



# Holy Cross Prioory

An Anglican Benedictine Community  
In Canada

HOLY CROSSTIDE 2017

*We adore you,  
O Christ,  
and we bless you,  
Because by your  
holy Cross you have  
redeemed the world.*



# A Consecrated Life

At present there are 22 life-professed brothers in the Order of the Holy Cross. We range in age from 91 to 40. I made my own life profession at the Easter Vigil on April 10, 1977 at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, New York - the “mother house” of our international Order of the Holy Cross. The words of our profession vow are:

In the Name of God. Amen. I [David Bryan Hoopes], desiring to consecrate myself fully and entirely to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, make to Almighty God, before the whole company of heaven, and in the presence of you my brothers, the three-fold vow of Stability, Conversion of my ways to the monastic way of life, and Obedience in the Order of the Holy Cross, steadfastly intending to keep and observe the same to my life’s end, the Lord being my helper. And I pray for the grace and heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit, for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of our holy Father Benedict, of James our Founder, and of all the saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are from various backgrounds and nationalities and we possess many skills, such as teaching, priesthood, pastoral care and spiritual direction, administration, broadcasting, preaching, horticulture, psychotherapy, leadership, and artistic creativity including iconography, music, and calligraphy. These gifts are given expression in our community life and through the witness of our work outside the monastery.

Holy Cross monastic life continues to attract and to welcome new brothers. There are 3 brothers in temporary vows, 2 novices and 2 postulants. We are frequently asked why we chose to join a monastic order; why Holy Cross; and why we stay in community. Each brother responds in his own way. I shall tell my story.

From childhood I was attracted to religious sisters and brothers. Those whom I met impressed me with their lives centred in prayer, worship, and study. They were active in ministry to those living on the margins of society. If I had the opportunity to visit a convent, monastery or friary, the welcome was always warm and I never felt as a stranger.

In my case I first chose to study for the priesthood. While in seminary I had the privilege of frequent visits to the Convent of St. Margaret in Boston and St. John’s Monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Both were an important part of my life and education.

In 1969 I moved to Kingston, New York, to begin two jobs - director of education in the Old Dutch Church (the first Anglican to work in that venerable community), and coordinator of youth ministry in the northern part of the Diocese of New York. Seven miles to the south of Kingston was Holy Cross Monastery in the village of West Park. I quickly began to visit and very soon the brothers were a dear part of my extended family.

In the mid '60s and '70s there were many brothers who were in my age group. Being an only child, I longed for brothers and sisters. I found such in Holy Cross and in the then companion Order of St. Helena. There was a vibrancy to the monastic life at West Park and in the Sister's Convent at Vails Gate.

This was felt in the celebration of the divine office and the Holy Eucharist; in social justice ministries to prisons, boarding schools, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship; and in short-term residency programs in inner cities. The Order was very committed to the ecumenical movement, and was active in work with neighbouring Roman Catholic communities.

Plans were being made to open houses in Canada, New York City, South Carolina, and in the Bahamas. It was a heady time and I was eager to in some way be a part of that life.

Due to family circumstances I resigned my work in Kingston and returned to my home in Pennsylvania. I realized that I very much missed the Holy Cross brothers. My mother one day remarked that I should either get the monastery "into my system or out of my system". She felt that I was not happy being a "suburban gentleman". So I made application for the postulancy in the Order and was accepted. On September 13, 1972 I and nine others were received as postulants at West Park. Br. Roy Parker and I have remained as brothers in the Order.

Holy Cross monastic life is appropriate for me. Opportunities for growth in spiritual discipline and social interaction have enriched my life. The Order has encouraged and supported my skills and passions. I have been given leadership responsibilities as prior of three houses and as Superior of the Order (1999-2008). Because I enjoy parochial work I have been given permission throughout my monastic life to serve in 4 different dioceses. Monastic life has its challenges, disappointments and successes. Such is the human condition.



