

## WING AND A PRAYER



Tommy Hoffmann

### Wing and a Prayer

*“Every one of the kids is looking for love and attention.” - - Tommy Hoffmann*

“When we married, we wanted to be parents, but weren’t able to,” commented Tommy Hoffmann. “My wife

Kathleen suggested being foster parents; taking care of children until their family was better able to do so. It was to be a lot like ‘Catch and Release.’”

They began that journey while living in Ft Worth and continued after their relocation to Covington.

They contacted Child Protective Services in Ft Worth and offered their services, starting the process of becoming certified as foster parents. They went through a background check, FBI check, and psych evaluations, both individually and together, followed by classes on parenting. The CPS was also was looking for a home with income and stability.

“The phone rang 20 minutes after we got our certificate. There’s never enough people to be foster parents,” according to Hoffmann . “Statistics show that roughly 90% of foster children have been physically, mentally, or sexually abused – some are all three. There’s no physical discipline or food discipline allowed for foster children; only time-outs.”

It was not uncommon that a police intervention brought needy children to the attention of Child Protective Services. The first thing for the child to do after placement is a visit to the doctor to get a baseline health evaluation; if there is something wrong, then it happened on the birth parent's watch. After that, the foster parents are held accountable.

The goal of foster care is to return the children to their family. Once a week they have supervised visits with their birth parents to keep a bond in place. The plan is mapped out by CPS. Each child has a social worker and each foster parent/family has a different one.

In the meantime, the foster parents provide a safe haven for the children.

“Every one of the kids is looking for love and attention. The challenge is trying to figure out not only the most effective way to connect with the kids, but also to determine the areas that they were most in need of help and support,” continued Hoffmann. “The shortest time we had a foster was one day; the longest was 14 months.”

And it was the foster child they had for 14 months that caused a couple of weeks of tense ‘discussion’ between Tommy and Kathleen. Child Protective Services ruled that the birth family was unstable and the state of Texas terminated parental rights.



The Hoffmanns

“It was ‘Catch and Release’ until we got to Foster Child #15,” recalls Tommy. “We had Victoria for 14 months, getting her 5 days before her first birthday. Her birth mother kept trying but was never able to provide a stable enough environment. We were asked if we wanted to keep Victoria. There were some tense, serious discussions between me and my wife, but we adopted her in November 2001.”

Victoria just graduated from Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi.

Sometime after child 100, they received their youngest foster. Alexandra held the record as their youngest foster child - straight out of the hospital - at one day old. She was the second foster child that the Hoffmann’s adopted.

“We had the satisfaction of helping these youngsters at a rough time in their life. Most go back to their parents or family. We were the interim caregivers to help them in their time of need and then we vanish. I feel good about that. We always hope for happy endings,” said Tommy.

And Tommy recently had another happy ending: he retired as an Airline Captain in September of 2018. Technically, he is still working as an Airline Check Airman; however, the FAA does not allow anyone over the age of 65 to operate commercial airliners.

After Holy Cross, he went to UNO, later working as a stevedore and eventually becoming an inspector in the shipping industry until 1986. At that time airline deregulation occurred and he started taking flying lessons. This era saw the rise of airlines like Southwest and a proliferation of other carriers.

“Anybody could start an airline instead of just having to rely on the legacy carriers.” explained Tommy. “The military couldn’t provide enough pilots for these carriers, so civilians started flying as airline pilots. So Jerry Lodriguss helped me drive a moving van with everything that I owned to Prescott Arizona where I enrolled in Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. I met my wife there; she was a local gal.”

While there he was in the Skydiving Club and served as Vice President and later President of the Student Government Association. He was also on the Golden Eagles Flight Team.



“There are different tiers to becoming a commercial pilot,” continued Hoffmann, who earned his private pilot certificate at Lakefront Airport. “After private pilot comes instrument rating and multiengine. I did my multi-engine work in a real plane instead of a simulator. It takes 250 hours of experience to qualify for a Commercial Certificate.”

Money was running short so he left Riddle and got three jobs, one of which was bagging groceries.

But the job that wound up being the spring board for his commercial pilot career was working as a ramper at Majestic Air. It was similar to a gas station, except it was for airplanes.

“I’d wash the planes and fill them up, in addition to loading U.S. Mail on our freighters. Majestic Air had a C-47 that was converted to a DC-3, along with a contract to fly the U.S. Mail between Billings, Salt Lake City and Missoula. There was an opening for a First Officer and I

got the job. I was now a freight pilot.”

When Majestic lost the mail contract, the DC-3 was reverted to its former use – flying fish catches out of Alaska. Now Hoffmann was an Alaskan Bush Pilot. He’d land on a beach, pick up the cargo, and fly the fish to market in Anchorage, Cordova, or Yakutat. A fisherman could make between \$4,000 and \$5,000 a day catching silver salmon. By the second summer, he was a Captain.

One of the places he flew into was the Tsiu River located near Cape Yakataga, where he landed his DC-3 with those big, soft tires on sand dunes. The crew would camp on the beach and sleep on surplus stretchers in the plane.

“There was one time the fishermen asked me to bring in a stripper. It just so happened that at this one bar that we always went to one of the ladies was always friendly,” recalled Tommy. “She asked us what we did. We said that we flew an antique airplane out into the bush to pick up dead fish.”

“Then she asked if she could go along for a ride, to which I said ‘Of Course!’ Then she asked: ‘Do you think the fisherman would mind if I danced for them?’ To which I replied, ‘Does a bear s\*\*\* in the woods?’”



