

Domestic Program  
2006-2007



**Become a Holy Cross Associate.**

<http://holycrossassociates.nd.edu>

mission

# Holy Cross Associates

## Mission Statement

“The mission of Holy Cross Associates is to engage lay people to grow in the life of Christ through Christian service, spirituality, simple living and community. Founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross, Holy Cross Associates is designed to carry out the mission of the Gospel as expressed in the teaching example of Christ and in the social teachings of the Catholic Church. By forming post-collegiate lay people in the practice of Christian discipleship, this program serves as a vital part of the life and work of Holy Cross, and thus as leaven in the Church and in the world.”

-Holy Cross Associates Board of Directors, 2004

Holy Cross Associates (HCA) is a post-graduate service program that offers participants an opportunity to integrate their Christian faith through service, community living, spirituality, and simple lifestyle.

### **We are looking for young men and women who:**

- Desire to serve and accompany those who are poor and marginalized
- Wish to grow in faith through prayer and reflection
- Wish to commit themselves to the difficult but rewarding process of building community
- Will accept the challenge of living simply and entering into the lives of the poor

Fall 2005

Applications available; applicants are accepted on a rolling basis.

Fall 2005-  
Summer 2006

**Placement Process:** After accepting the invitation to join the HCA Domestic Program, each new Associate will be given the opportunity to state preferences regarding service placements. HCA staff will then work with each new Associate to discuss the placements. When receiving notice of their placements, Associates will be asked to make contact with the agency in which they will be working.

August 2006

**Orientation** is held at the University of Notre Dame. The Associate agrees to cover the cost of travel to Orientation while HCA pays for transportation to the site and home at the end of the Associate year. Associates travel to their sites immediately following orientation. Local facilitators orient them to the area. This includes introducing them to their placement sites, the local Holy Cross religious, and the greater community.

**Site Visits:** HCA staff visit each community twice during the year to lend support and encouragement.

May 2007

**May Retreat:** A program retreat at the University of Portland. This retreat gives the Associates a chance to reflect upon the year and prepare for their final months and post HCA lives.

**Year End:** Placement commitment officially ends and Associates begin to depart.

## introduction

We welcome you to an exploration of Holy Cross Associates! The Associate year is one filled with many challenges and opportunities for growth. Through the tenets of service, community, spirituality, and simple living, Associates live out the Gospel's call to serve. This booklet will help you understand the rich traditions of the Holy Cross Associates Program.

Associates have served in Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and overseas in Chile, Haiti, and East Africa. Over the years, Associates have worked in homeless outreach, education, domestic violence shelters, HIV/AIDS centers, family services, and many other types of organizations.

The Associate year is one that continues to shape and influence participants long after they complete the program. Many former Associates point to their year of service as a pivotal experience in helping them to discern their current vocations in such areas as education, social work, business, law, and medicine. A recent Associate said at the end of her year, "So much of my life came together this year in terms of focus and ideals; this will forever be evident in how I live."

### HCA facts:

HCA celebrated its 25th program year in 2002-2003.

There are over 800 Associate Alumni since the program's start in 1978

HCA also has a two year program in Chile

Following the Associate experience, participants go on to careers in social service, medicine, law, business, & education, among other fields

## reflection

***"The HCA year is an amazing experience that will forever change your life: your relationships, your hopes, your dreams, the person that you are and the one you are always working to become."***

***Maureen Sandles, MA '03-'04***

## Commitment to Service



As an Associate, you will have the opportunity to turn your faith into action and to serve the needs of others. The program focuses particularly on ministry with persons who are poor and marginalized. Associates work in placements that encourage the development of relationships with others from a variety of experiences and backgrounds. While they are called upon to serve the needs of the poor in a variety of ways, often it is the Associates

who are served by the persons with whom they work.

Reflection on this service in light of Christian faith and the Gospel message is an important part of the HCA experience. Associates reflect together on the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice and the Gospel's call to respond. The hope is that one's HCA year will become an important milestone in a lifelong process of spiritual growth and commitment to the poor and to social justice.

