

Faith comes in different forms. This school embraces that.

The sound of the bell pierced through students' headphones in the library and group conversations in the cafeteria, marking the upcoming fourth period. Eyes glanced past the statue of the Holy Family in the Quad and St. Joseph at the center of the prayer garden. Feet pushed past the waves of slow walkers to climb the steps to room 422-Rosalyn Moorhouse's religion class. 14 different Chosen posters decorate the room, including a 26"x38" one in a frame.

Not a second late, Vice President of Campus Life MICHAEL PILAWSKI's voice echoed through the announcement system at 10:50 am. First, the pledge of allegiance. Second, prayer. "Blessed Basil Moreau. Pray for us. Saint Andre Bessette. Pray for us. Ave Crux. Spes Unica."

Since its founding in 1955 by the Brothers of Holy Cross, the school has been a Catholic college-preparatory high school. This catholic identity has greatly influenced campus architecture and opportunities for faith, but it has not limited the diversity of the family formed and celebrated here.

"We want students and families to understand that you don't have to be Catholic to attend. We're roughly about 60 percent Catholic overall, but... whether you're Catholic or Christian, or even if you're non-Christian, that idea of

spiritual growth of prayer, of service, are really important parts of our school community here. I always tell families 'to be honest with you, some of our most spiritual students are students who are not Christian,'" said Simon Raines, Director of Admissions.

A major way that students expressed their faith systems is through affinity groups. Of the school's 14 affinity groups, three are faith-based groups: Muslim, Hindu and Jewish Student Association. Led by NATALIE LAI '06, Director of School Culture and Belonging, affinity groups acted as an outlet for students to be authentic to their faith systems using food, family history, struggles, challenges and successes. Furthermore, affinity groups led the charge during multicultural week in January, inviting the entire student body and educators to learn the intricacies of various cultures and grow as a community.

"It is important to be able to not have to hide any part of who

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Fooksman wraps WILLEHM DUNCAN-HORNING '26 in material known as Tefillin, black leather boxes that Jewish people wrap on their head and hand every day to remind them that God is above them. *art and reference photo by mollyann caulfield*

"ONE MAIN WAY THAT I REMEMBER MY FAITH IS THROUGH MY JEWELRY. I HAVE A JADE BRACELET THAT I WEAR AND A GOLD AND JADE NECKLACE OF GUANYIN, WHO'S A FEMALE BUDDHA. ALSO, A LOT OF THE EVERYDAY THINGS THAT I DO WITH MY FAMILY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN BUDDHIST FAITH SO I DON'T EVER REALLY LOSE SIGHT OF IT."

- CAROLINE LUU '26

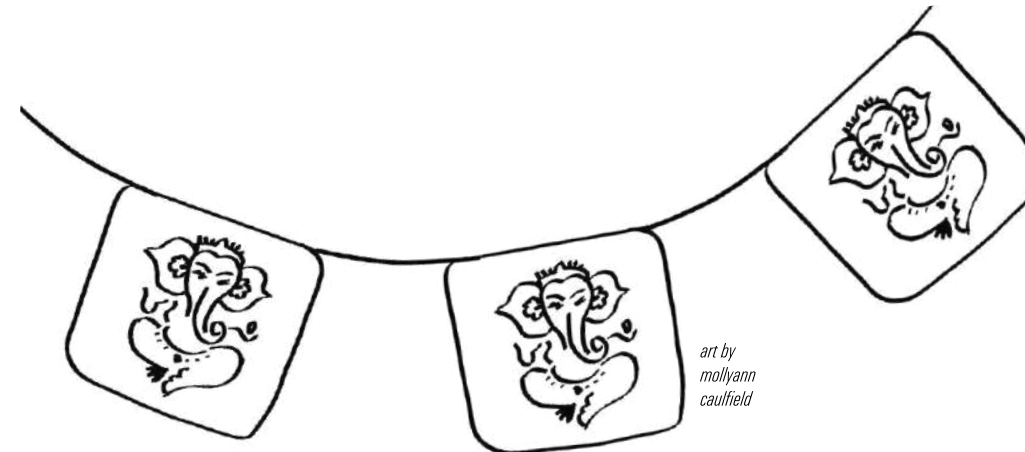


art by mollyann caulfield

"USUALLY WHEN I WRAP IT, I'M JUST PRAYING TO GOD. I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS OF MY LIFE. I WAS THANKING HIM FOR EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD. JUST THANKING GOD FOR EVERYTHING WE HAVE."

