A Challenge to our Campus

Dear Students, Faculty and Administration

As a campus-wide community of culturally, physically, financially and socially diverse individuals, each of us, with our unique interests, dreams, and passions, are united through our common pursuit of knowledge. This pursuit extends beyond facts found simply within textbooks. Each of us yearns to give and be given an education that will awaken us to a greater understanding of the world, of each other and, ultimately, of ourselves.

A college campus is, of course, an ideal place to embark on that journey towards discovering who we are, what we want, and where we want to be headed. The fact that we are all here at Holy Cross unites us in our exploration and offers us shared experiences. When you take a moment to think about it, just being a part of this campus means (and usually without our even realizing it) that Holy Cross ceases to be an entity separate from us, but rather somehow is woven, in and out of classes and homework, procrastinating and meetings, parties and more parties, we BECOME Holy Cross. Holy Cross' triumphs, struggles, and dreams...are directly intertwined and dependent on our triumphs, struggles and dreams.

At this point you are no doubt asking yourself, "What then is the challenge?" The challenge is this: As participants in the Holy Cross community, whether you belong to everything and have four hundred tiny symbolic ribbons on your bag or you simply see Hogan as a place to get your mail and a coffee, we are all united in our identity. We are all united in our privilege of sharing this community, and we are all united in our responsibility to build upon, and strengthen, this community and ourselves. And so to do this - to boldy go where no campus group has gone before - the Student Government Association extends a warm invitation to all of you: students, faculty, and administration, to join us in our celebration of Holy Cross' first ever Unity Week from March 26th to April 1st.

This is no ordinary rah-rah spirit-building, school-sponsored event. For the past three months, the SGA has been working closely with as many campus-wide organizations, students, and faculty members as we could get our hands on, to organize a week whose purpose would be to explore and celebrate our diversity and unity as a community (the title "Unity Week" begins to make sense now, huh?). In essence, this week is about you and me, about the community members who came before us and those who will follow after us. Our hope is to spur conversations of unity, build essential bonds of respect for our diversity, and celebrate our community through activities such as keynote speakers, student forums, diversity workshops, a student-faculty basketball game, Holy Cross Cares Day and various additional activities that represent us as THE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS.

To do this we have developed this week around the theme of Holy Cross - a study of our past, present and future history. This is your invitation to see where Holy Cross has been, take a look at where we are now, and share our ideas for where we want to be as a community. As you read this (and you all should still be reading this!) we are at the dawn of a new tradition here at Holy Cross. The success of this week lies within your participation, discussion and enthusiasm. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe once said, "Self-knowledge comes from knowing other[s]." We invite you, through the various events planned (and listed conveniently below this letter) to get to know your fellow members of the Holy Cross community. If self-knowledge comes from the privilege of knowing others, understanding and appreciating our diversity, then sharing in the privilege of being a part of a unified community will no doubt lead to our becoming the brightest and omnipotent community possible!

We hope that you will join in our celebration of who we are and we challenge you to join us in our journey toward who we want to become.

Most Sincerely and Excitedly-

THE UNITY WEEK PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mimi Doherty
Michele Gasiewski
Steve Green
Nicole Mortorano
Melissa Murray
Melissa Pelesz

HOLY CROSS

March 24th – April 1st, 2001

Saturday, 3/24
* Crossing Boundaries II – Consortium Event
  2pm at Worcester State

Monday, 3/26
* "The Greater Glory" – Liturgical Dance – 12-1pm
  Brooks Concert Hall
* OPENING FORUM
  Father McKenney and HC Students provide opening
  thoughts for the week
  7pm Hogan 1
* Dr. Peggy McIntosh lectures and leads panelists
  Bernice A. Azzone, Mary M. Bay Canada and Abasa
  Marrero in discussion of "White Privilege"
  7:00 p.m. Hogan Ballroom
* Processing sessions lead by Counseling Center staff,
  Multicultural Affairs staff and MPE's to follow

Tuesday, 3/27
* Unity Week Lunch Series – Diversity Task Force
  12-1pm Hogan 405-406
* Habitual for Humanity Student/Faculty Basketball Game
  7pm Hart Center

Wednesday, 3/28
* Unity Week Lunch Series – Residence Life
  2-3pm Hogan 408
* "Skin Deep" – Video and Discussion
  8pm Hogan 304
* Gill White – "Europe on 84 Cents a Day"
  7pm Hogan 510

Thursday, 3/29
* Diversity 101 Lunch Series – "Does Religious Diversity
  Enrich the Holy Cross Community?"
  1pm Hogan 402
* Safe Person/Safe Space Workshop
  3-4pm Hogan 128
* Side Door Cafe: Unity Week's Open Mic: Telling Our Story
  7:30-9:30 COOL Bieras

Friday, 3/30
* CAMPUS WIDE PIZZA RONANZA
  5-10 Pizzathouse
* Band – "Soul Fix"
  10pm Crossroads

Saturday, 3/31
* Holy Cross Cares Day
* CLOSING PRESENTATION – Holy Cross: Past, Present, Future
  – John Hauser, Class of '92; Dean Peterson, and HC Student Speaker
  7pm Fieldhouse
* Dance Ensemble
  8pm Hogan Ballroom

Sunday, 4/1
* Gospel Explosion
  7-10pm Hogan Ballroom