

# Holy Cross on U.S. honor roll

*School recognized for 2nd-straight year*

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ONEIDA - Holy Cross Academy, one of Oneida's two Catholic schools, recently received the honor of being selected as one of the top 50 Catholic secondary schools in America.

With its 49 students in high school and an additional 21 in grades seven and eight, Holy Cross Academy is a repeat honoree from last year and a repeat leader in the category of civic education, according to the press release.

After last year's program was so successful, this year's Catholic High School Honor Roll continues to serve as a resource for students, parents and benefactors in their choice of an educational institution, according to the press release.

The Honor Roll promotes quality Catholic secondary education by recognizing the top 50 Catholic schools in the nation.

"It is important to highlight "the accomplishments of schools that are contributing in exemplary ways to the moral and intellectual formation of their students," said the Rev. Bernard O'Connor, president of DeSales University and advisory board member of the Honor Roll.

To find the top 50 schools, surveys were sent to every Catholic high school in the country.

Responses that demonstrated strength in academics, Catholic identity and civic education were key to being placed on the Honor Roll list.

"The overall attitudes and convictions of the school's leaders in these three categories, as well as the books being used in particular courses, the activities of students, and the averages of PSAT and SAT scores indicated a rigorous education which prepares students for fruitful vocations in politics, business, the Church and society," according to the press release.

"It's a special recognition for Holy Cross, especially our being such a small school and a rather young school," said Margaret Miller, administrative advisor of Holy Cross Academy.

After receiving the award last year, Miller decided to apply for the honor again this year. She had to fill out a survey about how the school teaches history, government and economics and how the students respond to those lessons and the activities undertaken in connection with the lessons, Miller said.

"Catholic identity is one of the areas that they look at," said Miller.

So she also had to explain the types of books used to teach it and how students responded "The answers we gave were the kinds of things that they were looking for."