



# BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

*Men with hope to bring*

January, 2022

## Age cannot diminish living our brotherhood with hope

BY BROTHER KENNETH HADERS, CSC, PROVINCIAL

**I**n the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, there is a line that says—we religious of the Congregation of Holy Cross “must be men with hope to bring” (*Constitution 118*). If you read these messages from me, you know hope is a recurring theme. The last line in the *Constitutions* places this hope in the context of our chosen brotherhood. “The footsteps of those men who called us to walk in their company left deep prints, as of men carrying heavy burdens. But they did not trudge; they strode. For they had the hope” (*Constitution 122*).



Last summer a group of Holy Cross Ghanaian brothers visited the United States and spent a day with brothers living at Dujarié House, several of whom served in Ghana. Clockwise left to right: Brothers Thomas Moser, James Newberry, Ken Haders (standing), Larry Stewart, Daniel Dardoe, Aristide Biney, Patrick Baah, Stephen Aidoo and Donald Allen share stories.

I sincerely believe that I am called to be both a giver and a recipient of that gift of hope, and I am grateful. Though I may do it a little more carefully than I did in my youth, I am striding forward with the hope that comes from Jesus, hope that often comes to me through the wonderful people I have lived with and worked with as a Brother of Holy Cross.


Giving and receiving hope is both easier and more difficult as we advance with age. There are so many things that can bring us down as we grow older, especially if our age is accompanied by infirmities. But my experience with most of my fellow brothers is that years of prayer and service help

us put things into perspective – to continue to live our brotherhood with hope. For we know, “There is no failure the Lord’s love cannot reverse, no humiliation he cannot exchange for blessing, no anger he cannot dissolve, no routine he cannot transfigure. All is swallowed up in victory. He has nothing but gifts to offer. It remains only for us to find how even the cross can be borne as a gift” (*Constitution 118*).



Brother Kenneth Haders, CSC Provincial

As a leader of the province, I have a major concern: the proper care and support for our brothers, especially our elder brothers. And for this we are truly blessed because we have many generous and talented brothers whose chosen ministry is to accompany our elder brothers as they continue their journey of hope. Three of those many brothers are featured on the following pages.

I pray that we may all continue to be instruments of hope and of Divine Providence to those we care about, and that we may always be “blessed by faithful and loving relationships with friends and with companions in mission, relationships reflective of the intimacy and openness of God’s love for us” (*Constitution 47*). 



Brother Lew Brazil, Director of Healthcare & Aging for the Midwest Province and Brother Paul Kelly are about to enjoy a famous Brother Raymond Papenfuss trifle at St. Joseph Place.

# BROTHERS WITH

If one wanted to simply describe the Brothers of Holy Cross one could use the phrase “*Extraordinary Lives, Bringing Hope to Others.*”

The Congregation of Holy Cross was founded in response to the need for education and evangelization in France following the devastation of the French Revolution. For over 200 years, beginning in Sainte Croix, a suburb of LeMans, France, countless Holy Cross religious have brought hope to students, families, troubled youth, elderly, homeless, parishioners, faith seekers, and more, among so many ministries in the United States and in 15 other countries around the globe.

Known to be extraordinary educators in the faith, Holy Cross brothers and priests made a conscious attempt in their revised *Constitutions*, promulgated by the General Chapter of 1986, to return more closely to the ideals of Blessed Father Basil Moreau—to continue to be a great band of men devoted not only to serve the Lord in mission, but to live in community, a brotherhood, that would proclaim to the world, “See how they love one another.”

Matthew 25:40 reads: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Since professing his final vows in 1969, it has been this biblical quote that has inspired Brother Lewis Brazil as he has walked as a brother and with his fellow brothers. He entered the community with a music degree and served as band directors at Archbishop Hoban and St. Edward High Schools until 1983. At this point he moved to St. Paul, Minn., to be near his mother who was ill and served as campus minister at Cretin High School.

“I thought young people, with limited opportunities to experience music in their lives, were the ‘least of my brethren.’



Brother Lewis Brazil, director of healthcare and aging for the brothers of the Midwest Province, always has time to spend with a fellow brother. Here he and Brother James Newberry work on a jigsaw puzzle together at Dujarié House.

After bringing music students to perform at a senior center, I saw the loneliness and hardships of older adults as they attempted to navigate their later years, in most cases alone,” Brother Lew said. “At that time, I decided that I wanted to be in the trenches, to walk with these elders in a professional manner.