The organization you will be placed to serve in will be arranged by HCA staff based on your interests, experience, and the needs at the various sites. The program can not guarantee the applicant his or her first preference for service site. Flexibility regarding work placement is important as you contribute to the group mission of Holy Cross Associates and respond to the present needs. A description of current placements can be found on the website.

### reflection

*“Prior to my Associate year, I had always seen service as something that I did for others less fortunate than myself. Now I understand service as a basic relationship between any two people. An act of service helps the receiver while simultaneously empowering the giver.”*

*Andy Noethe AZ '98-'99*

pillars

## Living In Community

### The Associate Community

Living in an intentional community is an integral part of HCA. Associates usually live in households of 4-6 persons, and they commit themselves to the ongoing process of building relationships. To share one's life and concerns with others; to be flexible in responding to another's needs; to be willing to deal with issues which arise among housemates; to be responsive to the practicalities of holding a house in common; these are marks of how one is called to live as an Associate.



Community life tends to bring one in touch with the real demands, rewards, and challenges of sharing oneself openly to the group. The choice to live in community involves risk and sacrifice. Living in community reveals one's truest self, in one's strengths and weaknesses. To their surprise, Associates often find the commitment to live in community to be both the most challenging and the most rewarding aspect of their experience.

## reflection

*HCA for me really came down to community and not just my house, but also the neighborhood in which we lived, the people we served, other local volunteers, and the Holy Cross religious community. It was very clear that there were many people present to support us on our journey."*

*Andy Sherwood, IN '01-'02*

## The Larger Community of Holy Cross

One strength of HCA is the support that Associates experience at their sites. Each house is part of a larger community consisting of former volunteers, members of the local parish or university, and neighbors.

Close relationships also exist between the Holy Cross Congregation's local community of priests and brothers and the Associates. Each of the Associate houses is located in an area where Holy Cross serves in parishes, universities, and other organizations. The invitation is extended to the Associates to join the priests and brothers in prayer, in shared meals, and in holiday celebrations.



There are individuals at each Associate site who accept the responsibilities of local facilitators, who serve as the on-site HCA representatives. There are usually two facilitators at each site, one a Holy Cross priest and a former Associate lay person. The facilitators serve as friends and advisors for the Associates. They assist in retreats, serve as the liasons to the local Holy Cross community, and maintain contact with the HCA office. In addition, the local Facilitators join the Associates for a weekly community night to provide support, reflection and insight.

## reflection

***“My connection to the Holy Cross community in Portland proved to be one of the best parts about the year. We found spiritual directors, mentors and friends in the community at the University and in the Holy Cross parishes. Years after my HCA experience, I still keep in touch with some of the Holy Cross religious in Oregon.”***

***Anne Moriarty, OR '00-'01***

## pillars

### Simple Lifestyle and Option for the Poor

The Gospels present a universal call to service, but especially to those that are poor or marginalized. In recent years the Church has reemphasized this commitment in word and in action. With this in mind, Associates seek to live with a “preferential option for the poor.”



Awareness and sensitivity to the problems of the poor lead us to reflect on our own style of living. It makes us question our tendencies toward consumerism and its effects upon others and ourselves. Associates seek to “live simply so that others may simply live.” They live on a simple budget. Money from work goes into a common fund that is used for food, rent, utilities, personal needs and other living expenses.

This attempt at living simply in a communal context requires you to participate in the group decision-making process. It begins when you make plans to travel to Orientation; decisions have to be made about how much accompanies you. It continues into the year as individually and communally you reflect not only on how money is spent but also on how your choices reflect a commitment to the poor. Associates have found this process of examining and simplifying their lives to be freeing and transforming.

## reflection

***“Living simply gave me new words to express heaven: a dance in the rain, a shared porch swing, conversations in the dark, a bus driver playing his harmonica, home made ornaments on a Christmas tree, and warm banana bread.”***

**Trisha Allen, OR '02-'03,  
Haiti, '03-04**



## Simple Living and Travel

The Associate agrees in the spirit of solidarity with the poor, and in opting for living a common life with others, to limit personal travel during his or her time in the program. Typical travel would be for family emergencies or for grad school or job interviews. While travel may become necessary, it is not considered the financial responsibility of HCA.

