



Holy Cross reopens in Gentilly

By Sarah Carr

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Michael DeMocker / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE Eric DesOrmeaux,

Holy Cross School's dean of men, holding the bell he uses to signal class changes, gives directions to students in the high-school building today during Holy Cross' first day at its new location in Gentilly.

In yet another sign of Gentilly's slow, but steady, regrowth, the historic Holy Cross School opened its new campus on Paris Avenue this morning.

About 760 students began the school year with cranes and construction crews looming in the background. Two of the main buildings -- the middle and high schools -- were finished and ready for students today. The third structure, which will house administrative offices and the library, will open in the middle of the school year.

Since Holy Cross' board of directors decided to leave its flood-ravaged Lower 9th Ward campus and rebuild in Gentilly, the project has been a symbol of hope for a part of the city where recovery has, at times, been spotty and slow.

The school's leaders chose the Gentilly site over one in Kenner.

"We felt it was important since our roots are in New Orleans," said Charles DiGange, the school's headmaster.