

# Our Lady of Holy Cross College

**OUR LADY OF HOLY CROSS COLLEGE**

**JUNE 3, 2010**

Our Lady of Holy Cross College is a Catholic, non-residential, four-year, graduate College that is composed of a diverse student body. It is situated on the Westbank of New Orleans on 30 acres of property. The College offers undergraduate and graduate degrees for 1,390 students with 52 full-time faculty and 30 (FTE) part-time faculty. In addition to the accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the College is nationally accredited in all its major areas, including education, business, counseling, nursing, and allied health.

The College is about to celebrate its 94<sup>th</sup> year of existence. It began as a “normal school” primarily serving the educational needs of the Marianites who worked diligently to educate many students in the New Orleans area. In the late 1950s, the administration applied for national accreditation and continued to emphasize teacher education.

The College is dedicated to the Marianite/Holy Cross tradition and mission. Its mission statement emphasizes transcendental values of truth, goodness, beauty, and the Marianite mission stresses presence, compassion and service. The faculty and staff work to be servant leaders. They assist the students to acknowledge their dreams and become servant leaders themselves. The College’s commitment to mission was highlighted by the commendations that the SACS visiting team gave the College at the end of their recent visit. The College was commended for its adherence to mission in all its activities and the ministry of hospitality to all at the College and the larger community.

The mission of the College is to serve the New Orleans community. The faculty and staff’s role is summarized with the message: “We are servant leaders who inspire our students to acknowledge their dreams.” It is used in every contract and communication throughout the campus.

Courses are offered throughout the year, six days a week, day and evening, to students between the ages of 18 and 70, from all economic and social sectors of the community. Over 30% of the student body is classified as living below the poverty level and over 90% receive financial aid.

The College is very affordable and accessible. It has one of the lowest tuitions for a four-year/graduate, Catholic higher education institution in the United States. This is made possible since the College does not have a debt service and works hard to raise funds toward its growth. Over the past five years, its endowment has grown fourfold. The College has also raised capital to enhance its facilities, such as: science and nursing laboratories, new offices for technology, a Center for Teaching and Learning, and a Center for Admissions and Financial Aid.

The College is financially stable even without any funding from FEMA. The College did this by using its income efficiently and by applying for grants from local and national funding organizations. For example, the College applied for matching funds of eight hundred thousand dollars from the state which resulted in a two million dollar endowed Presidential Chair.

The College recently published a statement on Catholic Intellectual Tradition. It is the product of a three-year investigation into the Catholic character of the College. In order to implement it, the College initiated a process of integrating the principles of the Tradition into every course and program in accordance with the mission and vision. This process is directed and monitored by a Catholic Intellectual Tradition Center Team, comprised of a cross section of faculty, staff and students. The College offers programs through its theology and education departments which benefit the Catholic schools in the area. For example, the Archdiocesan Teachers Institute (ATI) program gives reduced tuition to all Catholic school teachers. The College also serves the counseling needs of those without insurance through its graduate students in counseling.

The College has initiated several novel administrative structures for collaborative governance and leadership. It has renewed its faculty assembly as well as developed a collaborative process of administrative decision making with six "Center Teams" which represent all major areas of College life.

The College's president is very involved in the state and local community. For example, after the storm, the president was chosen by the Governor to be a member of the renewed state nomination board for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority- East and West. He has been a member of this 17-member board for four years. The president was elected to be the president-elect and then the president of the Conference for Louisiana Colleges and Universities (CLCU) which is comprised of all the state's higher education institutions, both public and private. Under his leadership, this year's Conference entitled, "The Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education in Louisiana," brought every chancellor and president along with major administrators and faculty, to the one-day conference. The Commissioner of the Board of Regents said that it was the most impressive and helpful conference in many years. The president was also elected, at the same time, to be the president for a two-year term of the Board of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) which includes, among others, Tulane, Xavier, and Loyola. He also was named to be the Chair of the Ochsner Health System Board-Westbank after serving on the Board for only one year. Ochsner is a major teaching hospital system of 11 hospitals serving all of Louisiana.

The College has developed institutional partnerships with both private and public institutions. Some of the partnerships are: LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Loyola University's music education program; two bachelor's degree programs with Ochsner Health System; Delgado Community College that has an enrollment of 15,000 students, and almost every hospital and clinic in the local area for its nursing program (which is highly regarded as the best BSN program with a first-time licensing board pass rate of 94%).

In the past five years, the College gave honorary doctorates at its Commencement Exercises to local and national figures such as: Fr. Bryan Hehir, Governor Bobby Jindal, Srs. Marjorie Hebert, MSC, and Laura Melancon, MSC, and the newly appointed, Archbishop Gregory Aymond. It has added to its Board of Regents many new members, such as the past system chancellor of LSU and the president of Children's Hospital.

The College stands firm in its dedication to its Catholic educational mission and to the students of the New Orleans area.