Dancing on a DC3

From there he flew freight for Fed Ex and UPS contracted to Majestic Airlines out of Stapleton Airport in Denver. Majestic Airlines went under in 1995.

In 1995 he went to work for American Eagle Airlines and was based out of Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport.

One of the highlights of his career at American Eagle was piloting a Snow Ball Express flight. The American Airlines program is a charter flight for Gold Star families – those that have lost a spouse, parent, or child in the service of their country.

He would fly them from an army base to a terminal in DFW, where one end was blocked off for a ceremony and a celebration, with the ultimate destination being Disney World in Orlando.

“My days as an airline pilot came to its conclusion on the afternoon of Sunday, September 23, in Dallas/Fort Worth. I continue on in the Envoy Training Department as long as they will have me and I can still perform my duties to the best of my abilities.”

His current work is in training and checking pilot proficiency as an FAA representative - technically termed an Aircrew Program Designee. The FAA has the sole authority to grant ratings for pilots. Since there are not enough FAA personnel to handle the thousands of pilots employed by the airlines, they designate Airline Pilots to conduct Check Rides under their authority.

All the training is done in simulators. Pilot Certification consists of a two part test: maneuvering which includes approaches and engine failure, and a check ride simulating an emergency on a typical revenue flight.

“When the pilot candidate completes the training I tell them ‘This certifies you as a video game operator. Now you’ll learn how to fly a real airplane’,” said Tommy. “From there they fly with an Initial Operating Experience Captain to learn the ropes.”

“I have enjoyed every minute of my time in the aviation industry. All the wonderful people I’ve worked with have made my career such a joy,” concluded Hoffmann

## Steve Ferrer Named to HC Sports Hall of Fame

Steve Ferrer has been named to the Holy Cross High School Sports Hall of Fame as a 2021 inductee.

Hall of Fame Bio: Steve Captured All-State honors in 2 sports as a senior.

Named a co-captain as a two-way starter for Coach John Kalbacher’s 1970 Holy Cross football team

Named the #9 ranked football player on the NO States-Item 1970 Coaches Top 20 Football Players in the city

Named the Most Valuable field performer at 3 track and field meets as a senior

Won the Louisiana High School State Championship in the shot put event as a senior

Using his southpaw technique Ferrer set a school record throw of 58 feet 3-3/4 inches which still stands today.

Continued his football career at LSU where he started on the defensive line as a sophomore before switching to offensive line as a junior

Here’s the link to Steve’s highlight reel: <https://youtu.be/mZjCrzKqPTE>





Holy Cross School  
Class of 1971 - 50 Year Reunion



## **Goodson Elected President**

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# **Key Clubbers Render Services**

Senior Greg Goodson has been elected president of the Key Club for the 1970-71 school year. Elected as vice-president was senior Danny Colomb.

Acting as a service organization on campus, the Key Club has already performed such duties as stuffing registration packets, helping at registration by giving aid to those who needed it and the selling of football programs at the games, according to Goodson.

Other duties of the Key Club are the patrolling of the halls at

lunch time and general service to the school and community. Helping with Family Day, ushering at open house, and the help given in grading guidance tests are other activities.

The most recent service was the Key Club's providing for the lamination of student identification cards to those students who desired it.

Goodson said that in the future the Key Club plans to travel to Baton Rouge for its annual convention, and hopes to increase its service to the school.

Members of the Key Club will receive a "monogram signifying 125 hours of loyal work to the Club.

Moderator Mr. Al Seither set the tone when he said, "This year's club will be an active one."

### **BEST CLEANERS & LAUNDERETTE**

**3177 St. Claude Avenue**

**947-9101**

## Wine Down with the Rockets Reunion

The Holy Cross Class of 1971's 50 year Wine Down Un-Official High School Reunion will be held on Saturday, the 13th of November 2021. (Wind, Wine, or Whine, your choice)



Mike Strohmeyer booked the Rockets, a West Bank band that plays 60s and 70s music. They'll be playing from about 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Once again, Tommy Tommaseo has reserved the Sicilian Room of Rocky and Carlo's Restaurant and Bar. Spouses, HC faculty,

friends of our class, etc. are all invited and the dress code is very casual. Food and drinks will be provided.

## The Johnny Cuchinotta Move

In 2nd grade, Johnny Cuchinotta looked exactly like he did in his high school photo, only shorter.

He was the shortest kid in class, and I was only a 1/4 inch taller.

Since Johnny was the only kid in 2nd grade smaller than me, one day at recess I started to chase him. Johnny started running away at full speed, but not in a straight line.

Every few steps he would cut left, then right, then left as I struggled to keep up.

Each time he cut, he would glance over his shoulder to see how far back I was.

Then when I got really close, right behind him with arms outstretched, Johnny glanced back at me and intentionally dropped to the ground!

Going too fast and too close to avoid him, I tripped over him and fell on the grass. As we were both slowly getting up, my only thought was, "What a great move!"





Cuchinotta might have been short, but he was a tough and fearless little kid.

Later on in 8th grade at St Aloysius, I used the "Johnny Cuchinotta Move" while horse playing with a friend who was also just a little bit bigger than me.

*Steve Glaviano '71*

St Aloysius/Br Martin

The High Lonesome . . . . .

*photo by Bobby Wahl*



## Chalkboard

Mike Pearson and his first grandchild, Molly Mae. She is Mike's middle son's first child.



