



Holy Cross  
**Connections**

## A Season of Transition



*The following are three “open letters” expressing some of my personal sentiments as well as those of many of our Holy Cross parishioners and friends during this season of transition.*

**Dear Father Dan,** \_\_\_\_\_

We first met nearly ten years ago when I became pastor of Holy Cross Parish. You were beginning college and were a regular server at Sunday Mass. Our parish has prayerfully accompanied you on your journey through Ohio State University, the Pontifical College Josephinum and Mount Saint Mary Seminary. Part of your vocation discernment included several months of residency with Monsignor Corcoran and me at Holy Cross Rectory as you helped keep travellers safe by serving as a security officer at Port Columbus.

Oh how we enjoyed Monsignor’s company and commentary as we watched the evening news, sports, Jeopardy and political specials!

You have been such a faithful and capable Master of Ceremonies and altar server coordinator at special parish celebrations. Always an enthusiastic promoter of our

*See Fr. Dan on pg. 2*

**Dear Sister Pat,** \_\_\_\_\_

As we prepare to bid you a fond and heartfelt farewell, we pause to give special thanks to our Good God for the wonderful Gift that you are. We also give special, wholehearted gratitude to you for your generous sharing of this Gift of yourself with all of us. With Saint Julie we can sing joyfully “How Good is our Good God!”

Your faithful ministry as a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur has brought this Good God closer to our parish and beyond. You have taught us that when we pray “Thy Will be Done” amazing surprises are in store for us – yes, even Belgium, France and beyond!

Even as we have together shed tears of joy & sorrow, your compassion has helped to heal our hurting hearts. In our 8 1/2 years of shared ministry, you have been yet another sister to all of us. You have been a faithful and generous companion to us in good times and bad,

*See Sr. Pat on pg. 2*

*from Dear Fr. Dan on pg. 1*

historic parish church, you have worn your Holy Cross identity with pride. Your recent ordination and First Mass have been extraordinary and memorable events in our 177 year parish history.

Father Dury, as you begin your priestly ministry, the prayers of our parish remain with you. May your priesthood, as an “alter Christus” be blessed abundantly as you serve God’s good people with a caring heart.

May the joy of your spiritual fatherhood enable many to rejoice and be glad as Children of God. May God who has begun His good work in you bring it to fulfillment!

Fraternally, in the priesthood of Christ,

Father Jerry

*From Sr. Pat on pg. 1*

in sickness & in health. You have always “been there” for us.

We are truly thankful for your inspiration, support and dedication. May our Good God sustain, strengthen and support you as you embark on yet another season of service to our Good God and to God’s good people. Bon Voyage!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Jerry



**Dear Parishioners,**

As we say **GOODBYE** to Sister Pat during this season of transition, we will soon say **HELLO** to Sister Anne Keenan, O.P. Sister Pat and Sister Anne will both be here during the month of July to assist us all in making a smooth transition. As we place our confidence in our Good God, we can look forward to the future with heartfelt hope and expectation. With Mary, our Blessed Mother, we can sing with joyful and grateful hearts! “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.... from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for us!”

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Jerry Stluka

# A Farewell Message

By Sr. Pat

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As the time for my leaving Holy Cross draws closer, I wanted to share with you a bit more of what this move means for me.

I find three ideas uppermost in my heart, thoughts and prayers: my vow of obedience, my heart and my families.

**Vows:** As you know wherever we live, whatever we do and whatever we wear, we make our vows to God in a covenant relationship with our Congregation. Our vow of obedience is to listen to God's call in our life and respond. In regard to moving and changing ministries, sometimes this is a direct request from our superiors and other times it is a call heard personally which is discerned with, then affirmed and supported (or not) by our leadership and acted upon or not. This has been a very clear call of the latter type in my life and has been enthusiastically encouraged by the leadership in Ohio and Belgium and by our General Government.

**Heart:** An enlarged physical heart is a danger but one enlarged spiritually is a blessing from God, though in either case it must be attended to. My heart has been enlarged spiritually by God in so many ways; in Congo with our sisters and their people; in Arizona with the mentally ill and our newer

members; and at Holy Cross with all of you, to mention three very special ways. The blessing of loving and being loved is matched only by the pain involved in leaving as I move on in faith.

**Family:** I have been richly blessed by a loving birth family, by my Notre Dame family and you, my Holy Cross family. The moves and changes in my life have all been based on greater needs of one of these families at a given moment. The family need for me now is that of our elderly sisters in our South Belgian unit who have

*"I will keep in touch and I hold you all in precious memory..."*

– Sr. Pat

guarded faithfully the heritage and history of our Congregation. They can no longer do this alone. We know each other from my time spent there during several summer programs; we get along well; I speak French and enjoy living in a culture other than my own. I will be helping them internally and doing some type of pastoral work in a parish or in the city of Namur.

I grew up without brothers but God has provided for me in minis-



try, as my two sisters did in family, with wonderful men.

Working with, and not for, Fr. Jerry has been such a gift and co-workers Robert Carter, Mike Agriesti and beloved Msgr. Corcoran have been additional blessings.

One of the live signs of this call I received from God was Sr. Ann Keenan, OP, who is ready and eager to come to Holy Cross as Pastoral Associate. I know you will welcome her as you did me 8 1/2 years ago.

I cannot find words to thank you for all you have been and done for me. I will keep in touch and I hold you all in precious memory and in grateful prayer to our Good God.

Sincerely, Sr. Pat, SNDdeN



We need your newsnotes!!!

## Dates to Remember:

**August 8** - Farewell for Sr. Pat

**September 12** - Patronal Feast Day - One Mass at 10:00 a.m. - Reception to follow

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*FYI – You can view back issues of Connections at www.holycrosscatholic.com.*

**Parish Staff**

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor  
Sister Patricia A. Pieper, SNDdeN, Pastoral Associate  
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

**Liturgy Schedule**

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

**Confessions**

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.  
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Cross Connections*

**Editor:** Fr. Jerry Stluka  
**Associate Editor:** Sr. Pat Pieper  
**Managing Editor:** Jack Kustron

**Layout and Design:** Jan Kustron  
**Photography:** Jack Kustron  
**Printing:** Dee Printing



*Holy Cross Catholic Church*  
*204 S. Fifth St.*  
*Columbus, OH 43215*

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**Columbus, OH 43218**  
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