Father McFarland, Kevin Condron and the entire Board of Trustees, which includes two of our classmates, Joan and Mary.

- This is also a viewpoint of the current HC student that is also shared by others outside of the HC community. At J.P. Morgan, I do a lot of work with General Electric and know the CFO, Keith Sherin well, a Notre Dame alum. One day we were speaking about colleges and Keith said that GE was filled with Holy Cross people. He commented that he would hire an HC grad over probably any other school. Holy Cross kids are hard working, as smart as any Ivy League student, enthusiastic and incredible character, no negative attitude, no sense of entitlement, - An “Ivy League student without attitude” was his comment.

- So this is where the current administration have brought our school. Fr. McFarland spoke this morning of the four pillars that the Board of Trustees has anchored on each of them. I couldn’t agree more:

1. Academic Excellence (Faculty) HC Student Body, HC Need Blind Admissions Policy
2. Curriculum; Montserrat Liberal Arts Background
3. The Whole Person (Athletics, The Arts, etc.)
4. Jesuit Values

- Four powerful pillars of the Cross that are not just words, but reality.

- This afternoon at Mass, we ended with “Lift High the Cross”. These words really could be turned around because it is the Cross that has actually lifted us high. In so many ways, who we are stems from this Hill. The Cross has always been teaching me. In fact, the first lesson it taught me, before I even arrived, was to work hard. I was put on the waiting list my senior year in High School, didn’t get in and then transferred after a year at St. Michaels, as a sophomore. I was then able to join my Iona Prep classmates, Lou Caputo, Paul Grisanti and Tom Dehn at Mt. St. James. I am still proud today to be a Crusader and have never forgotten that lesson.

- Last week was 2010 Commencement here at HC. Valedictorian, Julianna Stuart, opened with that Holy Cross has “taught her nothing” – I’m sure has parents were surprised to hear that. But she then eloquently
explained that she actually learned how to question” and, then she went on to say that we “learned how to listen”. We too listened and questioned as students. Yet, now as alumni, we’ve learned to put that knowledge into action, to share, to give, to volunteer, to go out and live.

- It is that Holy Cross imprint that shapes who we are and the decisions we make as parents, as spouses, and as friends in our daily lives. That in the recent credit crisis, it was my background and education at HC in fact that I leaned on more than my Masters Degree at Columbia.

- When Tom and Mike Perry asked me to chair the Gift Committee, it was an easy answer. Immediately, I had several questions raised. What were the 25th reunion campaigns in the last few years? What do other schools raise for their 25th? As I learned - the two numbers that are important in a class gift - are the current year’s gift to the Holy Cross Fund and the overall gift to all purposes (over a 5 year pledge period.). The current year gift is especially important in this economy; as endowments have been reduced.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gift Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>1983 - 1984</td>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>$1.3M</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gift HC</td>
<td>400K-500K</td>
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- I thought of two schools of similar size, Middlebury and Williams. They have different agendas and are different schools - But what do they raise compared to us? How does numbers compare?

- Middlebury 5-10 years ago raised numbers similar to ours. However, recently they have jumped up to $4-5MM as part of their 25th reunion.
- Williams Operates at even higher numbers in the $7-10MM range.

- HC is so much better than both of those schools
- These similar sized schools shouldn’t raise more than us

- There is no reason why HC alums should not be more generous than these alums are with their school.

- So took achieve our goals we assembled a Gift Committee:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tom Bacon</th>
<th>Tom Flynn</th>
<th>Joanne Niland</th>
<th>Joe Terranova</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Cowles</td>
<td>Joan Gillian</td>
<td>Kevin O’Connor</td>
<td>Mary Westover</td>
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<td>Dan Dunn</td>
<td>LJ Mitchell</td>
<td>Dick O’Hare</td>
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<td>Anne Fink</td>
<td>Bill Moran</td>
<td>Terry Sullivan</td>
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This gift committee has been working hard at reaching out to all of you.

HC participation is always ranked at the top of the country. That is not our issue. We simply have to get our averages giving up to a higher level. Fr. McFarland spoke of this this morning during his Q&A session with Dick O’Hare.

If it’s numbers you need:

Today it costs $39K to educate a student.

- Tuition is $37K, but after financial aid the average cost to the student is $25K, for a deficit of $14K per annum, or $60,000 over four years.
- I went back and looked at the deficit that existed when we were students. Interestingly it’s about the same as the $60K in today’s dollars that prior generations did for us. Now it’s our turn to give back.

We are making great progress on our gift. We are close to $400K this year: $1.3MM overall with only 31% in participation. There is no reason we can’t double those figures from here.

HC is unique place: We have our four pillars, Academic Excellence, Curriculum, The Whole Person, Jesuit Values. But all of those goals cost money. As 25th year alumni, we need to raise the bar so that then the Class of 1986 can beat us and so on for 1987.

I would like to thank the members of the Gift Committee and those that have already given. To those who have not yet contributed – we need participation and we need you to be as generous as possible. With the current participation response, we’ve already equaled some of the prior 25th reunion classes in giving but I know we can do more.

I look forward to the day when, if anyone in the country asks you the question, “Where did you go to college?” everyone should have the same response that we love to hear: “The Cross – what a great school!”

Thank you again.

Go 1985 and Go Holy Cross!