### *Collegiate Athletes*

There is a link on Holy Cross' website under Athletics which brings you to a list for each class listing those who went on to play a collegiate sport. Any members of our class who played a collegiate sport please provide Al Perry with your name, college and sport. He can be reached at [appjraty@gmail.com](mailto:appjraty@gmail.com)

<https://wearehc.net/sports/2020/9/11/football-collegiate-athletes.aspx>

Rachel and Mark Kalbacher's daughter Erin got married



### *Anniversaries*

Christine and Bill Pedeaux – 39 years



Debbie and Byron Byrne - 46 years



Melissa and Kenny Duke - 29 years



Francis and Charlie Kothmann - 44 years



Peggy Jones and Larry Folse - 5 years



Kathy and Jerry Lodriguss - 47 years



Suzie and Bobby Wahl - 48 years



Mary Ann and Rene Bull - 21 years



Debbie and Roni Sumich - 48 years



Peggy and Al Perry – 44 years



### *Inside the locker room*

Head Football Coach Nick Saltaformaggio announced updates to the football locker room located in the Holy Cross Student Center.

"I think it's important our guys know that Holy Cross has had a glorious football tradition, said head football coach Nick Saltaformaggio." "It's an honor for me to stand as the head coach for Holy Cross knowing that I represent people like Coach Kalbacher."

Coach Saltaformaggio has requested that the seniors on the team pick one a week and speak about these men during the pre-game meal on Friday.

The first legend featured was Coach John Kalbacher.



Gail and Mike Stroymeyer welcome a new granddaughter, Goldie



### *Catch and Release*

Mike Strohmeier caught, tagged, and released a 200 pound tarpon



### *Legend of the Game*

Lou Lanza, the second recipient of the Butch Duhe award, was named a Legend of the Game and was honored at the October 1 HC-Jesuit game at Tad Gormley stadium.

Here's a highlight reel of Lou Lanza:

<https://youtu.be/RMtBFm2o8a0>

"In the late 60's and early 70's when I was at Holy Cross, we had some of the best teams and players in the state. Lou Lanza could have played on any of those teams and been one of the stars: he was that good. Lou was smart, tough, and hard hitting. He represented the best of Holy Cross football as well as anyone." - - *Michael Garvey '73*, split end



Lou Lanza at the ceremony. Photo by Michael Garvey '73

## *The Prefect*

When Roni and Debbie Sumich were visiting their son and his family in Austin, Roni said he could not pass up the opportunity to visit Br. Donald Blauvelt, his former dorm prefect.



Suzie and Bobby Wahl welcome a new granddaughter, Renee.



Release the Kracken . . . . .

*photo by Jeff Junker*



## New Friday Night Lights Videos

**Joe Spitale:** <https://youtu.be/WPe2talZ3-k>

“The final prep gridiron statistics showed that the top ground gainer in District 5-AAA was Joe Spitale of the Holy Cross Tigers with 725 yards.” - - Jimmy Young, Times-Picayune

**Glenn deGruy:** [https://youtu.be/1UH\\_8KurKEM](https://youtu.be/1UH_8KurKEM)

“Glenn deGruy was a key part of a strong defensive backfield. Always knew that he as well as his fellow backs had the defensive lineman’s backs.” - - Dennis Delaney, tackle

**Bobby Wahl:** <https://youtu.be/aZekw0WUgKc>

“Bobby was everywhere around the ball. He would chase players across the field to make a tackle.” - - Mike Strohmeyer, defensive end

**Ty Yokum** played on the defensive line in the 1969 season:

<https://youtu.be/cUR7ZdV5wn0>

## HC/Saucer Marine 1970 American Legion Team



Bottom Row: Rocco Ruiz, Andy Marshall, Tony Monica, John Serpas, Donnie Meyer

Middle Row: Ned Couret, Ken Lamy, Dave Martinez, Glen De Barbieris, Gary Cannizaro, Don Schwander, Rick Perry,

Top Row Mr. O. O. Buxton, Mr. Les Calvin, Don Maheu, Clatyon Faught, Rick Dazet, Don Hergert, Bert Brennan, Raul Viera, Ray Spicuzza, Head Coach Jean Faust



Eye of Newt

*photo by Les Anticich*



## Fr. Thomas Barrosse

While visiting my parents many years ago, my Dad (class of '42) introduced me to his classmate Tommy Barrosse. Later I learned that Tommy was Fr. Thomas Barrosse and had been the leader of CSC. He had just returned from Rome and was planning to retire. Once retired Fr. Barrosse went to Bangladesh to work in the missions there and subsequently died after contracting a tropical disease. I have written to the Order requesting guidance and assistance in pursuing a memorial for Fr. Thomas. I think it would be another interesting chapter in the story of Holy Cross

*Pat Wolfe*

## The Story of Fr. Tom

Tom graduated in 1942, traveled the world, touched countless lives, and made a significant impact on the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Here is his story:

Thomas Barrosse was born in 1926 in New Orleans, and a 1942 graduate of Holy Cross School. He professed final vows in the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1947 and was ordained a priest in 1950.

After biblical studies in Rome, he taught at the University of Notre Dame and at Holy Cross College, Washington, D.C. From 1969 to 1974, he served as Novice Master in the common novitiate of the six American provinces in Bennington, Vermont.

Elected Superior General by the General Chapter in 1974, Father Barrosse visited all the houses of the Congregation, trying to meet personally with every religious to reassure them of the Congregation's mission and future in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. He composed several circular letters addressing the meaning of religious life and the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

He oversaw the establishment of the Province of India in 1984 and encouraged the brothers and priests in Bangladesh to seek provincial status.

Father Barrosse promoted devotion to Blessed Moreau as the Congregation's founder, writing a biography on him and putting together a compendium of his circular letters. He also worked for the beatification of Saint André Bessette, C.S.C., which happened in 1982.

