

Four Alumni of the College of the Holy Cross

April 24, 2002

Dear Trustee of the College:

You know that we surveyed pre-1971 alumni. *See encl. 1.* We received 1731 responses, 97% in favor of new study requirements in religion and philosophy, and would gladly show you the cards and dozens of letters.

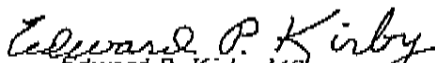
We cite the trend of secularization evident in the lack of core religious studies and in campus activities, recently more evident with the presentation of the "Vagina Monologues" at Hogan Ballroom, and a lesbian movie, both sponsored by the Women's Forum, advertised at Student Activities expense. *See encl. 2.* Gay, lesbian and bisexual support groups active on the campus do not meet Vatican requirements. *See encl. 3.* The President allows lay homelists to preach at Mass. *See encl. 4.* The trend of secularization in Catholic higher education was recently recognized by Superior General Peter-Hans Kolvenbach S.J. in conversation with Fr. Richard John Neuhaus. New England Provincial, Father Robert Levens SJ has spoken his views powerfully to the Order. *See encl. 5.* Avery Cardinal Dulles speaks of need for a new vision in Catholic higher education. *See encl. 6.* The secular culture has affected the student body. *See student profile on back of encl. 1.*

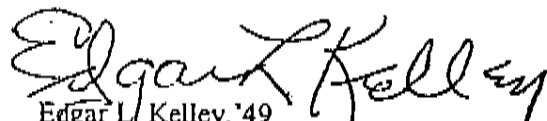
Before 1971 all students studied rhetoric, logic, epistemology, cosmology, ontology, ethics, psychology and theology. Those men may not be aware of the current passion for "choice," but they know the rigors of life and the strength imparted by the truth of the faith and its intellectual underpinnings. Now the college offers electives and extracurricular events. Which is more important, choice or truth? A 1953 graduate wrote to Father MacFarland: "Philosophy and religion courses were the defining character of a Holy Cross education. To revive them as the core of the Holy Cross mission would be an enormous service to the students." *See encl. 7.*

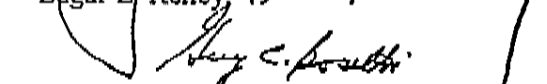
We see much expression of the Faith at Holy cross and find hope in it. We find hope also in the Holy Father's encyclical *Fides et Ratio*. John Paul II earned a Doctorate in Philosophy, studying phenomenalism (we are what we do). He was tempered in the crucibles of World War II and Cold War Poland. He was a beacon for renewal in Vatican Council II. He proves that faith and reason together are like an alloy of metals in which each strengthens the other to make a superior material. Such benefit should be granted to all students. Restoring Holy Cross' "defining character" by reviving its core studies and accepting *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* would indeed be an "enormous service to the students".

Submitted with love and respect for Holy Cross,


William M. Cousins, Jr., '45


Edward P. Kirby, '49


Edgar L. Kelley, '49


Guy C. Bosetti, '49