

HOLY CROSS



Holy Cross, West Park,
Ulster County, N. Y.

August 22, 1927.

Dear Associates and Friends:

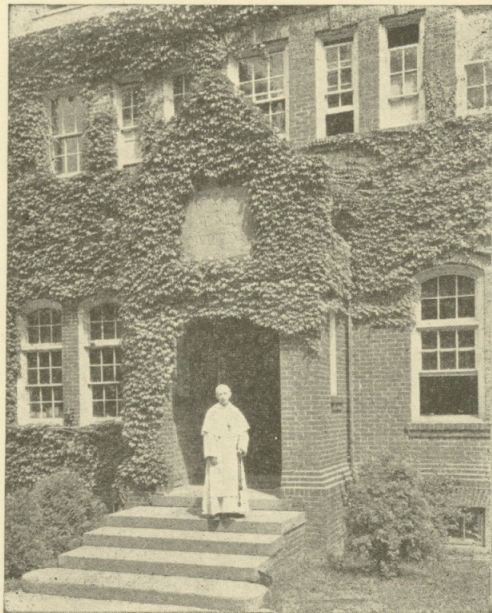
WE come to you now at a time of need. And it is with much confidence that we do so. For our long experience of your generous loyalty is a pledge that you will help us.

Our plea this time is not for our works at a distance,—our schools at Kent and St. Andrew's, or our Mission in Liberia. What we are at present concerned with is that which lies back of these works, that which makes them possible, that which contains the promise of their future. That is the

maintenance of this, the Mother House of our Community here at West Park. For this is really the fount from which all the rest flows, since, no matter what material support these works may receive, the one essential thing is that we should have men to conduct them.

These men must be gathered and tested, developed in their spiritual life, and moulded to the type of our Community.

Kent School is too well known, and ranks too high, to admit of doubt as to its value. Our work in the romantic mountains of the South, — the education of poor boys, descendants of the earlier British colonists,—is also most important. Our Mission in Africa, where we are bringing the light of the Gospel into the darkness of ancient heathendom, makes its own



appeal. Yet it is to the Mother House of the Community that all these works must look for the supply of trained men to carry them forward, and it is here at West Park that the training goes on. At present there are eight men in the novitiate, all of them busily engaged in preparation for their future service. Besides those in the novitiate, there are seventeen men professed under life vows, and two in junior profession (three years), making twenty-seven in all.

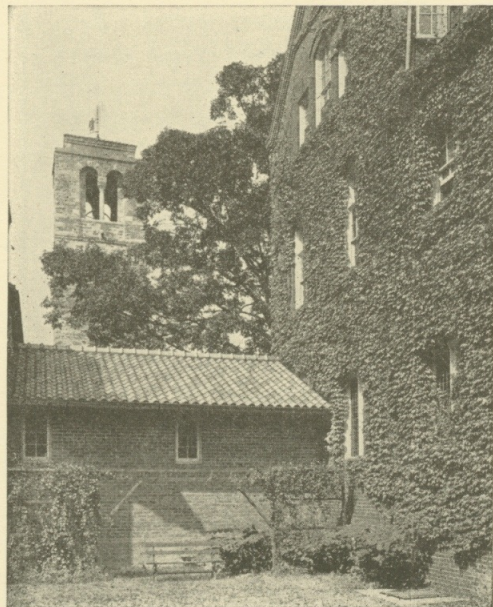
So you will see that Holy Cross is the centre and source of our contribution as a Religious Community.

It is the daily life of prayer and labour that supports those already sent out into the field, and extends our ministrations near or far.

Nor is this all. Not only do we, as a Community vowed to prayer, plead the merits of our Divine Redeemer at our altars every morning, and, in our Offices and Intercessions, supplicate God for the vast needs of the Church and the world, but we open the doors of Holy Cross to a continual stream of those who come here for spiritual help.

This, second only to our life as a Religious Order, was the purpose of this house from the beginning, and it is a purpose that is more and more being accomplished.

In the past year we have had five hundred and thirty guests for longer or shorter visits,—over night at least, in some cases for many weeks. They have come from all directions, and almost all of them with a definite desire



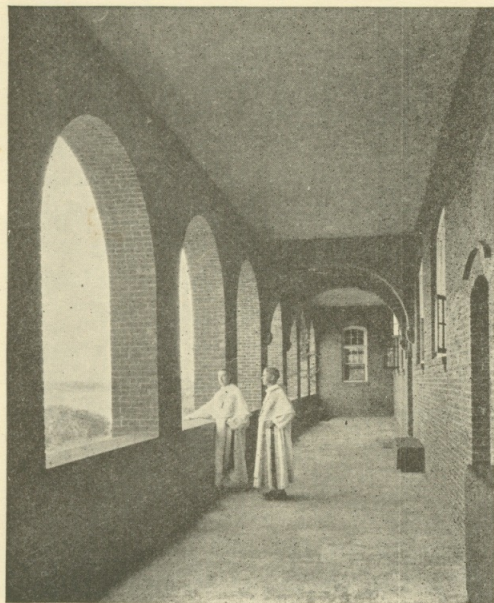
for the opportunity of quiet and devotion which this house affords.