Visits to Associate locations by friends and families are valued and highly encouraged by the HCA staff. Many Associates enjoy introducing these important people to their new city, new community, and service placement.

Christmas is celebrated at each Associate house rather than in the respective homes of the individual Associates. Though this may seem difficult to some, Associates find that travel during the holidays interrupts the process of community building and conflicts with their commitment to simple lifestyle during the year. Often families will visit shortly before or after the holidays.



### Why do we ask Associates to limit their travel?

- The Associate is considered a newly hired employee with limited vacation and sick time
- Associates are asked to live within the \$60/month personal stipend, which would not cover travel expenses
- Commitment to HCA program and maintaining community
- Maintaining a solidarity with the poor and their travel limits

## Spirituality

The HCA experience is an opportunity to explore God's action in one's life. Faith, often, is the foundation that Associates rely upon throughout their year. Associates devote both personal and community time to strengthen their relationships with God, understanding that they must seek to know Christ themselves in order to be Christ for others in their service placements and in their communities. As a result, Associates often develop a richer spiritual life and a greater consciousness of God's presence in those that surround them.



community spirituality.

It is expected that some Associates will have questions and struggles with their faith. However, HCA presupposes a basic involvement in the Church and a commitment to explore individually and with others the spiritual dimension of one's life.

Twice a year, Associates set aside a weekend for a house retreat. This serves as a time to reflect, re-group, and re-energize as a community. In addition, local facilitators for each community regularly assist as resources for faith exploration and commu-

## reflection

***“All of my housemates were at differing levels of faith and worship. By sharing each of our perspectives, we allowed ourselves to be open to other definitions of spirituality. They gave me insight and challenged me to look at my faith.”***

***Rebekah Go PA, '99-'00***

## Application and Interview Process

Ahead of you are many possibilities and options. The HCA Staff wants to be able to assist you in finding the path which best suits your desires and goals. Therefore, the HCA application process consists of several steps. Please consider these suggestions before sending your formal application and letters of recommendation.

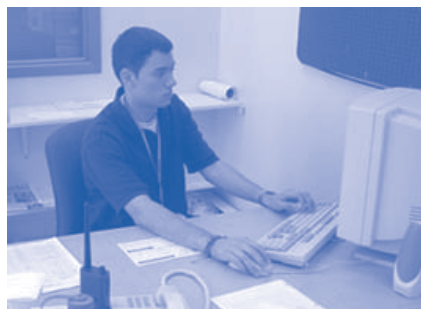
### Discernment

#### current domestic sites:

- Phoenix, Arizona
- Coachella, California
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Brockton, Massachusetts
- Portland, Oregon
- South Bend, Indiana

We encourage applicants to look at a variety of programs of service. Read their objectives and goals and seek out the program which best suits your needs and vision. Talk to resource persons who might help you think through your motivation and come to a clear understanding of this program, as well as others. Pray about the decision ahead of you.

The staff at the HCA office is available to discuss your interest in the program and to answer any questions you may have (574.631.5521, e-mail [hca@nd.edu](mailto:hca@nd.edu)).



Also, current Associates are often a great resource to help you better understand the program. They welcome any contact from you, so feel free to ask them about their experiences in the program. A listing of the current Associates is included at the end of this book. This info, along with contact information, can also be found on our website, <http://holycrossassociates.nd.edu>.

## Sending In the Application

Applications can be printed out from our website or completed online:

<http://holycrossassociates.nd.edu>

Domestic HCA Applications may be mailed to the address below or via the Internet:

HCA Home Office  
Moreau Seminary  
P.O. Box 668  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
hca@nd.edu

## About Interviewing

In-person interviews are generally conducted at:

- University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN)
- University of Portland (Portland, OR)
- Stonehill College (near Boston, MA)
- King's College (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
- St. Edward's University (Austin, TX).

If an applicant does not reside near any of these locations, the HCA staff seeks to have alumni in the area conduct an interview with the applicant. If an in-person interview is not possible, staff will conduct an interview by phone. Applicants should be prepared to discuss their application, their thoughts and feelings about the objectives of the program, and any relevant previous experiences. Travel expenses to and from the interview are the responsibility of the applicant, though housing is available at the schools noted above. Interviews are conducted throughout the year.

