Holy Cross honors Vellaccio with painting

BY KEVIN HIGGINS
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

The portraits of Holy Cross’ former presidents line the halls of the first floor of Fenwick, Strolling along the corridor, one can admire the likes of Fr. Hanselman and Fr. DiNand. It is a tradition of the college that the men who have served as president be commemo-rated through portraits. Not wanting to stray too far from tradition, the College recently acquired a painting to commemorate the presidency of Frank Vellaccio, who served as acting President of the school in the summer of 1998 and filled that position until Fr. McFarland began his tenure. Few can claim to have made a contribution so important and so very unique to Holy Cross until Vellaccio has made his time at Holy Cross.

Vellaccio came to Holy Cross 27 years ago as an assistant chemistry professor. He was published in a number of scientific journals and released a highly acclaimed textbook titled Organic Chemistry in 1980. He involved himself in a number of major committees during his first 12 years at the College. In 1986, he joined the College’s administration by becoming the Dean of the College. As Dean, Vellaccio was involved with many facets of the college including academic, administrative, and curricular matters. In 1987, Vellaccio was named Holy Cross’ academic vice-president. He held that position until 1996, when he was appointed as the College’s very first provost. The provost of the College oversees both academic affairs, as well as the general development of the college. In the summer of 1998, Vellaccio was appointed as Acting President. He held that position until a suitable candidate for the full-time position was in place. This opportu-nity was filled by the new Beauchamp painting.

Vellaccio, page 4

Chaplains’ Office bans Boston Church of Christ

BY BRYAN ABRAMOSKE
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

A controversial religious group exhibiting many characteristics of a cult was recently banned from the Holy Cross campus. The group, known as the Boston Church of Christ, is part of the International Church of Christ, which has been deemed a cult because of the methods it uses to convert members to its faith. These methods include using harassment and deception to recruit people, especially those who are susceptible to manipulation. Due to confusion or problems they are having in their lives. Holy Cross’ decision to ban the Boston Church of Christ from campus was not an arbitrary or hasty one. In December of 2000, Kim McElaney, Director of the Chaplain’s Office, learned about the church’s increasing levels of activity in the Worcester area from a colleague at Clark University. The colleague reported that the church was banned because of the way it goes about recruiting new members. The Church recruits its followers through peer pressure and intimidation, forcing its religion on people instead of allowing individuals to make their own faith choices.

The Boston Church of Christ was started as a single church in June of 1979 and has grown to more than 170 churches worldwide. The church achieved its first major burst of popularity with a rally of 12,000 people at the Boston Garden in 1989 and now has churches in 171 nations around the world. While it has grown to a reasonably large size, the church has not been readily accepted by colleges and universities across the nation. It has been banned from several academic institutions, including Boston University, Loyola Marymount, and Harvard.

McElaney explained that college campuses are easy targets for the church, and the students are having the same problems they are having in their lives. McElaney’s decision to ban the church was made not because of its teachings, as Holy Cross does not discriminate against different faiths. Rather, McElaney says, the church was banned because of the way it goes about recruiting new members. The Church recruits its followers through peer pressure and intimidation, forcing its religion on people instead of allowing individuals to make their own faith choices.

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Meal Auction raises money for Mexico Program

BY BRIAN KEARNEY
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

This summer, Holy Cross students, under the direction of the Chaplain’s Office, will once again travel to Mexico to interact with the poor. To raise adequate funds for the Mexico Program, the students traditionally enlist the help of faculty members, administrators, and even members of Physical Plant. These individuals volunteer to host a meal for a small number of students, either at their home or at an area restaurant. This year a wide array of dining options was once again offered to the highest bidders. Project members were optimistic that they would reach their goal of $1,400. The annual event took place on Tuesday in Crossroads. At 8 p.m., dozens of students desperate for home-cooked meals prepared by the finest Ph.D. gourmets Mount St. James has to offer crowded into the Hogan basement. Auctioneers Adam DeLeon ’03 and Jessica Nelson ’03 wasted no time in working the crowd for bids. With each meal starting at a minimum price of $5 per student, item prices generally began at $20 or $25 dollars. The skilled auctioneer juggled, harassed, and even pleaded with the masses to make an offer. DeLeon in particular had a tendency to pick out people he knew and then essentially embarrass them into bidding. This proved to be an effective tactic.

In a very successful night, some exceptional bids were registered. Two groups of students engaged in a heated bidding war over Professor Blaise Nagy of the Classics department. The members of the Mexico Program cheerfully encouraged the friendly competition. The winning bid was $195, which at that point was the highest sum of the evening.

When asked why he and his fellow students were willing to spend so much money, the winning group’s designated bidder, John Suplicki ’04, said, “It was something that had to be done. Professor Nagy’s Hungarian feast was too enticing to be allowed to fall into the hands of an other.”

Equally enticing was the prospect of a private dinner in the President’s dining room with Father McFarland himself. This opportunity for quality time with the head of the college proved to be the most contested prize of the evening. It finally brought in $390.

Laura Peynado ’02, a student leader of the Program, deemed the event a success: “Although [program leaders] Kelly, Sean and I were a little concerned during the beginning of the auction, we were very pleased with the results. The 2,700 dollars raised will be distributed among the students in the program who participated in the preparation of the auction.”

Peynado expressed the gratitude of the Mexico-bound students: “On behalf of all the participants in the program, we would like to thank the administrators, staff and professors in the auction for the willingness to donate their wonderful meals. Last but not least, we would like to thank the students who bid and made this auction a success.”