Josh Hauser

Holy Cross and the Natural World

I really do believe that Holy Cross is deeply connected with the natural world. Just from a brief walk around the campus one can see that nature is just as important as any other thing that builds this college. Everything from all types of trees, to flowers, to animals, to fields, to so many other natural things can be found on this campus. I also think that Holy Cross is definitely natural space. Yes, there are many buildings, but I think the planners left as much nature around their architecture as they deemed possible. Although our campus is very connected with the natural world now, it was a lot more natural in its beginning years.

Probably the most interesting thing that I thought Father K. talked about was the Irish workers. He said that kids would come from Ireland and work when they were around the ages of 15 to 17. He said that they would work on the campus until they were old enough to go out in the world and find a better job to provide for their family. Father K. also said that Holy Cross only used the milk that they got from their cows. Holy Cross also used to grow its own fruits and vegetables. Holy Cross also used to be all natural and did not have any electricity. I found it very interesting and actually a little humorous that there was only a light switch on each floor when they finally did get electricity. I

*It is true that many plants and animals can be found living on the campus. What is your evidence for saying “just as important,” though? That seems too strong to me. Also, isn’t there a distinction between nature for man’s sake and nature for its own sake? In our campus arboretum, trees are memorials to people associated with the college. So they are highlighted and displayed for our contemplation. Is that like a natural forest where trees have to compete with each other and with undergrowth for space and sunlight? Nothing in a natural forest is quite as manicured as our campus.*

*I’m not sure you could equate “all natural” with no electricity even in the early 1900s.*

found it very funny that the floor master had control to this switch and once he was tired it was lights out.

I also think that the way Holy Cross was built has meaning in itself. I think that the architect built it on top of the hill for a reason. With the college on the top of the hill it is something to be admired and looked up at. It is almost like a goal that one can reach only if they work extremely hard. The college overlooks Worcester and from an outside it may be the first thing noticed. This shows that the college is one of the most important things in the city of Worcester.

*Josh,*

*Your writing is generally good. The major comment I have is the one above regarding the distinction between “nature for man’s sake” and “nature for its own sake.” Take a look at the campus again with that in mind.*

*I think you are definitely on to something here regarding the physical setting of the campus on the hillside. In your last sentence “one of the most important things” sounds a little presumptuous though. I think you mean to say something more like “one of the major institutions.”*