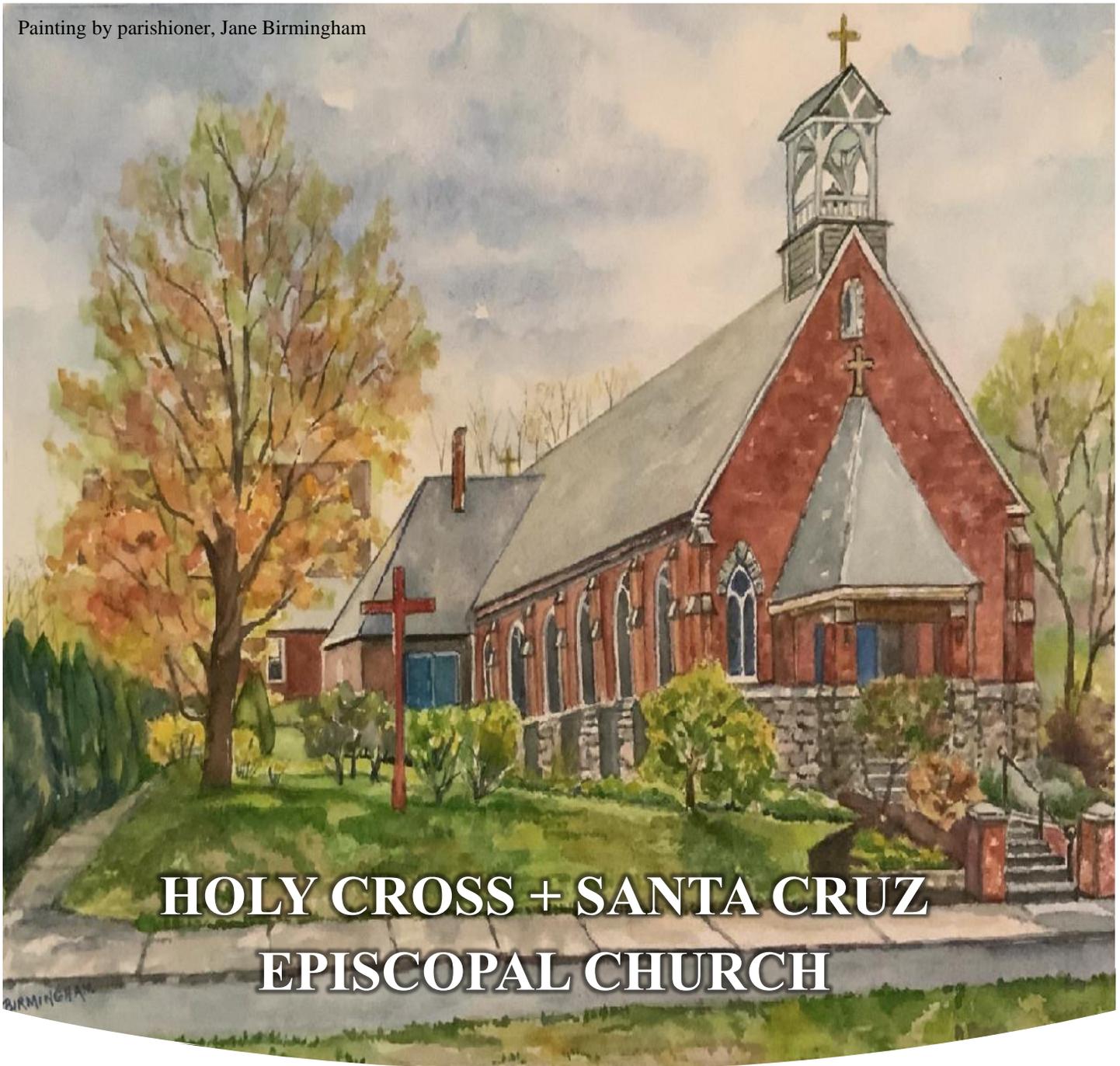


Painting by parishioner, Jane Birmingham



# HOLY CROSS + SANTA CRUZ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## PARISH PROFILE

## Table of Contents

<b>HOLY CROSS + SANTA CRUZ EPISCOPAL CHURCH.....</b>	<b>2</b>
OUR MISSION.....	2
OUR VISION.....	2
OUR GOALS.....	3
OUR HISTORY.....	4
WHERE WE ARE LOCATED.....	4
OUR LITURGY.....	5
FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	6
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.....	9
FINANCES AND PLEDGING.....	10
INTO THE FUTURE - OUR CHALLENGES.....	10
INTO THE FUTURE - OUR HOPES.....	11
TOMORROW.....	11
OUR NEXT PRIEST.....	12

# HOLY CROSS + SANTA CRUZ EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Where selfishness is the norm, selflessness is our call. Where conflict is the norm, forgiveness and reconciliation are our mission. Where divisiveness is the norm, unity is our ministry. Where exclusion is the norm, radical inclusion is our vocation. Where evil confronts us, holy resistance is our work of love.

## OUR MISSION

Holy Cross + Santa Cruz is a faith community that proclaims the Gospel's call to bring the light of hope in Jesus Christ to all people through praise and prayer, fellowship, and good works. We strive to promote justice, peace, and love in our lives and community.



## OUR VISION

We strive to be one congregation that worships in two languages but otherwise endeavors to share all other aspects of our common life.



Celebración a las Virgenes de Juquila y Guadalupe

Summertime Pool Party

## OUR GOALS

- To bear witness to our faith in and love for Jesus Christ through worship and active service to our parish and wider community.
- To deepen our fellowship and grow our membership.
- To nourish the spiritual well-being of our congregation through the celebration of the Sacraments and the preaching and study of the Word.