He played a large role in the revision of the Constitutions by the General Chapter of 1986, which is the version that remains in effect today with minor alterations. Father Barrosse also stressed collaboration with the Holy Cross sisters' communities and pressed the Congregation to recognize its international character.

After leaving office, he went to Bangladesh where he taught in the major seminary. After falling sick, he died in Bangladesh on June 14, 1994.

*Ken Tedesco*

#### THOMAS BAROSSE RECEIVES TROPHY

Before 10,000 Holy Name men, Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel presents the Holy Name essay contest trophy to Thomas Barosse, senior at Holy Cross, at the 36th annual Holy Name rally held in City Park stadium, Sunday, October 26, feast of Christ the King. The trophy is inscribed as the Archbishop Shaw memorial trophy. The contest was open to all high school boys of the metropolitan area.



“Father Thomas Barrosse CSC was the Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross from 1974 to 1986. In that role, he was successor of Blessed Father Basil Moreau. Prior to his election to the office of Superior General, he was the Director of Novices in Bennington, Vermont.

Fr. Barrosse was a devout and holy priest, and it was his lifelong dream to serve the missions in Bangladesh, where he died.

There should be a memorial to him at Holy Cross, at least a photograph accompanied by the history of his life. It is an enormous honor for Holy Cross to have had a graduate elected to the most important office in the Holy Cross Community.

If my memory serves me correctly, I believe that Fr. Barrosse was the valedictorian of the Class of 1942.” - - *Paul Cascio*

“I knew Fr Tom. He probably was the most spiritual person I have ever met - you could feel the spirituality when his presence. His nephew Andrew Montz graduated from HC in the mid to late 70s. Gasper Gioe '78, is married to his niece Mary.” - - *Jim Landry*

“He was in Bangladesh when he died of complications of pneumonia. He was put on the list to be Beatified by Pope Francis a couple of years ago. He was a remarkable man. He spoke 7 or 8 languages. He traveled the world working on his missions but settled in Bangladesh where he thought he was most needed because of the persecution of Christians there.

My mother in law, Jocelyn Barrosse Montz would buy him underwear every year because he would rarely buy anything for himself. He traveled the world with one small bag which contained most of his personal belongings which were meager. We would only get an opportunity to see him once every couple of years as he passed through on his many travels. I hope the order does something special to honor him but knowing him he would probably not want anyone to make a fuss. He would blush at the attention. He was as unassuming of a human being as one could be.” - - *Gasper Gioe*

“Father Tom grew up in the 9th ward and attended St. Cecilia school. Also, after his death he insisted on being buried in Bangladesh. He has a grave marker in the Notre Dame cemetery, an honor for members of the order who were buried overseas.” - - *Pat Brady*

# Priest fulfills dream in Bangladesh

By KAREN TURNI  
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

The Rev. Thomas Barrosse fulfilled his childhood dream of serving as a missionary at age 61.

Barrosse is a Holy Cross priest, who was reared in the 9th Ward of New Orleans and graduated from Holy Cross School in the '40s. After he was ordained a Catholic priest, Barrosse went on to teach seminarians and eventually moved to Rome, Italy, to rewrite his order's rules of life, which changed after Vatican II.

And from 1974 to 1986, he was the superior general in charge of the Holy Cross order, including 1,600 brothers and priests in 16 countries around the world.

Since he lives halfway around the world now, Barrosse said he only returns to his birthplace once every three years or so to visit with friends and relatives.

"I'm a late-life missionary," Barrosse said, breaking into a small grin as he adjusted his glasses. He moved to Bangladesh three years ago to work with his order, but, so far, his limited command of the language holds him back from going into the villages to minister as much as he would like. For now, his main duties are teaching young Bangladeshi men studying to be Catholic priests and brothers.

Barrosse remembers wanting to be a missionary since he was about 8 years old, even though he said he can't remember what his early motivations were. "When a child is 7 or 8 years old, it's hard



'I'm a late life missionary,' says the Rev. Thomas Barrosse, who moved to Bangladesh three years ago.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELLIS LUCIA

to know why," he said. But he didn't do anything about his vocation until he was 15. And after Holy Cross, at age 16, he went away to study to become a priest.

Barrosse was the oldest of 10 children and lived his early years less than 500 feet away from Holy Cross School on Burgundy Street before moving to another

9th Ward home.

His sister Jocelyn Montz, 62, is the second oldest and lives with her husband Andrew in Arabi.

Montz said her brother told their aunt about his vocation shortly after their mother died when Thomas was about 12 years old, she said.

"He's always wanted to work

with the poor," she said. "If he's happy in what he's doing, I'm happy for him. I just hate to see him that far (away)."

Bangladesh is a country the size of Louisiana — about 55,000 square miles — but it's the eighth most populous area in the

See PRIEST, next page

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...in that far away).

Bangladesh is a country the size of Louisiana — about 55,000 square miles — but it's the eighth most populous area in the world with 120 million people, Barrosse said. It's located exactly halfway around the world from New Orleans on the Indian subcontinent, and it's one big delta, made from two large rivers that drain from the Himalayas.

The annual average income per person is \$150, yet there are about 1,000 rich families so the poor are even poorer than that suggests, Barrosse said.

The country's population includes 110 million Moslems, 10 million Hindus, 250,000 Christians and 250,000 Buddhists.

Because the country is a delta, the people face annual floods, which are necessary to keep the land fertile for the rice fields. Rice is the country's staple crop.

The floods usually are diverted to the rice paddy fields, and they are not as much of a problem. However, at least once every 10 years, the people are faced with devastating floods that further impoverish the small country.