BR. DAVID BRYAN HOOPES OHC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

# SUMMER AT THE PRIORY



## A Consecrated Life CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Despite our differences, insecurities, ego trips, and stubbornness, we are there for each other; we share a common desire for life centred in the Holy Spirit; and we wish to use our resources for assisting God's people as we are able.

Through my life in the Order of the Holy Cross, I have made and kept countless friends, and I have had wonderful adventures. The most lovely gift of all is the quiet, sustaining, and forgiving love of my brothers. May I always endeavour to do the same for them.

Perhaps some of you may discern the possibility of religious life. If such be your vocation you will not regret saying "yes" to the invitation. You too may experience God's grace and wonderful surprises.

Br. David Bryan Hoopes OHC, PRIOR



LEFT TO RIGHT: A NEIGHBOUR DROPS BY FOR A VISIT;  
BR. LEONARD IN HIS TOMATO GARDEN, BROTHERS AT REST.  
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

## Associate Stories CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

studies at Trinity College. I was ordained a transitional deacon in May 2016, and priested in December 2016.

As I look back at my journey, I can see clearly the profound impact that The Order of the Holy Cross has had on my life. They have been a caring, supportive, and wise presence, testifying to the stabilizing power of regular prayer. My retreat time at the Priory has always brought refreshment, something that I am realizing is even more important for me in my life as a priest, privileged with the task of pointing and guiding people to the Great Shepherd of our souls.

*THE REV'D MATTHEW KIESWETTER IS PRIEST-IN-CHARGE AT ST. ANDREW'S  
MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH IN KITCHENER*

# Community Notes

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Brothers Christian, Leonard, Reginald and Charles joined the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine for a retreat at St. John's Convent August 29-September 5. The retreat leader was Bishop Jane Alexander, Bishop of Edmonton. We are blessed by the generosity of the sisters. All of us participated in the Order's annual Chapter held at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, New York, from June 6-11. Brother Robert James Magliula was elected to serve as superior. Brother Reginald was elected to serve as a member of council and was reappointed as novice master for Canada. David Bryan was reappointed as prior of Holy Cross Priory, Toronto and continues to serve as a member of council.



**BR. CHRISTIAN** is the brother who welcomes our guests. He serves as spiritual director. Christian enjoys a rich social life which associates and other friends provide.



**BR. LEONARD** has been busy during the summer serving as Sunday supply priest at two parishes in Mississauga – Trinity, St. Paul, Port Credit and the Church of St. Edmund and St. Hugh. Both parishes have been very generous in providing school supplies for Ghana. Br. Leonard continues to participate in the worship and ministry of the Ghanaian Anglican Church of Toronto (GaCot) He is associate director for Canada and Ghana. Br. Leonard's hobby is gardening. His garden has yielded a bounty of tomatoes and peppers.

**NOTE:** Br. Leonard, Director of Associates, urges all Holy Cross associates to send their annual associate's report to him as soon as possible. Br. Leonard's email is [guntugu@gmail.com](mailto:guntugu@gmail.com).

**BR. CHARLES:** his main responsibility is to deepen his understanding of the monastic life as lived by Holy Cross. Novices in OHC are expected to devote adequate time to the study of the rules of the order as well as to Holy Scripture and the spiritual writings both classical and contemporary. He also serves as director of communications for the priory. Br. Charles is an honorary assistant at the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., in Toronto where he shares in the liturgical ministry of the church as well as giving informal counsel to several people. He enjoyed a holiday in New York both at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, and with the Sisters of the Community of the Holy Spirit in New York City.



**BR. REGINALD-MARTIN** was appointed by the area bishop to serve as her lay administrator and pastoral leader for St. James Church, Brampton. He is novice master for our work in Canada and is spiritual director for several people. Additionally he serves the diocese as a NCD (National Church Development) coach, as a Parish Selection Committee coach, and as a consultant to the Momentum Planning Committee for curriculum development - Momentum is responsible for continuing education for newly ordained Toronto Diocesan clergy. He is also a consultant to both the Diocesan Multicultural Committee and the Development & Stewardship Committee. He will lead a retreat for the clergy of the Trent-Durham area October 10 - 11. This summer, Br. Reginald had the sad responsibility of arranging for the funeral of his only sister, Rosalind Cade.