- To sustain a thriving Christian education program that includes Sunday School and adult Bible Study.
- To continue our community outreach programs and to expand these as needed.
- To use our facilities to meet the artistic, educational, and recovery needs of the community.



## OUR HISTORY

Holy Cross began as and continues to be an Episcopal Church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

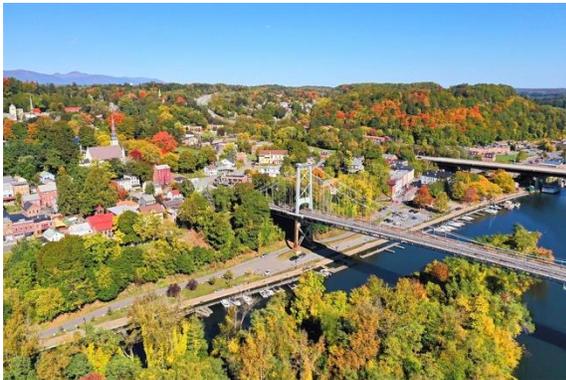
The church building was consecrated in 1892 and expanded in 1905. The parish hall was added in 1915. Significant renovations to the interior of the church were made in the 1920s and again in 2020. Key features include: a small chapel now dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Crucifix above the nave, two side altars dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and Sacred Heart, multiple stained-glass windows, and a magnificent high altar with a triptych depicting The Exaltation of the Holy Cross including statues of key figures from the Oxford Movement.

Father Stanley Dean, rector from 1939 to 1955 always had a pot of soup or stew on his stove in the rectory from which he fed the hungry, some of whom had hopped off the freight trains running near Broadway. Later, parish outreach included St. Simon's Sit Down, which was staffed with volunteers from Holy Cross and the wider community and served lunch on weekends to about 75 people.

In 2006, Santa Cruz was founded by Father Frank Wallner to minister in Spanish to the Latino community in Kingston. In 2013, the entire Holy Cross + Santa Cruz parish voted unanimously to become one church that worships in two languages while sharing as many responsibilities and activities as possible. Most recently (2017), Holy Cross + Santa Cruz became a founding member of the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network, and continues to play a vital role in the organization.

## WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

Kingston, New York, is located between the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains. New York City is 90 miles to the south, and Albany, the state's capital, is 60 miles to the north.



Nearby, Minnewaska State Park, the Shawangunk Mountain Range, and the Mohonk Preserve offer four seasons of beautiful outdoor activities.

Kingston, Ulster County, and the greater Hudson Valley area make up a diverse region rich in culture, history, educational institutions, employment opportunities, and recreational activities.



Kingston ranks high in number of artists per capita and cultural resources available to the community.

The rectory is a 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house, with a fenced-in yard and garage, located one mile from the church.

## OUR LITURGY

At Holy Cross + Santa Cruz, the source and summit of our common life in the Spirit is our weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist, where the enduring sacrifice of Christ is made present and effective in our lives. Eucharistic worship at Holy Cross + Santa Cruz is both deeply traditional and genuinely contemporary. It is true to our apostolic roots, expressed in Reformation simplicity and open to the call of the twenty-first century. All baptized persons who discern the Eucharist to be a sharing in the body and blood of the risen Christ, are invited to join in the reception of Holy Communion.

Our Sunday liturgy, typically a sung service, embraces Christ's presence as a forgiving, loving, and healing one. Our priest wears traditional vestments, we use incense when appropriate, and we ring bells at significant moments during the Mass. Our priest is supported by two acolytes and two lay Eucharistic ministers.

Teams of parishioners serving as lectors and ushers are organized and scheduled by a volunteer. Bilingual services are held at least once every quarter, when the two languages of English and Spanish come together in a shared service. Afterward, a potluck supper is enjoyed.

Music is an integral part of our liturgy and is an active ministry with the choir supporting Sunday worship, holidays, and pastoral services in a devoted way.



Holy Week



Quinceañera



Bilingual Eucharist



Choir and Organist

## FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Opportunities for fellowship, ministry, and community outreach at Holy Cross + Santa Cruz are broad. Parishioners can be as involved as they would like to be, ranging from volunteering several hours a week for our community efforts, or spending some time at coffee hour after the services. Examples include:

- Acolytes – Serving on the altar along with the priest and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, acolytes are invaluable in their assistance. The group includes a growing youth population.
- Altar Guild – The altar guild prepares our church for weekly services and any additional services when needed. This includes care of the altar linens, sacred vessels, and vestments for clergy and acolytes.



- Choir – Led by an extraordinary organist and choir director, the choir practices weekly and sounds magnificent, with organ and piano music. Overheard recently, “I joined this church because you like to sing here.”
- Coffee Hour – The coffee hour takes place right after the 10:00 a.m. service and is co-hosted by two families each week. Perhaps a future coffee hour will be in-between both services (the English and the Spanish) so that visits can overlap sharing food together.
- Garden Committee – Faithful gardeners help keep our gardens in shape. Based on busy schedules, each volunteer offers help as their time allows. Currently we have 5 gardeners and a building and grounds person who keep things tidy and looking nice.



- Kingston Interfaith Council – Continuing our parish commitment to social justice, Holy Cross + Santa Cruz reinvigorated the dormant Council of Churches to become the Kingston Interfaith Council (KIC), seven years ago. With over 60 representatives from local faith groups and parish members, the KIC meets monthly and is committed to lending their collective moral voices to the betterment of the local community. Holy Cross + Santa Cruz has taken a leadership role in hosting the meetings and supporting the agenda which includes

safe and affordable housing, community mental health, interfaith celebrations of gratitude, climate change and green space education, fundraising for social and educational causes, and gifting. KIC also meets with and hosts community leaders and candidates for office. Social justice remains our focus.



Anti-Racism Rally 2019



Interfaith Thanksgiving 2019

- Ladies' Night Out – A long standing event coordinated by a parish member, the evening helps to bring women of the church together in a social setting each month, usually at a local restaurant or in a parishioner's home.