Bangladesh suffered from two such floods in the 1980s. The second one — in September 1988 — left at least 80 percent of the country under water.

But despite the differences in the weather, the subtropic climate and the different culture, Barrosse, a tall, slender man, said moving to Bangladesh wasn't difficult for him since he has lived in so many places and visited various Holy Cross missions when he was superior general.

"I've seen poor people in all parts of the world. Obviously I feel compassion for the people, but I realize the situation is a reality so it doesn't crush me," he said.

"I hope I'm influencing young Bangladeshi seminarians and (teaching) young Christians values that will help make them instruments of change, materi-

ally, as well as spiritually," he said of his work.

At 64, Barrosse said he plans on staying in Bangladesh for the rest of his life.

"I've seen more smiles on the people there than elsewhere in the world," he said of the Bangladesh people. "I think (it's) because their lives are simpler."

Even though it's taken him more than half a century to realize his goal of becoming a missionary, he said he's enjoyed the other roles he's held in his order.

"I've always been at peace because I always felt what I was doing was worthwhile, and what God wanted me to be doing," Barrosse said.

"I expect to spend the rest of my life there because what I'm doing I feel is important and needed. I'll do it for some years to come."

September 26, 1964

**PRIEST TO GIVE SPEECH IN CAPITAL**

The Rev. Thomas Barrosse, C.S.C., son of Thomas O. Barrosse, Kenner, has been selected to participate in the program of the 15th annual Mission Secretariat meeting Monday through Wednesday in Washington, D. C.

Father Barrosse, presently dean of studies and professor of scripture at Holy Cross College in the nation's capital, will present a talk on the missionary character of the church.

More than 1,000 missionaries will attend the three-day event.

Father Barrosse, author of several books and articles, is also the associate editor of Catholic Biblical Quarterly and the Yearbook for Liturgical Studies.

July 4, 1994

# Priest led life of service

By KAREN TURNI  
St. Bernard/Plaquemines bureau

The Rev. Thomas Barrosse had wanted to work with the poor since he was a young boy.

After years of priestly service, he was able to dedicate his final eight years to training poor, young seminarians in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Barrosse, 68, the former superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, died from pneumonia June 14 in Bangladesh.



Barrosse

A native of the 9th Ward, Barrosse will be remembered at a memorial Mass Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 139 S. Lopez St. at Canal Street. The Rev. Larry LaVasseur will be the celebrant.

LaVasseur, a friend from their high school days at Holy Cross who served with Barrosse in Rome, said Barrosse's compassion for others guided his actions and that he was truly happy in Bangladesh.

"He was in his glory," LaVasseur said. "He felt that his gift was to be working in the missions like Bangladesh."

After being ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1950, Barrosse taught seminarians in various places and wrote several books on theology.

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All Catholic

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THE HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

November 6, 1970

## Antcich Captures NHS Presidency; Group To Tutor, Visit Universities

By RENE NEYREY

Officers for both the National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society have been chosen for the year.

In the senior group, those elected were senior Leslie Antcich, president; junior Ronald Bernardas, vice-president; and junior Roy D'Aquila, secretary-treasurer.

In the Junior Honor Society, sophomore Mark Ehrensing won the presidency, with sophomore Neil Gautier as alternate.

To be eligible for either honor society, a student must maintain a 3.0 average, have the recommendations of his instructors, and participate in an extra-curricular activity.

The National Honor Society is comprised of eligible juniors and seniors while the junior group consists of freshmen and sophomores.

Although their plans have not yet been finalized, the National Honor Society has scheduled visits to universities in the New Orleans area and tutoring as future activities, according to Miss Janet Roux, moderator.

Names of those members who will be available to tutor, and when and what subject they will be offering assistance in, will be posted on the doors of room 8 and the guidance office.

Members of the National Honor Society are as follows: Gerard Adam, Leslie Antcich, Ronald Blitch, Humberto Brocato, Michael Campiere, Wayne Crumhorn, Rodney Culotta, Donald Duplantier, Michael Ehrensing.

Derek Guichard, Dennis Hemelt, Donald Herbert, Thomas Hoffman, Clifton Juan, Jeff Junker, Philip Kessling, Gerard Lodriguss, John McTyre, Joseph Maylin, Alvin Perry, George Plasger.

Richard Ranson, Robert Turner, Robert Wallace, Steven Williams, Pat Wolfe, Tyrone Yokum, Richard Zimmer, Albert Rodri-

guez, Rene Bull, Alexis Barahona, Albert Alexander, Lester Calvin.

Gregory Adragna, Harold Aucoin, Robert Benge, Ronald Bernardas, Gilbert Chatagnier, Roy D'Aquila, Robert DeFraitas, Clancy DuBos, Scott Englert, Nicholas Faust, Keith Frederic, Glenn Gomes.

Milton Gonzales, Alan Haenkamph, Richard Lauterbach, Kenneth Lopez, John Mahnke, Jose Sagel, Fred Scheyd, David Schwab, Donald Schwander, John Suhor, and Richard Suprean.

Mrs. E. D. Paddock is the moderator of the Junior National Honor Society.

## Yearbook Ad Drive Surpasses Goal As Take Totals \$6,000

Over \$6,000 was amassed in the 1971 Tiger yearbook ad drive, October 8 through 28, announced Mr. Kenneth J. Hechler, director of publications. This total surpassed the original \$3,500 goal by better than \$2,500.

Collecting the most money for the annual in the school was tenth grade homeroom 202, turning in \$681. The other division winners were seventh grade homeroom 14 with \$261, eight grade homeroom 10 with \$460, freshman homeroom 17 with \$369, junior homeroom 205 with \$231, and homeroom 207 with \$258 topping the seniors.

