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Dear Dave,

I was surprised and sorry to have angered you with our letter. The enterprise involved much research, discussion among the four of us, writing the letter, making arrangements, a lot of worry about delays, and more. I just became too focused to think of everything else. I and my co-signors did not believe our letter to older Holy Cross alumni was disrespectful of your efforts, or that you would be personally offended.

Frankness and desire to keep our dialogue honest impel me to say that I had been disappointed that in speaking to Edgar Kelley and me, you seemed not anxious to see core curricula in philosophy and religion established, and that you believed the college Mission Statement to be adequate without its mentioning the truths of Jesus Christ's redemptive sacrifice. "Truth" is there, but not the name of Jesus except in the phrase Society of Jesus. Possibly you were stymied by others. I knew you were working to get the message to the students and hoped that ultimately, when we could show the support we felt was out there among the alumni most familiar with the former curriculum, you could be persuaded to help carry out a new core program. I hope that or something like it will happen.

As a foundation for agreement, all four of us believe as you do, that many of the problems cited in the profile by the chaplaincy are the result of the culture and clearly against the policies of the College. But when it spoke of finding God in nature at the beach or the mountains, I considered that a failing of the students, and negative rather than positive. When I was at Holy Cross there was a lot less of being at beach or mountains but we all knew where creation came from and nothing in the profile indicates that today's students had appreciation for the distinction between God and creation. Perhaps Teilhard was responsible for that. If a lot of students at a Catholic college cannot spot pantheism when they see it, they should be taught about it.

I am surprised also that it may be considered that we insulted the Chaplaincy Office. Kim did not return my phone calls and did not inform me of her efforts toward correcting the problems caused by the culture.

At the bottom of it I hope that Holy Cross will do all it can to remedy the harm caused by the cultural mix, and urgently consider all measures to do so. One such measure is to install classroom studies of man's place in the cosmos and obligations to God, mankind and themselves.

Given the steady erosion of classroom philosophy and Catholic studies it seems urgent that the alumni of my era be heard from. Our letter provided opportunity for response by the older alumni to make their beliefs heard. Many of the responders say that they got great benefit from philosophy and religion.

With our limited resources we were not able to repeat all of the subtleties we would have liked to include. Yet we believed it was and is the time to learn how the alumni most familiar with the *ratio studiorum* approach estimate its value. Our returns show that those alumni strongly support that approach.

The College's promulgation of its efforts you believe we ignored may have been inadequate. Until your letter I did not know of Tom Landy or Collegium and still have not heard a concrete exposition of what it is intended shall be done. Father McFarland, as he and others have said, wants to take the first steps with faculty help toward changes in curriculum. We knew he desired to do this. We and significant numbers of other alumni believe that core courses in philosophy and religion would spread benefits throughout the student body. This is not to say that all the effort should be in the classroom or that your inspiration and efforts are not needed. They are.

My understanding of the capital campaign is that it is based on large investments that are beyond the means of most of the pre 1970's alumni we have reached. I note that the "Lift High the Cross" brochure states a goal of \$175 million, of which only \$7.5 million is to be raised from gifts of less than \$50,000. Obviously there has been some success getting large gifts. They will not be gotten from the average successful alumnus. Of course the average giver is helpful as demonstrating broad support. I do not believe that our effort to poll the alumni will have a noticeable effect of reducing that support in either category. The passion for the College demonstrated by alumni response to our letter proves they care about Holy Cross. Some of them who have long since stopped giving may come back if they see positive action by the College arising after their response to our letter.

The remark about MTV resonated strongly with responders. MTV is a contribution toward what is wrong in the culture. Kids make mistakes and don't need the encouragement they get from MTV about many moral challenges, not only sex, but also, for example, risk-taking.

If you would like, please tell us why you think we believe the chaplains are at fault. How the letter seem to demand such apologies from them to the signors or to any Bishop? On the other hand, I do not think apology is owed to the Chaplaincy Office because of our circulating copies of its own description of the student body. Rather, Kim, and anyone who encouraged her should be praised for bringing problems to light.

I thank you for recognizing our love for the College and the Church and am grateful for your continuing work. I am grateful also for your writing from the heart because it provided a healthy exchange of views. I hope you agree, and in any event, I am grateful for your generous offer to talk.

Sincerely,