- Sister Parish / Burundi Outreach – Born out of the work of the Global Mission Commission, a sister church relationship was established in 2019 with several churches within the Episcopal Diocese in Gitega, Burundi. Together, we have prayed for each other, supported projects financially through grants, donations, and partnerships, and strengthened our bonds with one another across the globe. We are fortunate to be able to maintain this friendship, and to mutually support each other with our time, talent, treasure, and prayer.



**Dear Holy Cross/Santa Cruz,**

*Greetings from Gitega in the name of the Lord.*

*I believe you're enjoying Easter Season.*

*I am writing to express my heartfelt thanks for your contribution to our ministry of Church Planting to which you raised and sent funds for the roof of one newly Planted Churches at Marisa. With the Funds you sent we were able to purchase 40 iron sheets as part of the needed roofing materials.*

*We are happy now that the roofing of the Church is complete as you we see it the photos attached.*

*Please express our thankfulness to all those who made contribution.*

**May God bless you abundantly,  
The Rt. Rev. Aime' Joseph Kimararungu  
Diocesan Bishop  
Diocese of Gitega  
Anglican Church of Burundi  
P.o.Box 23 Gitega-Burundi  
Phone number: (0257) 22 40 22 47  
(+257) 79 925 370**



- Soap Closet – The soap closet is a ministry that offers soap, hygiene products, and diapers one day of the month to people in need. Donations come from parishioners and outside resources.
- Sunday School – Sunday School started again after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. Younger children are instructed using the “Godly Play” curriculum, and older children follow the “Lesson

Plans that Work” from the National Episcopal Church. Parents are encouraged to sit in on a class if they desire. Between our Latino and Anglo members, we have about 35 children.

- Thrift Shop – the thrift shop was started over 25 years ago by two devoted parishioners as an outreach to the larger community. It provides essential clothing and household goods at little or no cost, based on the level of perceived need. The prices are set to serve those who manage their lives on a limited budget. Funds from sales help pay for the church’s operating expenses, and donations come abundantly from many sources.
- Ulster Immigrant Defense Network – in a vigorous response to the needs of Ulster County’s growing immigrant and asylum-seeking populations, the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network (UIDN) was created in 2017 by Holy Cross + Santa Cruz. Along with several other faith communities, it established a Statement of Conscience reflecting “our shared tradition of audacious hospitality” and worked toward providing support and establishing Kingston as a sanctuary city. The group continues to expand and is a robust organization with numerous volunteers, as well as faith-based and secular affiliates. Our members, both Anglo and Latino, participate in what has become a primary mission of this church. Holy Cross + Santa Cruz remains the physical headquarters for UIDN office staff, Wednesday free markets, and other supports as we can provide. UIDN provides help with household needs including food, clothing, furniture, school supplies, and emergency financial aid; assists individuals who want to get a driver’s license; provides rent and utilities assistance; provides information and referrals for legal support, healthcare, social services, time-sensitive problems, and more through our telephone helpline; responds to ICE actions; supports schools, students, and families with education information and advocacy; provides case management for time-sensitive problems that fall outside the work of other teams; arranges transportation and/or accompaniment for health care and school-related appointments, court appearances, ICE check-ins, and other official meetings; and more. UIDN currently serves and supports over 450 families in our community.