A large number of Retreats have been made here in the past twelve months. Many of these were made by individuals; thirteen Retreats were made by groups of men and of boys.

It is little known, in this country, how extended the Retreat Movement already is in England. There is a House of Retreat in almost every diocese there, in constant use for all sorts of people. We are trying to develop this movement on this side the sea, and to meet it, so far as we can, at Holy Cross. On one week-end recently we had sixty-one men in Retreat, who kept the silence, and spent the time in devotion, most earnestly from Saturday till Monday.

Our guests have come moved by various special aspirations and unselfish aims. One Japanese gentleman spent several weeks here writing a series of pamphlets in defense of the Christian Faith for his fellow-countrymen in Japan. Another, a graduate of Yale University, has just finished a book, calculated to meet present-day difficulties. Six young men were with us for a number of weeks this summer, continuing their studies for the Sacred Ministry.

Again, in earlier times monasteries were regarded as veritable "Cities of Refuge," whither men in distress might flee, sure of a welcome, and sure also of finding consolation and peace within the hallowed walls. Our experience here at Holy Cross convinces us that



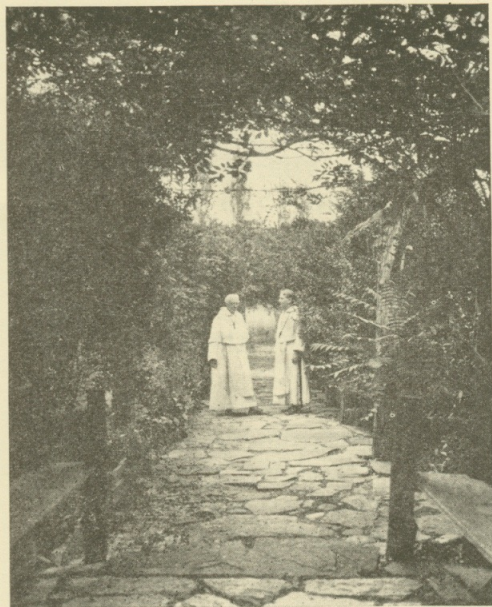
there is need for such havens in our own day. Priests and laymen come to us in times of despondency and discouragement. And they do not come in vain. Here aching hearts have found the comfort which only God can give. Here men have gained strength to begin life again, and with renewed courage, have returned to their tasks in the world.

Three recent letters illustrate what visits to Holy Cross mean to many. A priest in an eastern diocese writes, "I want to thank you in Holy Cross for one of the most helpful visits I have ever been able to make. I feel more like taking up my work and its problems again." A prominent physician in a busy city of the Middle West thus expresses his appreciation:—"As is always the case, the Retreat, and my few days fol-

lowing, have done me much good. I return to my office work improved in vigour. Please let me thank you for another period of physical rest and spiritual refreshment." The president of a bank in an old Carolina town writes:—"I thoroughly enjoyed the night I spent at your house last week. The peace and quietness appealed to me very much, and I like what I saw of your work and life. I hope that I can attend one of your Retreats at some future time."

In asking your help for the maintenance of this house, therefore, we are doing so in the interest of many souls besides ourselves, indeed on behalf of the Church at large.

Most of the buildings here were erected a quarter of a century ago. The work of construction was well done, and



there has been little need for repairs. Now, however, we have had to shingle the roof of the gatehouse and meet other effects of wear and tear.

As to the daily expenses of our household, you can judge something from the fact that there are generally at least thirty people in residence. Frequently there are many more. Most of our vegetables are raised on the farm, but, even so, our grocery bill is necessarily large. You would not have us turn away those who come to us for spiritual help, but their entertainment involves constant expense.

Winters in the Hudson Valley are long and severe. It requires much coal to heat our chapel and living quarters.

Clothing is another item, although our use of a monastic habit curtails the cost.

The general health of our Community is excellent, but something must be allowed for dentist's bills and other medical care.

We have just spent ten days in our own yearly Retreat, and there has come before us, as perhaps never before, the work that our Community seems raised up to do, and we have vowed ourselves afresh to give all we have to it, without stint. We want you to join with us in this renewed effort, and to seal your resolution by some offering to our Lord for the life and work here.

So, dear associates and friends in Christ, we put ourselves in your hands, and ask you to give what you can, much or little.

What we do especially ask is that you will, each and all, send something: for no gift,