- ELI FOOKSMAN '28

OF FAITH



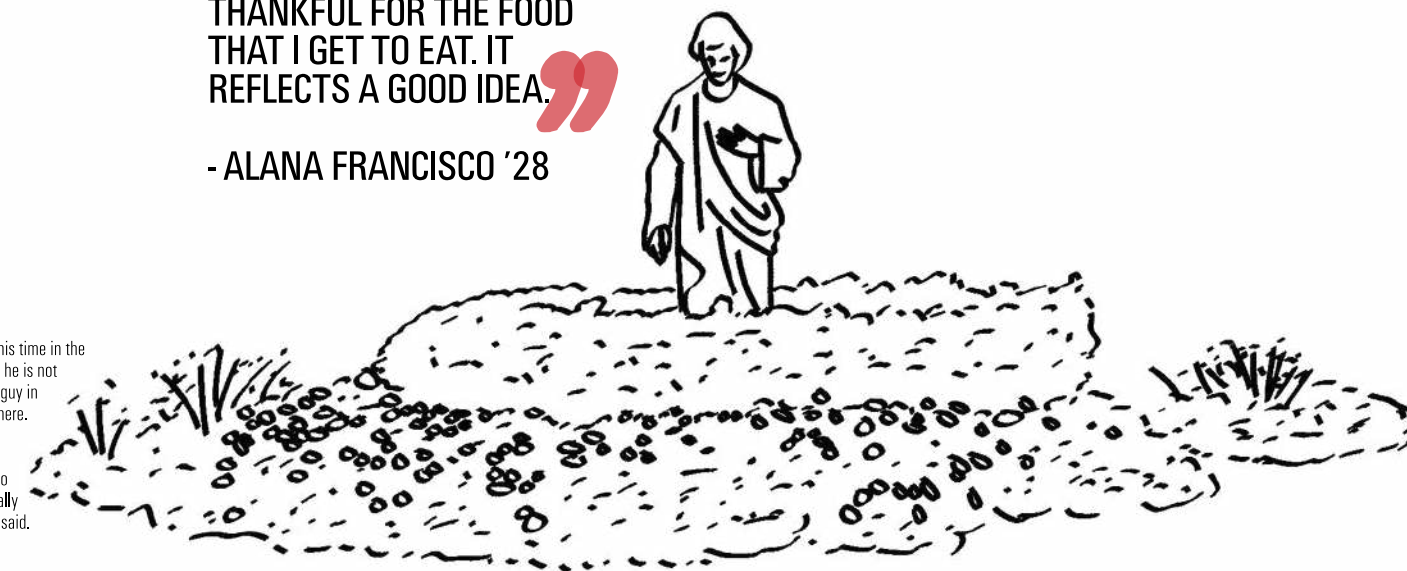
art by mollyann caulfield

"THEY'RE LITTLE SYMBOLS OF GANESH. THOSE TILES ARE COMMONLY SEEN IN A LOT OF INDIAN HOUSEHOLDS OR IN RELIGIOUS PLACES. THEY'RE SYMBOLS OF PROTECTION AND GOOD LUCK AND GOOD VIBES, ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENTS."

- GAURI GOVIL '26

"WHEN I EAT LUNCH IN THE PRAYER GARDEN, I FEEL MORE CLOSE TO GOD AND THANKFUL FOR THE FOOD THAT I GET TO EAT. IT REFLECTS A GOOD IDEA."