UIDN food distribution

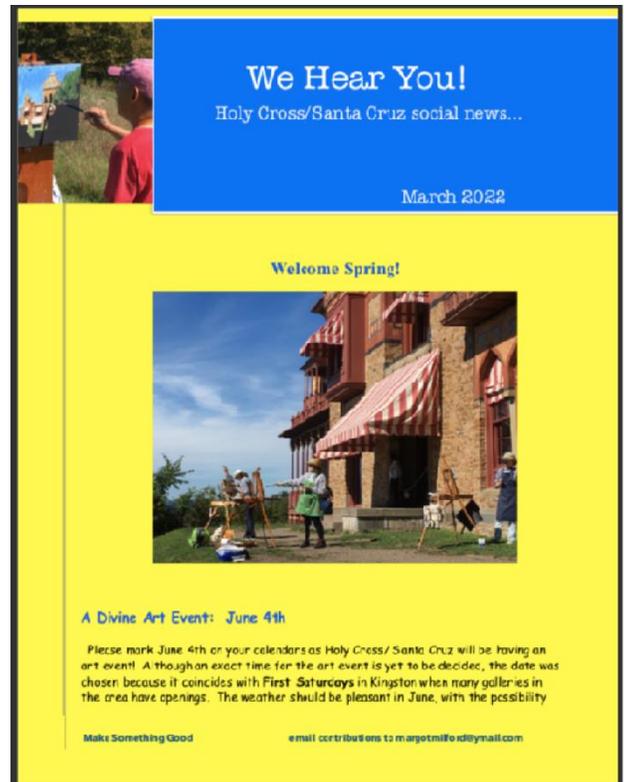


Holy Cross + Santa Cruz Thrift Shop



UIDN Mercado

- “We Hear You” Newsletter – a monthly social newsletter was created in response to COVID-19 isolation in the month of May 2020. With contributions from parishioners and outside sources, the newsletter has grown in popularity featuring: Parishioner Profiles, Book Reviews, Hobby Enthusiasts, UIDN updates, Poems, Stories, Articles, and Artwork. The emphasis stays on social aspects to maintain and build fellowship.
- Holy Cross + Santa Cruz is always responding to the needs of our community and is enthusiastic to help with other ministries and causes as the need arises. Other ministries that we have supported included the Warming Center, a food backpack program, and providing space for various Recovery groups. During the height of the pandemic, we also supported several vaccine clinics at our site, in cooperation with the Black Ministers Alliance.



## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Church, built in 1891, retains its original architectural purity. The building is a single-story brick structure with a dark wood paneled ceiling contrasted by white plaster walls. It is spacious and has an ample sanctuary, wide aisles, and a large rear atrium where the community can gather for the celebration of Baptismal liturgies. It has arched gothic stained-glass windows.

The Parish Hall has a large meeting room and kitchen. The basement houses another office, a conference room, two Sunday School rooms, a full bathroom, and the Thrift Shop.

In the 1960s, the Church purchased a lovely house on West Chestnut Street in the City of Kingston which has served as the rectory ever since. It is a traditional two-story cape with three bedrooms, a family room and living room each with a fireplace, a dining room, a kitchen, and one and a half baths. It has a detached one-car garage, a large front lawn, and a beautiful fenced-in backyard and garden. It is located in a lovely residential neighborhood approximately one mile from the church.

The Church, Parish Hall, and Rectory are in excellent condition. There are no deferred maintenance issues. In 2019, extensive renovation and maintenance began and continued into 2021. The Church and Parish Hall have been completely updated and refurbished. A new roof, new floor, newly pointed exterior bricks, and sealed windows fully protect the envelope of the Church. Beautifully restored plaster work and a stunning gold leaf sanctuary wall set the perfect backdrop to the table of the Lord. Air conditioning and heating units were also added.



The Parish Hall also received a new roof, new lighting, air conditioning, and heating units. In the kitchen, a new stove, refrigerator, and freezers replaced old and worn-out ones to support weekly food distribution of UIDN and parish activities. Large round wooden tables (originally from Holy Cross Monastery) are conducive to conversation.

Along with the Episcopal Diocese of New York, Holy Cross + Santa Cruz is working to reduce its carbon footprint with these renovations and updated HVAC options.

Outside, the parking lot was enlarged and blacktopped. Landscaping, in the form of arborvitae plantings, wooden fencing, and flowers (including Bea Moore’s Memorial Garden) have elevated the beauty of the grounds. Two raised garden beds were built by the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network as a community garden that shares its produce with the community.

## **FINANCES AND PLEDGING**

Almost every member of Holy Cross + Santa Cruz either pledges or contributes to the plate. In addition, the church has an endowment from which funds are drawn to support operating expenses. Budget and other financials can be furnished upon request.

