Hello and Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. Each year at this time, we remind ourselves to take a moment to pause and look back on all we experienced, the decisions we made, and the memories we created.

This year’s President’s Council weekend will remain one of our most treasured memories on the Hill. It is a tremendous honor to be part of this extraordinary community of contributors whose affection for Holy Cross is held so deeply. If you were unable to join us at President’s Council weekend, you can view photos from the evening at bit.ly/pcdinner2014.

In this issue of the PC Leader, you will enjoy reading the story of Sean Gustin ’16, a student-athlete from Stoneham, Mass. You will also learn about Bernadette Magnier Briand ’80, a member of President’s Council and devoted Crusader. The Holy Cross experience is unique and personal to each of us.

Along with the PC Leader, you will find a gift envelope. If you have not already made your gift, we hope you will consider continuing your PC membership. Your gifts sustain and support the outstanding work demonstrated by Holy Cross faculty, staff and students. To the many of you who have already made a PC-level gift this fiscal year, thank you.

We wish you a happy and healthy 2015.

Michele and David Joy ’74, P11
Co-chairs, President’s Council

President’s Council IMPACT

Sean Gustin ’16 of Stoneham, Mass., is the only student-athlete in the country who plays both Division I hockey and baseball. Last winter, he played 33 games for the Holy Cross hockey team, earning Atlantic Hockey All-Academic Honors. This spring, he made 20 relief appearances for the Crusader baseball team — a season that began three weeks before hockey ended. Even more impressive, he has been named to the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll in both sports.

Over the summer, Sean continued to play on Fitton Field, helping to win the Futures Collegiate Baseball League championship for the Worcester Bravehearts. Recipient of the Steppacher Student-Athlete Scholarship, he enjoys the many opportunities to achieve at Holy Cross. “The opportunity to receive an exceptional education while also being able to play Division I sports has meant a great deal to me,” he said. “This scholarship has opened my eyes.” Holy Cross challenges him to think deeply, Sean added, while fostering long-lasting friendships, on and off the playing field.

The Promise: Competitive Success

Holy Cross has long been a community marked by pride and spirited competition. Both in the classroom and on the playing fields, courts, and rinks, we are driven to achieve excellence.

To challenge ourselves is to better ourselves. And it is in asking more of ourselves that we discover who we truly are, at the core.

A rejuvenated and successful athletics program will be a vital component of the new ethos emerging on Mount St. James. Our president, Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., said: “Athletics provide a context in which our students learn resiliency, team spirit and leadership skills in ways that fulfill our mission to educate the whole person. Therefore, it is important that our athletics program reflects the same standard of excellence we expect in everything we do at Holy Cross.”

With critically important support from alumni, parents and friends, Holy Cross will shine as top competitors and champions once again.
Bernadette Magnier Briand ’80

Bernadette “Bernie” Magnier Briand ’80 knew from an early age the depth and meaning of a Holy Cross education. After graduating from Oak Knoll School in Summit, N.J., she followed her dream of becoming a Crusader — a decision that made her father, John T. Magnier ’53, proud.

Bernie knew many classmates who were also children of alumni. Her love for Mount St. James runs deep, including childhood memories shared with her dad at football games and among her siblings who also attended the College.

“Immediately, we were all held by a common bond and eternal love for our College,” she said. She fondly remembers her Holy Cross classes, particularly the Shakespearean courses, which had a positive influence on her as a student as well as in her life today as a wife and mother of four.

Bernie met her husband, Alphonse J. Briand Jr., in 1982 during a management training program at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. During her time at Chase, many fellow Crusaders also worked there, including Anthony J. Rocchio ’80, William J. Supple ’81, James M. Marrone Jr. ’80 and Arthur F. Casavant III ’80. To this day, Bernie deeply values these colleagues and friends. She will always remember the sage advice she received from Bill Supple to give back to Holy Cross and to take advantage of her company’s matching gift program. Bernie gave her first gift to the College in 1982 and joined President’s Council. She attended the Council’s black-tie dinner that year with close friends and her soon-to-be husband, Al. Since then, she has given to Holy Cross every year.

At the 2014 President’s Council Weekend, Bernie and Al were inducted into the Fitton Society for the generosity they have bestowed upon Holy Cross over the years.

To read more about Bernie’s experiences visit bit.ly/pcspotlight.