



# HOLY CROSS SEMINARY

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## **Important Announcement regarding Holy Cross Seminary: Seminarians Relocating**

### **DEVELOPMENT/DIFFICULTY**

Holy Cross Seminary has helped form seminarians from Australia and abroad for the priesthood ever since it was first founded in 1987. Although the community has never been especially numerous, it has long been one of the most diverse Seminaries within the Society. Apart from Australia, we have seen candidates from New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, India, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Fiji, Japan, Papa New Guinea, and China; some even from Europe and the USA. However, the closing of Australia's international borders has rendered it impossible for foreign vocations to enter the country.

Without these foreign vocations, it is unfortunately evident that it will not be possible to maintain the numbers required for the proper structure and formation of a seminary institution. A healthy number for Holy Cross would be 25 seminarians. Ideally, that number would not fall below 15. However, this year our seminary has only 9 candidates for the priesthood. And with current lockdown laws, there is little possibility that these numbers will improve in the near future.

Holy Cross was not able to receive any new foreign candidates for the academic years of 2020 and 2021. The same seems almost certain for 2022. Yet once the number falls below 15, the burden and pressure on those that remain starts to increase exponentially at each departure.

### **DECISION**

The Society's superiors and the Seminary staff have been attentive to this situation for some time. Fr Davide Pagliarani, Superior General of the Society of St Pius X, having consulted his general council and me, the rector, has taken the difficult decision to close the doors of Holy Cross Seminary and to relocate its seminarians to one of the other Seminaries of our Society. Although this sad news will come as a heavy blow to the faithful of Australia and New Zealand, who have always been wonderfully supportive of the Seminary, the superiors' over-riding concern must be for the seminarians themselves and providing them the best conditions possible for their formation and perseverance. Only in this way will the seminarians be able to best serve the faithful as priests in the future.

### **TIMELINE**

The foreseen timeline for this transition is to finish the current academic year and then to integrate our seminarians into another Seminary for the remainder of their studies.

### **APOSTOLATE/FAITHFUL**

The Seminary property and grounds will be assumed by the District of Australia and New Zealand. Nevertheless, it will continue to operate as a pre-seminary and priory; and it will continue uninterrupted its apostolate with the faithful of the Goulburn and Albury regions. Various other activities and apostolates based within this new priory to serve the spiritual needs of the faithful within the District are also under consideration.

### **GRATITUDE & PRAYERS**

By the grace of God, a steady stream of new vocations will one day give rise to a new demand to transform Holy Cross once again into an international Seminary. Until that time, allow me to thank you again for your unstinting support, and I ask you to please continue to support with your prayers our seminarians and brothers who will continue their formation across the ocean.

Fr Robert MacPherson  
Rector