**BR. DAVID BRYAN** continues his pastoral ministry at St. Hilda's Church, St. James Cathedral, and St. Barnabas Church. He is chaplain to the Sisters of the Church and vice president of CAROA. After seven years he has "retired" from the Archbishop's Committee on Healing. Brother Christian served that committee before Br. David's term. Both were honoured to have been part of that wonderful ministry in the Diocese. David Bryan has done some parochial supply work during the summer. He enjoyed a short holiday in July with Canon Anthony Cayless and Mrs. Suzette Cayless, a Companion of the order. He and the other members of the executive committee of CAROA attended a meeting in August in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania at the Community of Celebration. He also helped to organize the annual meeting of CAROA held at West Park in May.



# Associate Stories



JON COWANS

**FIVE YEARS AGO**, looking to deepen and discipline my Christian faith, I visited the Priory of the Holy Cross to inquire about joining as an Associate. I was greeted at the door by the Prior, Br. David Hoopes, who immediately put me at ease by graciously providing tea and patiently answering my many questions. The anticipated severe and foreboding trappings of monasticism were entirely absent at the Priory. Instead an open, inviting, holy yet unsanctimonious atmosphere prevailed. As Br. David proceeded to explain the Rule, the Benedictine Order's emphasis on moderation within the central acts of prayer, work and study proved to be a winning combination, and I asked to join as an Associate.

After the mandatory period of discernment, I was admitted in a simple but moving rite on the Feast of the Pentecost, 2012. Since then I have striven to maintain the Associate's Rule by saying the Daily Office, attending Mass on Sundays and Feast Days, and contributing to the financial support of the Community. I have also worked with Br. Leonard to collect and send badly needed theological texts to St Nicholas Seminary in Ghana.

I enjoy attending the Priory's own services on a regular basis, fraternizing with the brothers and their assortment of interesting guests, and enjoying the fine meals and conversation generously offered at table following the liturgy.

From 2012 to 2017, the spiritual support of the Priory helped me to follow a course of theological studies at Trinity College Faculty of Divinity in Toronto. Brothers David, Leonard and Charles were graciously on hand in May of this year when I received a Diploma in Theology at the Trinity Convocation. Thank you, brothers, for this, but more especially for the important work you do in the churches and parishes of Toronto and the GTA!



**IN MY EARLY** twenties I was struggling to find a “spiritual home” in the Anglican Church, or at least the Anglican Church as I had experienced it. As we all know, our twenties can be a time of searching, questioning, and making mistakes. I was doing all of that.

In my teenage years I was fortunate to have been introduced to the life and writings of Thomas Merton. This introduction to the Christian contemplative tradition was bearing fruit in me, and I started to explore the monastic life. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that there were Anglican monastic orders – something that surprises a lot of people, even in our own pews! My rector provided me with a directory of North American Anglican religious orders, and that is where I discovered The Order of the Holy Cross. I wrote a letter to the Priory in Toronto, and was answered by Brother Christian, who included some beautiful postcards depicting life at the house in Santa Barbara. (The handwriting was difficult to decipher, but the images spoke for themselves!)

I made my first retreat at Holy Cross Priory in the midst of that time of searching, questioning, and mistake-making, and as I recall, at an especially low point emotionally. I was heartened by the warmth of the brothers, and fell in love with the monastic rhythm of prayer, especially the praying of the psalms. I recall one particularly powerful and healing moment during the Eucharist, when I heard these words from the First Letter of Peter: “You were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.” The scripture was mirroring my experiences and emotions exactly.

