**Alliance for Justice founded at HC**

Justice group, page 1

A goal of the Alliance is to provide the campus with better information about social justice events and issues. It was suggested at the meeting that the Alliance create its own bulletin board in Hogan, which would keep students posted about different social justice events and issues facing the campus.

Harkening back to their shared resources goal, publicity was seen as an area where Alliance cooperation could help existing groups. Many commented that the Alliance could help with post-event publicizing. For example, many at the meeting lamented the fact that there were few opportunities for participants in the Appalachia and Habitat for Humanity programs to discuss their experiences with fellow students and each other. They saw the Alliance as a perfect organization to sponsor such an event.

Courtney Leary and Ken DeBlois highlighted the third goal of the organization, which is intercollegiate cooperation. DeBlois cited the JUSTICE organization (Jesuit University Students in Concern with Empowerment and Reformative Justice) as one in which the Holy Cross Alliance might be interested in collaborating with. Leary emphasized DeBlois's argument when she pointed out how the College has been successful in prohibiting the manufacture of Holy Cross licensed goods in sweatshops. By cooperating with other schools, Leary believes that Holy Cross could share its anti-sweatshop campaign with others, and explain what worked and what did not for Holy Cross. Likewise, the Alliance could see what social justice issues are facing other schools, and communicate with other social justice leaders from other campuses.

Finally, DeBlois brought up a fourth goal of the organization, which is cultivating alumni connections. He expressed an interest in making Holy Cross students aware that jobs in the social justice sector are available after graduation; and, he believes that fostering strong ties with alumni working in that field would be a good way to achieve such a goal. If Holy Cross were to develop an Alliance with strong alumni connections, DeBlois theorized, it could provide a valuable network for students considering careers in the social justice field.

The Alliance for Justice is still in its planning phase. It will take a lot of work, time and effort in order to get this organization off the ground, but DeBlois, Leary, O’Mahoney, and Truxler seem up to the challenge. The fact that both O’Mahoney and Truxler are freshmen indicates that the group will be around for a while. The next meeting of the Alliance for Justice has not yet been announced as to time or location, but was promised soon. It will be sometime in the next two weeks and will be publicized via campus wide e-mail. Until then, if there are any questions or suggestions for the group, email justice@holycross.edu.

**Lecture explores Hispanic religiosity**

Bishop Flanagan, page 1

Diaz-Stevens also reported that, surprisingly, there is little connection between language competence of Latinos and poverty rates. That is, knowledge of English proved statistically irrelevant to the ability of Latinos to avoid poverty.

Diaz-Stevens proceeded to examine the connection between the ever-increasing Latino population and the Catholic Church. She called for the Hispanic issue to be viewed not as a problem but as a reality to be embraced. Diaz-Stevens noted the scholarly neglect of Latinos in theological studies, observing that Latinos are often considered foreign to American society. In spite of this, Diaz-Stevens points out that Latinos continue to nourish the Catholic faith. She urged that the Latino presence in the Catholic community be considered not as an appendage nor as a group posing a problem, but rather as a source of renewal and strength for the growing church.

Diaz-Stevens' husband, Anthony Stevens-Arroyo, continued the lecture from a more historical perspective. A professor of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College at the City University of New York (CUNY), Dr. Stevens-Arroyo is a recognized scholar of Latino studies. He is a vice-president of PADRES, the national association for the advancement of Latino Catholics. In 1976, Stevens-Arroyo was named to the New York Advisory Committee for the United States Civil Rights Commission by President Jimmy Carter. He has testified before U. S. Congress and the United Nations Decolonization Committee on issues of civil rights. A highly published writer of both academic articles and award-winning books, Stevens-Arroyo also writes a nationally syndicated column. He was named the first president of PARAL, the Program for the Analysis of Religion Among Latinos, and is currently conducting new research on popular Latino religiosity.

Dr. Stevens-Arroyo emphasized the increased importance of Hispanics to American Catholic history. Drawing on historical references to Carthusianism in Spain during the Baroque period, Stevens-Arroyo underscored the duality of history. He cited numerous examples of Hispanic Catholic historical figures, and asked why such names are virtually invisible in Catholic history. Stevens-Arroyo observed that the trend to overlook Hispanic contribution to American society, and to Catholicism in particular, is keenly felt by the Latino population. According to Stevens-Arroyo, many Hispanic immigrants feel fractured from mainstream American culture and tend to associate with Latinos as opposed to Americans as a whole. Dr. Stevens-Arroyo predicted an end to assimilation as a cornerstone of the American dream.

Stevens-Arroyo detailed the couples' current research regarding Hispanic religiosity. The two scholars are conducting a five-year survey intended to evaluate the effectiveness of church outreach to new immigrants. The survey will pursue a cross-departmental approach by contacting lay church leaders, pastors, and congregation members for feedback on their experience in a variety of faith communities. The intent of Stevens-Arroyo and Diaz-Stevens' study is to assess the efficacy of churches' efforts to tackle the issues of Latino integration in society.