- ALANA FRANCISCO '28



COLIN YANG '28 enjoys his time in the prayer garden even though he is not Catholic. "There's this one guy in the middle who's always there. I think he's named Joseph. He never moves. It's crazy. He looks really reflective, so it helps me reflect. He's really chill and a cool guy," Yang said. *art by mollyann caulfield*

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you are, whether that's at school or elsewhere. That's what Saint Francis strives for," Lai said.

Lai tries to make sharing as comfortable as possible. "It takes courage to have that pride in yourself to share, and that's why it's so important to have our school community understand the importance of being with people who don't look like you or who aren't like you," Lai said.

However, students are not confined to experiencing and expressing spirituality in affinity groups. Through its message of "Leaders Inspiring Leaders," the school provided students of different faiths a voice in the school community as immersion leaders, retreatants and council for campus ministry.

"I've created a campus ministry council of students from all different backgrounds and all different levels, from freshmen to seniors. And some of them thought it was a mistake because they're not Catholic. And I said 'no, you're here because I want to talk to non-Catholics too to see what your experience is like and what you don't understand or what's helpful, what's not helpful, or what makes you feel included or not included. You speak for a number of people on campus, not everybody here is Catholic,'" said JODI MIN, Director of Holy Cross Mission and Ministry.

Arguably, the most obvious sign of the school's Catholic upbringing is its influence on curriculum. Religious studies is one of two subjects that requires four years to graduate. Through these classes, students can learn about various faiths. In fact, seniors seven different classes to choose from, including Introduction to Philosophy, Sports and Spirituality and World

Religions.

"Not all the Catholic high schools teach religion all four years, but we do. ...One thing that I really like is that we have different opportunities for religion classes," Raines said.

Not only religion classes that strove to be inclusive and approachable to all students. Take retreats, for example. During the nine-hour-long Ignite Encounter retreat, students discovered and embraced their faith or spirituality through prayer and song. Every school day, a different voice orates the announcements.

"Being included gives you access. Being considered gives you belonging. One says you can come, the other says we want you here. One checks a box, one checks the heart. That difference is everything, because at the end of the day, it's nice when people make room at the last minute, but the people who already had a seat for you, that's love," Lai said.



Holy Hall Pass At the end of the liturgy, Auxiliary Bishop Andres Ligot exits the Burns Gym as the liturgical choir sings "I Send You Out." Ligot visited the school to preside over The Feast of Saint Joseph liturgy. art by mollyann caulfield, reference photo by bethany ma

bet it's a MASS kerpiece

Associate Campus Minister CHRISTOPHER MARDESICH '07 is constantly innovating the intention of school masses.

WHAT IS THE INTENTION OF MASSES?

"This year we're trying to engage the entire student body, which, of course, isn't all Catholic. But the liturgy is one of the ways that we can and do express our Holy Cross charism. And we want it to be engaging for all, not just the Catholics who attend.

WHY DOES THE SCHOOL ONLY HAVE AROUND SIX MASSES EACH YEAR?

"They're about five or six [masses] throughout the year but that's on the surface. ... In fact, if you count the daily masses and the masses that we offer for special events, such as the presidency celebration or weekend events or even our confirmation program, we're having mass quite a lot."

WHAT IS BEING ADDED TO SCHOOL-WIDE MASSES?

"If you notice on the screen too, what we've added is little captions, little notes that help explain why we're singing holy, holy, holy? Why do we bring things up to the altar, like as gifts? And who's getting those gifts? ... We're making an effort to make the liturgy stand out or certain aspects of it and hopefully get you to ask questions and maybe educate anyone, Catholic or non-Catholic, why this liturgy is so important as a Holy Cross Catholic school to celebrate."

NOW and THEN

The Administrators of Campus Ministry compare current religious architecture on campus to the ones in the past.



