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## Holy Cross alumni to get national award from Cardinal Newman Society

The Cardinal Newman Society, a national organization focused on supporting Catholic colleges and universities in the development of their religious identity, has selected Victor J. Melfa of Westboro to receive its 2002 Ex corde Ecclesiae Award for significant contributions to the renewal of Catholic higher education.

"Ex corde Ecclesiae" is Latin for "heart of the Church" and is the title of a 1990 document issued by Pope John Paul II to set guidelines for Catholic colleges and universities.

The "Ex corde Ecclesiae" award is presented annually at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to honor individuals with the vision, determination and leadership to create strong Catholicity in colleges and universities. This year's award will be presented on Nov. 9. Other individuals receiving awards include Thomas Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza and Jesuit Father Joseph Fessio, chancellor of Ave Maria University.

Mr. Melfa is CEO and owner of The Training Associates Corp., a national provider of technology trainers to leading information technology training centers. The firm has its headquarters in Shrewsbury.

"Vic is a model for other alumni of Catholic colleges who are concerned that changes during the past 40 years have produced dissenting faculties, declining academic standards, and student behavior that is far removed from Christian living," said Patrick Reilly, founder and president of the Cardinal

Newman Society.

"His activism is effective because he has a genuine love for his alma mater,



Victor J. Melfa

a respectful demeanor toward Holy Cross leaders, and an unflinching resolve to ensure that his college's Catholic identity is not trampled upon from within."

Mr. Melfa founded the Holy Cross Cardinal Newman Society in May as an independent association of Holy Cross College alumni and other interested parties. The association was formed following a mail campaign by other alumni designed to convince college administrators that significant revisions in the core curriculum were necessary. What has become known as the "Letter from Four Alumni" was mailed to more than 10,000 Holy Cross graduates and received thousands of positive responses and financial contributions. The

society actively seeks reforms at Holy Cross College including a core curriculum rooted in Catholic theology and philosophy, a majority of Catholic faculty, theologians agreeing not to teach heresy, and an end to college support of immoral sexual and homosexual activities.

"Especially in the midst of the priest-sex scandals, Catholic colleges should be leading the way in the New Evangelization of the Church and society," Mr. Melfa said. "Holy Cross, as the premier boutique 'liberal arts Jesuit Catholic college', should be turning out the many needed lay and religious leaders to proclaim, explain and defend the full truth of our Roman Catholic faith."

"I am doing this because I love my faith and loved my Catholic Jesuit education at the Cross, and because I have been upset over the years with the changes I noticed," Melfa said. "I believe that if we, as Holy Cross alumni, let this continue without exposing and attempting to correct it, we are just as guilty as the college."

Mr. Melfa received a B.S. in Physics from The College at Holy Cross in 1957.