

Richard E. Henzel
47 Vails Lane
Ossining, N. Y. 10562
Tel No. 914 941 8187
Jan. 28, '03

H. C. Cardinal Newman Society
Attn: Vic Melfa
19 Deerfield Way
Westboro, Mass. 01581

Dear Mr. Melfa:

Please accept my congratulations on your attempt to bring Holy Cross back to the Church. You have taken on a massive undertaking. My thoughts, support and prayers are with you. Maybe a few good men can make a difference.

By way of background I am an H.C. graduate, Class of '55, one of three generations of Holy Cross graduates that includes my father, Norbert '17 and my son Christopher '84. The "alumni 4" letter was not sent to me since long ago I had the College delete my name from it's directory, so ashamed was I of the antics going on up on The Hill. A classmate however did forward it to me and I did write a note to Mr. Kirby expressing some of my thoughts. I had concluded and still believe that H.C. can not be restored as a truly Catholic institution my reasoning follows:

- H. C. is too far gone. Beginning in the 60s, The Jesuits sold out to the liberal left element of alumni who happily bought into the cause of moral relativism and changed the core curriculum to appear more Ivy than Catholic. In the 80s, with the laity now in control of the College, the remaining Jesuits took on social causes in place of scholarly endeavors and, supported by their alumni apologists, were joined by a legion of feminist sentimentalists. Those groups and their constituencies now hold a firm secularist grip on the College.**
- Any attempt to restore H.C. to the Church would necessarily require a massive top down strategy, way beyond seeking the termination of Father McFarland. The secularist culture is pervasive and has penetrated to the very marrow of the College - faculty and Trustees included. Better to give one's hard earned money in support of a real Catholic College (there are a few of them left, such as Ave Maria College in Michigan for one.)**
- Any attempt to negotiate change with the Administration should be avoided. It is too firmly committed to the Salvation Army profile of religion. It will become all consuming and non-productive. With the collective mind-set at H.C. today, in a choice between a return to Ratio Studiorum and a cozy soup kitchen, the kitchen will win every time. Not that there is anything wrong with volunteer work or soup kitchens, but the Founders, I believe, correctly concluded that those formative years be spent in the scholarly pursuit of moral theology, and other Aquinas disciplines that permit the student to better understand his faith, his Church and to preserve that scholarly wisdom for generations to come.**
- Withholding donations as leverage for change, while helpful, has only marginal impact. As you know, the contributions from older alumni make up only a small piece of H.C.'s annual giving jackpot. The vast majority of funds come in large chunks from foundations, philanthropic societies and such.**

- Pressure on the College with petitions, meetings, assemblies and the like from the older alumni is not going to be effective. We are looked upon as a dying breed of "out of touch" malcontents, trying to relive our youth. At worst we are an irritant, at best, we won't be around that much longer to make trouble. One will either be ignored or given token lip service. (Witness the uproar over the obscene Vagina Monologues, and what that accomplished. The College is repeating the showing again this year.)

So, having given you all my reasons for NOT supporting your cause, now allow me to tell you why I applaud you and will help. Simply, it is to disabuse those Catholic parents of the notion that H. C. remains a Catholic College, and somewhere to send their sons and daughters. I believe, to that extent, we can be modern day Paul Reveres to the Catholic parents of today's youth - at the same time hitting H.C. where it hurts - in a shrinking volume of Catholic applicants. I also would like to see an effort to obtain Church approval to rescind H.C.'s charter as a Catholic College. And lastly, with prayer and pressure get that most sacred of names given to it by it's dedicated Founders, permanently removed from the institution's masthead. Having programs such as the Vagina Monologues associated with that most sacred of names is irreverent, tasteless and disgusting.

Find enclosed my personal check to the Cardinal Newman Society. Please add my name to your mailing list. If you care to contact me any time through March, my temporary mailing address is set out below. Thereafter contact may be made at the above address.

Unit 106
222 Harbour Drive
Naples, Fl 34103
Telephone 239 649 6126
E Mail PianoHZ@aol.com

All the best.

Very Truly

Richard E. Henzel