## **INTO THE FUTURE - OUR CHALLENGES**

- The pandemic and escalating cost of living has taken a toll on the time availability of our members (especially within the Latino community, given that many of their jobs require work on the weekends) to meet parochial commitments due to work schedules and increased workload. Fresh eyes are needed to find solutions.
- The pandemic had caused us to take a break in what had been our ordinary practice of bilingual worship and fellowship 5 times a year. We have resumed these services, but scheduling and communication regarding the services and programming can still be difficult. With a bilingual priest, this challenge will be eased, and we may even be able to expand upon it, as coordinating two schedules with two part-time priests will be eliminated.
- The cultural violation of the sacredness of Sunday morning seriously compromises the rhythm of our church school program. In other words, “life is getting in the way of worship.” Again, fresh eyes on the dilemma with parish involvement could lead to new outcomes.

## INTO THE FUTURE - OUR HOPES

After engaging in several focus group discussions, Holy Cross + Santa Cruz wants to:

- Develop a robust engagement and participation of our children and young people (e.g., grow the acolyte program, consider a youth leader for the parish, create a summer camp).
- Identify and lead youth education programs that lead to Communion and Confirmation with parental/custodian support.
- Educate parents/heads of household on Christian Education for youths.
- Lead and grow adult faith formation, education, and Bible study opportunities.
- Support UIDN with more parish member volunteer time. Even though it stands alone as a 503(c) entity, it was founded here by Fr. Frank Alagna and is a main ministry of the church.
- Understand and honor the *bicultural* aspect of the parish. Honor the celebrations, traditions, posadas, and special masses for patron saints in our various Latino cultures.
- Continue our involvement in the fellowship, ministry, and outreach efforts we have.
- Find ways to improve our language barrier: help Latino members learn English, and Anglo members learn Spanish, so we can communicate more easily with one another.



## TOMORROW

We have before us, what remains our primary work at Holy Cross + Santa Cruz: to deepen our experience of being a vital community that expresses our commitment to the living Christ, by becoming more fully one in heart, mind, will, and action; by caring for each other and serving the interests of justice, charity, unity, and peace, acting in service as Christ's hands and feet.

Participation of every member using their individual gifts doing the will of God through words, actions, and treasures will make life better for the parish and the greater community. We continue our work toward being of one body with Christ.

## OUR NEXT PRIEST

We are seeking a social-justice oriented, second generation, fully bilingual and bicultural priest:

- Who will actively serve the congregation's vision to celebrate diversity and to become more fully one people and parish in Christ.
- Who will be an energetic, inspired, and inspiring spiritual guide who is unafraid to share with us his/her journey, while fostering our love for and belief in Christ and our mission to be agents of social justice, reconciliation, and peace.
- Who, as a minister of the sacraments, values good liturgy and is a thoughtful and thought-provoking preacher, who uses his/her sermons to bring both the spiritual comfort and the prophetic challenge of the gospel to our lives.
- Who believes in the value of good liturgical music as a resource to inspire a deepening of life in the Spirit for the sake of the priorities of the Kingdom.
- Who can establish rapport with young people.
- Who is an experienced and loving pastor and counselor, who considers visits to shut-in parishioners (at home or in an institution) an important part of his/her ministry.
- Who has skills in community building and conflict resolution. Who is a good listener and can discern wisely.
- Who possesses a sense of humor, is personable and compassionate, and is able to further the loving relationships that our congregation and the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network presently enjoy.
- Who is an administrator capable of managing parish programs and finances in partnership with the wardens, vestry, and other committed lay leaders. He or she must not be afraid to talk about money and stewardship.
- Who will be a guide in the ministry of our parish so that it continues its existing outreach programs and finds new ways to respond to the needs of the community as they present themselves, while working independently and with the Kingston Interfaith Council.
- Who will help us not only in our bilingual commitments, but also in our bicultural commitments, so that, over time, our cultures are integrated and shared where possible.

Holy Cross + Santa Cruz welcomes all who feel the call to apply  
for this lifechanging position of bilingual/bicultural priest.

We look forward to meeting you!