I left that retreat with a more solid rootedness in prayer and a sense of God’s presence in my life. In the years that followed I made regular retreats to the Priory, and was admitted as an Associate. I waffled over the years about exploring more intentionally a vocation to the monastic and/or ordained life. Some years passed (sometimes pushing away these questions, and other times engaging with them), and in time I came to be married to my incredibly supportive wife Leslie, who was instrumental in gently guiding me into divinity



THE REV'D  
MATTHEW KIESWETTER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

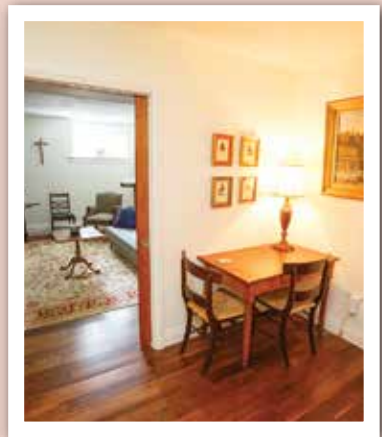
# Renovation Update

We are thankful to report that our basement renovation has been completed and is everything that we hoped it would be and more. Our new guest suite is now available for use! Already a number of guests have taken advantage of this new space, and their comments indicate that, as hoped, the space is flexible enough to meet a variety of specific needs. This purpose built, fully self-contained suite offers a safe, quiet place for rest, retreat, or study for clergy and all those in need of refreshment. A suggested donation for the suite is \$100 per day. In addition, we have two small guest bedrooms on the second floor with a suggested donation of \$75 per day. Breakfast and dinner is included for all guests. (Donations are negotiable in case of need.)

We are most grateful for your faithful and generous gifts, both those designated for this renovation, and general gifts to enable us to maintain our guest accommodations, our priory, and our daily life together as brothers of the Holy Cross.

*"The newly renovated guest suite at Holy Cross Priory, Toronto, is warm and comfortable. It was a wonderful experience of joy to spend time there for refreshment and renewal during my recent transition from one parish to another."*

THE REV'D CANON MARK KINGHAN



OUR NEWLY RENOVATED GUEST SUITE. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON.



ASSOCIATES GATHERED FOR HOLY CROSS DAY 2017. PHOTO BY BR. CHARLES.

## ADVENT QUIET DAY

EACH YEAR THE BROTHERS CO-HOST WITH ST. JOHN'S, WEST TORONTO, AND ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELD, A QUIET DAY DURING ADVENT. THIS IS A MARVELLOUS WAY TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS, AND TAKE A PRAYERFUL REST FROM THE BUSYNESS OF THE SEASON.

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 9, 2017, 9:30am-2:30pm

**WHERE:** St. Martin-in-the-Fields,  
151 Glenlake Avenue, Toronto

**RETREAT LEADER:** The Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz, Primate,  
The Anglican Church of Canada

**DONATION:** \$10 suggested (lunch included)

**RSVP:** Please email [info@ohcpriory.com](mailto:info@ohcpriory.com)

**Love must act  
as light must shine  
and fire must burn.**

- Fr. Huntington OHC

---

## **Worship Times**

**7:00am**    **Matins**

**8:00am**    **Eucharist**

(TUESDAY-SATURDAY AT 8:00AM)

**11:30am**   **Diurnum**  
**(Midday Prayer)**

**5:00pm**    **Vespers**

**7:30pm**    **Compline**

\* MONDAY IS THE BROTHERS' "GRACE DAY"  
(DAY OF REST)

---



### **Holy Cross Priory**

204 High Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 2S6

416-767-9081 | [info@ohcpriory.com](mailto:info@ohcpriory.com) | [www.ohcpriory.com](http://www.ohcpriory.com)

Holy Cross Priory is a monastery of the Order of the Holy Cross, a community founded in 1884 by The Reverend James Otis Sargent Huntington to provide a specifically North American expression of monasticism for Anglicans. The Order has had a ministry in Canada since the 1890s. The Priory was founded in 1973.

HOLY CROSS PRIORY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY #119248946RR0001  
DONATIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGH CANADAHELPS.ORG TO "HOLY CROSS PRIORY, CANADA"