

10-21-2010

# A Vigil of Prayer and Public Witness

Chaplain's Office

Follow this and additional works at: [http://crossworks.holycross.edu/lgbtqia\\_archive](http://crossworks.holycross.edu/lgbtqia_archive)

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Commons](#), and the [Social History Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Chaplain's Office, "A Vigil of Prayer and Public Witness" (2010). *LGBTQIA Archive*. Paper 3.  
[http://crossworks.holycross.edu/lgbtqia\\_archive/3](http://crossworks.holycross.edu/lgbtqia_archive/3)

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the LGBTQIA at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in LGBTQIA Archive by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

*Exchange of Sign of Peace*

*Closing Prayer ~ Thomas Landy  
Director, Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture*

*After the final blessing and recessional, we ask that  
we depart from this vigil in a reflective, respectful,  
respectful silence.*

*A Vigil of Prayer and Public  
Witness*

*In Solidarity With the Gay,  
Lesbian, Bisexual, and  
Transgender Community*

*Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2010  
Mary Chapel  
College of the Holy Cross*

*5:30 PM*

**Opening Prayer ~ John Savard, S.J.**

Rector Jesuit Community, Assistant Chaplain,  
Office of the College Chaplains

**Community Confession (please read together)**

We confess to you Almighty God that we have sinned;  
through our thoughts and in our words; through what  
we have done and what we have failed to do.

We confess that we have not always been brothers and  
sisters to one another.

We confess that our own fear has been an obstacle to  
our standing in solidarity with one another, that our  
ignorance has caused others pain, that our tolerance of  
jokes, stereotypes, and slurs has left some among us  
feeling unsafe and unwelcome.

We confess that our own silence strengthens the voices  
of hatred and fear.

We ask you, O God, to have mercy on us and forgive us  
our sins through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Scripture Reading ~ Helen Whall**

Professor, English Department

**Witness Reflections:**

Jacqueline Peterson, Vice President for Student  
Affairs & Dean of Students

Marybeth Kearns-Barrett, Interim Director, Office  
of the College Chaplains

Jeff Godowski, '13

Matt Harper, '11

Thomas Landy, Director, Center for Religion,  
Ethics, and Culture

**Renewal of Commitment ~ (please read  
together)**

Compassionate God,

We are here to give ourselves to you and your people.  
It is through what we are and do that others will come  
to know you.

We are here to bring peace to those who suffer, and  
healing to those in need.

We are here to witness to the world,

That our Holy Cross community will not tolerate  
hatred, ignorance or irrational fear.

In a particular way today, we stand in solidarity with  
our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender sisters and  
brothers, knowing that the benchmark for what kind of  
community we are, is measured by the wellbeing of the  
most vulnerable among us.

God, Parent of the poor and oppressed, we ask for your  
help. You have shown us how to be faithful in the  
midst of persecution.

You have taught us to become sight for the blind,  
voices for those who cannot speak, and hands for those  
who need to be lifted up.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.