## Placement Process For Sites and Service

The program is sensitive to each Associate's preferences concerning site and service placement. At the same time, Associates are invited to serve where needed. All applicants who are invited into the program are asked to accept the invitation before being placed. This is done because Associates cannot be placed in local communities or job placements before most of the participants for the year are determined, so as to form well rounded communities.

Once an applicant accepts an invitation to join the program, he/she fills out a reply form in which more information is shared about one's gifts and interests. In addition, a list of preferences for placements and sites is developed that the HCA staff uses in putting together placements for the year. In general, Associates will be notified by mid-May of their placement; however, it sometimes takes longer to finalize placements and living sites.

### service opportunities:

- homeless outreach
- health care
- domestic violence shelter
- parish ministry
- peace & justice advocacy
- hispanic services
- elderly outreach
- education
- community organizing
- refugee resettlement
- housing assistance
- volunteer coordinating
- ex-offender services

Associates are urged to consider the needs of the people and the community in which they will be living. Associates often feel themselves being challenged and called "beyond themselves" into new and powerful discoveries in placements they least expected.

## Student Loan Deferments

Many Associates will be responsible for paying back student loans at some point. However, loans may generally be deferred while the Associate is in the program. Most loans have a six to nine month grace period before repayment begins. The first six months of the Associate experience normally falls within this grace period; however, before the grace period expires, Associates may apply for the delay in payment of loans.



Upon completion of the program year, Domestic Associates may be eligible for benefits from the AmeriCorps program including the Education Award and payment of student loan interest. Please check out our website or contact the HCA staff for more information.

## reflection

*“At the beginning of the year, one of my goals was to separate my needs and my wants. I tried to be aware of what I was spending and its influence on the larger community. I hope I remain aware of the needs of my community and the affect my choices will have.”*

*Kimberly Levenda CO '01-'02*



## Current Associates and Placements

### Arizona: 602.271.9584

Joycelin Tremblay	Emmanuel College	St. Gregory's School
Siobhan Fitzpatrick	Catholic Univ.	Andre House
Petula Fernandes	Notre Dame	Catholic Social Service
Meredith Mechenbier	Notre Dame	Central AZ Shelter Services
Katie Norberg	Univ. of Virginia	Central AZ Shelter Services

### California: 760.398.2711

Katie Hall	Louisiana State	Esperanza Youth Center
Mike Walsh	Stonehill College	Martha's Village & Kitchen
Matt Kuczora	Notre Dame	Coachella Valley Housing
Shantha Ready	Notre Dame	Aguas del Desierto

### Colorado: 719.634.1876

Dawn Hausmann	Michigan State	Ecumenical Social Ministries
Heather Heaton	Univ. of Georgia	Ecumenical Social Ministries
Rachel Sladich	Univ. of Portland	TESSA
Holly Gilbertson	Notre Dame	Marion House
Victoria Necroto	St. Mary's (IN)	CPCD: Headstart

### Indiana: 574.288.2158

Jess Yurek	Kings College	Center for the Homeless
Jessica Carrion	Kings College	Center for the Homeless
Mirranda Quinata	Univ. of Portland	Robinson Comm. Learning
Kim Croy	Univ. of Portland	Robinson Comm. Learning

### Massachusetts: 508.586.3941

Aly Ringhofer	Saint Mary's (IN)	Mainspring House
Chris Rinehart	Seattle University	Mainspring House
Kate Duman	Notre Dame	Catholic Charities
Mandi Nicklay	St. Mary's (IN)	David Jon Louison Center

### Oregon: 503.460.0567

Carrie Berend	St. Ed's University	JOIN
Andrea Wysocki	Notre Dame	Marie Smith Center
Carrie Berend	Notre Dame	Sisters of the Road Café
Sally Martin	Univ. of Georgia	Transition Projects
Michelle Rogers	Notre Dame	U. Portland, Holy Redeemer
Kelly Warch	Stonehill College	The Downtown Chapel