Each of these rooms will receive a free half page picture in the advertising section of the yearbook.

"We accredit the success of the ad drive," Mr. Hechler said, "to the student body's confidence in us. We hope that by putting out an outstanding book, we will reward that confidence."

"Personalized yearbooks gave the students more of an incentive. Homeroom competition also pushed the student body," he continued.

The drive was extended primarily because many students who had sold ads, had neglected to bring them to school. In ad-

dition, the first week was during the Brother Martin game, and most of the attention of the school was directed toward it.

This year's book will probably contain 304 pages, and there will be at least 8 color pictures. Mr. Hechler said, "The student body gave its best and we on the yearbook staff intend to do the same."

## Inside Today Pumpkins Cut Up In Page Two .....



Golden T  
.....



## Floyd Comberrel

Missy Comberrel sent a picture of Floyd with their daughters Janell & Carrie taken a week before he died.



Dan Colomb was the best man at their wedding. He and Greg Goodson are Janell and Carrie's godfathers.

Greg, Missy, and Dan. . . (and of course, Dennis)



## Football All-Stars

The 125 pound Coaches All-Stars from Versailles playground, linemen Al Perry #78 and Bobby Wahl #57.



Hawk.

*photo by Mike Pearson*



## 4950 Gym Restoration

*Finally, 30 years after the Class of '71 left the campus, the "New" Holy Cross gym looked new again.*

In the early 1960's, Holy Cross celebrated the opening of the "New" Holy Cross gym at the 4950 Dauphine Street campus. In the summer of 1970, led by the newly elected Holy Cross Student Council Executive Committee, consisting of Al Perry, Ron Blitch, and Rick Zimmer, the Holy Cross gym was repainted. It would be some 30 years later before the gym received another facelift. And it was done by some of the same people who were involved in the first repainting in the summer of 1970.

In 2000, it was apparent that the gym required a much needed facelift. However, the school did not have the funds available to pay an outside contractor to perform the work.

According to Al Perry, "My wife, Peggy, came up with the idea of gathering a group of parents, alums and students to undertake the task of cleaning and painting the gym, so I approached Br. Stephen Walsh, the Headmaster, about Peggy's proposal and he agreed to let us take a shot at the project. Peg was in charge."



It was a huge undertaking completed over the course of several months by numerous volunteers. Al Perry continued, "We brought in a lift machine, provided by Karen and Lou Lanza '72, to paint the tall walls and the rafters. Peg got on the lift and painted the entrance wall and the stage wall, while Br. Michael Spencer painted the rafters. The parent participation was led by Margie and Gary Willis '72, while the student participation was led by Charles Childress, Ph.D. '02. The restoration also included the painting of the side walls of the gym and the kick plates in the seating area were repainted, along with the cleaning and repainting of the gym lobby and restrooms."

There were times when Peggy would work overnight in the gym, leaving in the morning when the students would report to school. The project was completed in time for Family Day, when during the Mass held in the gym to commence Family Day, Br. Stephen, in his welcoming address, recognized Peggy's role and her efforts in the restoration of the gym. Finally, 30 years after the Class of '71 left the campus, the "New" Holy Cross gym looked new again.

## Gym Stories

"My dad was a boarder at HC in the 40's. He instilled the HC pride in me. I went my 1st HC football game when I was 11 months old and basketball games in the old gym. I can remember running on the court to get the ball. He had to move up in the bleachers so I wouldn't run on the court. I might not have attended HC but I bleed BLUE & GOLD!"

*Mariana Lanasa Biamonte*

"God I miss that place!" - - *Corey Hebert*

"Little did I know that every (thousandth) time I walked those floors so casually and comfortably that one day (many, many years later), I would give all the funds in my bank account to walk them just one more time." - -

*J.D. Sledge*

"So many great memories as a student, player, and coach. Games vs Br Martin, St Aug, and De la Salle were crazy in

the 70's. As a '75 graduate, still can't believe that Warren Seymore, Manual Potlongo, Pete Johnson, Robert Earl Lipton, Hayward Hewitt, Luis Benitez, Llewellyn Howard, and Cedric Mark are already gone. I'm sure their spirits remain in what is Holy Cross today!" -

- *Greg Domecq*

"Damn I miss that place. Fond memories indeed." - - *Keith Haggerty*

"A lot of blood and sweat left inside that gym, especially running those stairs, I remember that like it was yesterday and I am a '80 graduate." - - *Tony Sch Jr.*

"Lots of cool memories in that place." - - *Tony Bouie*

"I was practically born and raised in that gym. Lots of great memories." - - *Michael Odinet*

"My brother and I won many matches in there. I broke a front tooth on that floor!" - - *Tom Stein*

“Basketball games! Pep Rallies! Fun time in that place!” - - *Jay M. Noto*

“I nearly died right where the photographer was standing for this picture. Coach Mike Harter was torturing a bunch of my classmates and when he got to me, I kinda snapped. I hit him in his chest and, of course, he threatened to do great bodily harm to me. He told me to step outside with him, and I told him we can dance right here! Everybody thought I was nuts, but four of the coaches were just 20 feet away, so I figured one of them could get me to the emergency room if necessary. Mike shook my hand and told me I had big ones, and moved on. It wasn't that I was that brave, it's just I knew if I was crazy enough to stand-up to him, I needed to really sell how crazy I was. I survived and we became friends.” - - *Richie Bulot*