"The purpose of the chapel is still the same. Religion classes still go in there, and we still have the daily mass. I'd say the one thing that's changed is that in religious life ... we pray something that's called the divine office or the liturgy of the hours, which takes place in the morning and the evening ... I'd say that's not a regular occurrence anymore." - JODI MIN

"We just don't know where [the statue on the left] is. When we did a lot of the construction, we started removing some of the older statues that we had around campus ... The [statue on the right] is of St. Francis handling Christ from the cross. So it brings our patron, St. Francis, into that world of Holy Cross." - DAN QUINN '87



"Featured in the bottom left is Blessed Father Basil Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In the bottom right, we have Mother Mary of the Seven Dolors, the first superior of the Marianites of Holy Cross. Saint Brother Andre Bessette is in the top left, the only Holy Cross brother to be sainted. Finally, in the top right is Father Edward Sorin, who founded the University of Notre Dame." - PHILIP POMPEI '08



photos by dominic so and pulled from vol.11, vol. 25, and vol. 9 yearbooks

SPIRIT

significance

Some students' faiths influence a large part of their life.

"Well, there's eating limitations, you code limitations, like, I can't eat the meat here. I guess in general, I've been raised differently, in a way. In Islam, everyone has to be really respectful of each other, and even with different faith with traditions. Like, the morning prayer or something, I'm still gonna be respectful. ...it's made me a little bit more open to their whole religions, and it's taught me how some religions are really similar and, at the end of the day, religion is a big part of everyone's faith." - MARIAM ALI '29



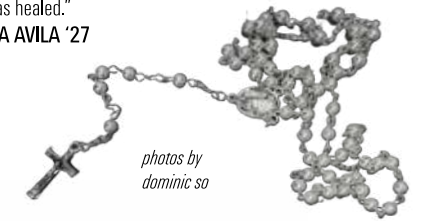
A wall hanging with three surahs, chapters from the Quran, hangs in MONZER MANSOUR'S '28 house. photo provided by monzer mansour

"It's called a sari which was my mom's. It's supposed to be really elegant and pure. Similar to how in different cultures there's celebrations for coming of age, [the sari] was the celebration for me which I've never worn before. ... It was more sentimental cause that was the one that she wore for her, so then we passed it down, and I wanted it to be a tradition. ... Even though I'm Hindu, I started incorporating some aspects of Catholicism into my daily life. Even though I'm not a firm believer of Jesus, I enjoy learning about his practices and stuff in religion and I incorporate some of that into my life." - VANYA PONNUVELU '28



photos by bethany ma

"My parents are both Catholic, and they raised me [to go] to mass every Sunday. I'm really involved in my church, like, reading, live streaming, helping teach Catechism classes. ... I brought a rosary and a statue of our Lady of Fatima. ... In my culture overall, but specifically my family, my grandparents are super devoted to [Fatima] because we believe that through her intercession my mom was saved from having a disease when she was little. The doctor said she'd only live until 18, but my grandparents made a promise to pray. ... The doctors have no explanation for why she was healed." - SOFIA AVILA '27



photos by dominic so

know you're LOVED

Ignite club acts as a community for all spiritualities, not just Catholicism.



MEMBER

"It's really important to have a place for people to explore their faith and grow close to their faith, like make a bond. ... Anyone can come, and they're welcome too. ... It's okay to feel vulnerable, and it's okay to cry whenever you need to cry. You just do that." - NATHALIE BUENDIA '29



CORE

"Here at Ignite, we do our best of serve the faith here in a way that applies to our teenage audience. So at Ignite, a lot of people get intimidated when they think religion. No, this more of a safe place just to come and hang out, learn to celebrate faith, and learn why God is awesome and not a fun-killer." - JOSEPH SANTOS '26



MODERATOR

"As someone who went to a public school, there wasn't really any kind of faith-based organizations. In fact, I always felt looked down upon for being Catholic ... I think it's really important that we have a space on campus for faith. ... Anyone is open to go to [Ignite]. There's no tryout required." - CHELSEA LAGERSTROM



Guitar, Anyone? To transition between fun games and reflective silence. CHRISTOPHER MARDESICH '07 plays the guitar. He played tunes to create an atmosphere for self-reflection during prayer. art by mollyann caulfield, reference photo by dominic so