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Mr. H. E. Lentz
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June 13,2002

Dear Mr. Lentz,

Thank you for your letter of May 9 last in response to the letter from the Four Alumni of Holy Cross dated April 24 with numerous attachments.

Needless to say your terse response on behalf of the trustees was profoundly disappointing. No attempt was made to deal with the issues or confront the underlying facts. Surely, loyal alumni, students and supporters deserve more than this superficial dismissal.

As the basis for your dismissal you refer to the penultimate paragraph of Fr. McFarland's letter of August 30 2001 to Bill Cousins. If this represents the position of the trustees then indeed thousands of alumni have been confirmed in their assessment of the reality of the secularization of the college.

The penultimate paragraph asserts that diversity of opinion has always been a constitutive element in the community of faith. No doubt differences of opinion have existed on matters of the faith over the ages. Some have led to heresies many of which we see in the 28,000 forms of Protestantism. But, these can hardly be a "constitutive element" of Catholicism as they contradict the words of Christ "that they all may be one" and the words of our Creed. Unity on matters over which there were differences has been attained in the crucible of open and honest truth seeking.

More particularly, none of the cited examples has any rational relationship to the matters at issue. Dietary rules, procedural approaches to knowledge and debates among Orders of clergy are hardly persuasive of the validity of a Catholic institution of higher learning pursuing a thirty year movement from its roots. Geopolitical forces of the day were instrumental in the movement of the Papacy to Avignon. St. Catherine worked to bring it back to its roots as opposed to simply disagreeing where the Popes should live. No, we are talking about the spiritual and intellectual heritage and treasures of Catholicism which are to be imparted by a Catholic institution of higher learning to its students.

Moreover were the trustees to read "Passionate Uncertainty Inside The American Jesuits" by McDonough and Bianchi, U. of Cal. Press, they can gain an insight, sad as it is, into the parallel movement of the Jesuits in the U.S. and the College. The Order has moved to a substantial degree from its tradition and roots namely, many saints, martyrs, scholars, missionaries, pastors and defenders of the Faith loyal to the Papacy, as the College has moved from its roots.

The trustees may have the power to continue the process of secularization but on what sound basis do they hold the College out as Catholic in the Jesuit tradition? Indeed the refusal to comply with Ex Corde Ecclesiae is entirely consistent with the process of secularization and is clear evidence of the profound movement away from the traditions and roots of the College.

Although this letter is over my signature alone, I am confident that it expresses the views of the other persons addressed in your letter and of thousands of other alumni. I trust that you will arrange to send a copy of this letter to all of the trustees. For our part we continue to pray and work for a return of Holy Cross to its roots.

Respectfully yours,

William Cousins

Edgar Kelley

Edward Kirby

CC : TRUSTEES