“I was sitting near there on the stage and Coach Mike Harter walked up to me and said ‘Freshman huh’. I looked at him with a blank stare of fear. I said ‘Yes’. He grabbed my ink pins out of my shirt and bit them in half and said, ‘Whatcha going to do about it freshman?’ I said absolutely nothing.” - - *Reggie Smith*



Mike Boyd during the 1971 re-paint

“I remember that blue ladder and pull-ups on every rung on the way and the way down. And climbing with only your hands! Yeah! Wonderfully painful memories. I am sore all over again just thinking about it!” - - *Byron P Bordelon III*

“I remember being a new seventh grade band nerd at the school seeing signs in the gym that said “Mat Burns Build Character”, and wondering, I kid not, “Who's Mat Burns and why is the grammar on that sign wrong?” - - *Martin Sirera*

“We stood many days and watched the “new gym” being built in the early 60's. Was really fun to watch and threw many JuJu Beads in the foundation for posterity.” - - *Jake Orfanello*

“I always wondered when my grammar school went to Christmas and Spring Concerts on field trips what the window in the middle upstairs was. Found out quick when I auditioned in 8th grade, it was THE BAND ROOM. I just about lived in that room for the next 4 years. (fall of 71- May of 75). My dad and I also took on the task of painting the band room the summer between my junior and senior year, with the help of some other band mates. Really learned how prepare and paint that summer. My dad was a perfectionist. The room was all cinder block and a lot more time consuming to clean and paint then wood or sheetrock. But looking back now, it was all worth it.” - - *Robert Treadaway*

"Great memories! Makes me get emotional!" - - *John Odinet*

"Many fond memories of our beloved Holy Cross Gym - from basketball to walk-through football practice. What a great place to go to school in the 1980s." - - *Donnie D'Angelo*

**Bulletin Board**

## Paint Job Rejuvenates Gym

A new paint job and spirit signs are the makings of a rejuvenated Holy Cross student center.

The new look of the gym is the result of the work of a group of students during the Easter holidays under the direction of **Brothers Michael Boyd and James Plutte**.

According to Brother Michael, the job was undertaken because the students thought the gym was dull and drab and needed a face-lifting for future events. "The painting of the gym will hopefully deepen the HC spirit," he said.

present every regular school day.

There were also extra-curricular organizations which presented awards. These were based on active participation in the organization.

### Senior Fete

Holy Cross' '71 Senior Prom is scheduled for May 21 from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

Music will be provided by the **Royal Dukes of Rhythm**.

Prom officers are **Jules Moll**, president, and **Stephen Ferrer**, secretary-treasurer.

### Seniors To Court

Holy Cross economics senior classes toured the facilities of the St. Bernard Sheriff's Department and Parish Lockup April 26.

Taught by **Mr. Harold Toole** and **Brother James Plutte**, the classes were given a firsthand look at the procedure used in the arrest of law violators such as fingerprinting, "mugging" (having criminal pictures taken), etc.

The students then spent a day in court being involved in an imaginary legal case staged by St. Bernard Judge **August A. Nobile**.

Upstairs, Downstairs . . . .

*photo by Mike Strohmeyer*



## The Golden Toe

*“Certainly, if 50 years ago there was consideration given to enshrine Dave’s toe in the Hall of Fame, it is time now to enshrine all of Dave Falgoust in the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame.” - Al Perry*

Members of the Committee

Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame

Dear Members of the Committee:

On behalf of so many of my fellow HC’71 class members, I wish to convey to the members of the Committee, our sincere appreciation for the induction of Steve Ferrer, HC’71, an outstanding football/track and field athlete, as a member of the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2021. The members of the Holy Cross Class of 1971 are proud of the fact that three stellar athletes, namely, Glenn Herbert (HC 2018

HOF), Dennis Delaney (HC 2019 HOF), and Steve Ferrer (HC 2021 HOF), from our class have already been recognized for their athletic achievements, while wearing the blue and gold.

The members of the Class of 1971 understand the difficult task, undertaken annually, by the members of the Committee, to select from the large number of well-deserving candidates those few individuals upon whom the honor of being named a permanent member of the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame is bestowed.

In 2019, Bob Poche and I, along with our fellow members of our HC Class of '71, had the honor and privilege to nominate Dave Falgoust for consideration to be inducted in the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame. Disappointingly, three years have passed since that nomination and Dave Falgoust has yet to be inducted.

Dave is a most worthy candidate for induction in the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame. He is considered by many to be the most impactful place kicker, not only in Holy Cross history, but in New Orleans prep history.

As Ron Gasper wrote in the 1969 edition of Gridweek, "Three times this season (1969) the Tigers won 3-0 on the toe of Falgoust. I cannot recall this ever happening before in prep football. For this, Falgoust is also accorded the honor of being the team's MOST VALUABLE PLAYER." The team that Ron Gasper was referring to was Gridweek's 1969 All-State AAA team. The year was Dave Falgoust's junior year, when he led the Tiger football team to 10 wins in 12 games, by kicking 5 field goals and 23 PAT's, for a total of 38 points, before the Tigers ended their season by falling in the semifinals to the eventual AAA State Champion, Bogalusa Lumberjacks.

In his senior year, Dave Falgoust continued to make his mark on New Orleans prep football history, as the Tiger football team in the first eight weeks of the season remained undefeated and ranked #1 in Louisiana AAAA football, ending his season with a total of 33 points, including 5 field goals and 18 PAT's. In his two years as Holy Cross' placekicker Dave scored a total of 71 points, including 41 PAT's and 10 field goals, 5 of which, were game-winning kicks.

Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2019 member, Dennis Delaney, gave the highest credit to his teammate, Dave Falgoust, when he stated that but for Dave Falgoust making the winning kicks in so many games, he (Dennis) would never have received the recognition that he received during his junior and senior years at Holy Cross. In fact, Dennis Delaney felt so strongly about the ability of Dave Falgoust to kick under pressure, he convinced his college Head Coach, Benny Ellender, at Tulane University, to offer an athletic scholarship to Dave Falgoust.



At Tulane, Dave Falgoust led the 1973 Green Wave football team in scoring with 49 points as Tulane finished its season with a record of 9 wins and 3 losses, while ranked 20<sup>th</sup> nationally in the final AP poll, following the historic 14-0 win against LSU before a sold out Tulane Sugar Bowl Stadium crowd and an Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl appearance. Dave completed his Tulane career with 15 field goals and 44 PAT's, leaving with one year of eligibility remaining when he decided to forego football when accepted for admission to the Tulane Law School.

During his years as the Holy Cross placekicker, Dave Falgoust earned several monikers, including, "Mr. Toe" and "Mr. Automatic," both given to him by George Gurtner of the New Orleans States-Item, or "The Golden Toe" given to him by M.K. Lagarde of the New Orleans States-Item. After his junior year, Andy Kreutz of the New Orleans States-Item described Dave Falgoust as ". . .the Tigers' un-secret weapon . . ."

New Orleans sports legend, Otis Washington, Head Coach of the St. Augustine Purple Knights, was quoted as saying that Falgoust was the best field goal kicker he had ever seen in high school. George Gurtner of the New Orleans States-Item suggested that the good brothers on Dauphine Street would likely nominate him for sainthood based on his winning kicks. After Dave Falgoust kicked 2 field goals into a stiff wind at Tad Gormley Stadium to give Holy Cross the hard fought 13-12 victory over Brother Martin, in week six of his senior season, it was suggested in a sports article that based on the year prior, "Holy Cross would have been satisfied to have Dave Falgoust's toe enshrined in the Hall of Fame."

Certainly, if 50 years ago there was consideration given to enshrine Dave's toe in the Hall of Fame, it is time now to enshrine all of Dave Falgoust in the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame.

I ask that the members of the Committee refer back to the submission made on behalf of Dave Falgoust in 2019 and I am most willing to provide a duplicate of that submission, along with the supporting documentation, if needed.

Again, on behalf of the HC Class of 1971, I respectfully submit to the Committee the name of Dave Falgoust for consideration to be inducted in the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2022.

Yours very truly,

*Alvin P. Perry, Jr, HC'71*

## Two Hall of Famers Reminisce about David Falgoust

“No one respects the ability of David more than me. He was a master of his skill. No one was more clutch than David. I can’t count how many times he won games for both Holy Cross and Tulane. This made David special to me. Don’t get me wrong: David didn’t have a problem patting himself on the back but in my opinion he didn’t do it enough. He was that good. I thought so highly of his ability that when Benny Ellender of Tulane was recruiting me I told him he should sign David. Ellender didn’t want just a field goal kicker he wanted one who could punt also. I told Ellender he would be a fool if he didn’t sign him because David won lots of games for us.” - - *Dennis Delaney*

“I lived with David as a boarder for a few years. When David told me he was planning to come out for football I was surprised, but didn’t give it a thought until I saw him kick the ball. Even starting out he could kick like nobody I ever saw. He could kick with distance and accuracy which is something I had not seen in my experience. David was the right guy to have on the team because he won several games for us. The defense we had was outstanding, but without David’s timely field goals we would not have won several games.” - - *Steve Ferrer*

To view The Golden Toe in action, follow the link to his highlight reel:

<https://youtu.be/VHC4IBBqlaY>

## Dolores Ann Gehl

of Shreveport, LA passed away on Sunday, June 27, 2021. She was born July 26, 1929 in Chicago, IL to migrants from Poland, John and Julia Rachel.

She was a vibrant and friendly presence, who was devoted to her husband, children, and grandchildren. Dolores and her husband, John moved to Shreveport, LA in 1966.



They owned and operated the first McDonald's franchise in the area, which began their business, Gehl Incorporated for over 30 years.

Together they were pillars in their community. They enjoyed attending McDonald's conventions with other owner operators. They used their business to give back to the community they loved so much by donating refreshments city-wide. Dolores was also a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority later in her life. She liked playing tennis and golf, snow skiing and traveling the World. She also enjoyed cooking, sewing and crafts. Most of all she loved spending time with her family, especially her

grandchildren.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Rachel Gehl Kalbacher (John Mark Kalbacher), John Allen Gehl (Kathy Tuminello Gehl) and Kurt Joseph Gehl; grandchildren, Kristin Tower (Preston Tower), Erin Kalbacher (Andrew Larson), Leigh Kalbacher, Anna Gehl McMillion (Matt McMillion), Katie Gehl, Kurt Gehl, Elizabeth Gehl Keith and Kevin Gehl.

## **Bruce Louis Kamlade,**

who ran the Holy Cross Spirit Shop and was assistant HC Athletic Director,



passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2021, at the age of 66. He was a native of Chalmette, LA and a resident of Metairie, LA. Bruce was a loving father and coach for over 35 years. He spent majority of his life impacting young men through coaching baseball, basketball, and football in St. Bernard Parish and Holy Cross High school. Loving father of Ryan Patrick Kamlade (Rachel Harris Kamlade).

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 Web Page can be found at:

<https://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 You Tube Channel can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2\\_US\\_UEwLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2_US_UEwLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view_as=subscriber)