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Pleasure reading: *Fraternity*

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Pleasure reading: Fraternity

At the recommendation of colleague Jim Dwyer, I just read *Fraternity* by Diane Brady. The book chronicles the story of the College of the Holy Cross's attempt to integrate its campus in the late 1960s. It is a fascinating social history of the United States during a turbulent time in our history.

The story is filled with engaging characters from the exceptional young black men who bravely went to Worcester, MA seeking an education, including future Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and a priest who spearheaded the attempts to change a very traditional New England liberal arts school.

The transformative power of higher education is very evident in this tale, but it is also a reminder that transformation goes both ways. This cohort of young men also changed Holy Cross as they themselves were being changed. My only quibble is that there was too little exploration of the role that Holy Cross's Catholic and Jesuit history and Fr. John Brooks', SJ (president of Holy Cross, 1970-1994) priestly vocation played in this complicated story.

But *Fraternity* is certainly a worthwhile read and is ultimately a reminder that for all the challenges we continue to face around the issues of race in this country, we have made tremendous strides in less than fifty years and educational institutions have been at the forefront of that change.

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