It was there, in all their brokenness as I walked with them that I saw God in my ministry. This continues to motivate me today.”

In 1985, Brother Lew changed his focus to health care, returning to Lakewood, Ohio, and earning a master’s degree in social work at Case Western Reserve University, and beginning a new career as a licensed geriatric social worker with the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. He served the elderly population with mental illness in Cleveland. He continued social work in Sun City, Ariz., serving five Catholic parishes with the Foundation for Senior Living.

“Working with lay folks at these locations prepared me for serving my brothers in Holy Cross and their healthcare needs as they age in place,” Brother Lew said.

After 22 years in geriatric health care, he returned to the South Bend area in 2007 to develop social services for independent lay residents living in Holy Cross Village along with the brothers living at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus.

As many of the aging brothers’ health declined, Brother Lew shifted entirely to the care of the brothers and in 2009 was appointed Director of Healthcare & Aging for the Midwest Province. At that time, there were approximately 180 brothers in the Midwest Province, all aging in place. This included brothers living in Ohio, Florida, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan and South Bend.

At Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, the brothers sponsor Dujarié House, a licensed long term skilled nursing facility; Schubert Villa, an assisted living facility; and St. André Place, an independent living facility. All welcome both lay and religious residents. The brothers’ residence on the campus of the University of Notre Dame is Columba Hall, an independent living facility with assisted living services for just the brothers.

Brother Lew has walked with his brothers since 2009 as they age in place. This entailed developing a program of healthcare at Columba Hall which includes a province nurse and full-time certified nursing assistants to ensure the safety and well-being of the brothers living there. He visits brothers around the province to help them assess their health needs and provides transitional assistance if needed.

# S WALKING BROTHERS

BY MARY ANNE DEGENZO, EDITOR



Brother Chris Torrijas, religious superior of Dujarié House, organized a picnic last summer for the brothers to come together. From left to right, Brothers Chris, Paul Kelly, John McMuldren, Lew Brazil, Ed Dailey, James Newberry and Ronald Christenson enjoy time together. The Thursday noon socials are a great way for brothers who are not residents to visit brothers in residence at the skilled nursing facility.

At 82, Brother Lew lives a full life as a case manager for the independent brothers living at Columba Hall and at Holy Cross Village, coordinating transportation to medical appointments and acting as a brother's advocate with medical personnel. He coordinates a team approach in the care of the brothers with the healthcare providers, enabling the brothers to remain independent and safe. He relies on the province nurse and a host of semiretired brothers who share care duties.

One of those brothers is Brother Joseph McTaggart. Brother Joe has enjoyed three professions—teacher, campus minister and health care worker—in his close to 60 years as a Brother of Holy Cross. Without the companionship, connection, and friendship of so many other brothers in his life, he believes the focus of those ministries would have been vastly different.

“The main focus of my own work has been in healthcare. I am grateful for 16 years with the Holy Cross Sisters Health Care system in Los Angeles in the early '80s, and later the largest chunk of that focus with our own brothers in the many years since,” Brother Joe said.

When Brother Joe returned from working on the West Coast, he immediately started helping drive brothers living in the Dujarié Infirmery to their doctors' appointments. Because of his previous hospital experience, he was able to better “work the system” on behalf of the brothers, knowing when to speak up,

hold his peace, and when to be an advocate for the brothers.

“Visiting one another when our fellow brothers are sick, infirm or patients in the hospital, is an opportunity for us brothers in keeping those precious relationships active and supportive,” Brother Joe said.


Dujarié House was originally built in 1965 as the infirmery for the brothers. As Holy Cross Village expanded so has Dujarié House to meet the needs of not just the brothers but also for lay residents.

Brother Chris Torrijas is the religious superior of Dujarié House. He makes sure the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the brothers in residence are being met.

Since professing his final vows in 2009, Brother Chris has served at Holy Cross College as a dorm rector, Director of Residence Life and as Formation Director for St. Joseph House, which was a community of young men discerning a call to religious life.

“The brothers I minister to are much older than I. Currently four out of the eight are 90 and older. I knew most of these brothers when they were still active in ministry,” Brother Chris said. “Because they're not my peers, their knowledge and experience has been a gift to me. They show me daily how to truly accept God's will and to do so with grace. They struggle, but ultimately they lead by example.

“Up to this point in my religious life I have been walking with young men discerning a call to religious life,” Brother Chris said. “Now I am at the other end of the spectrum with elderly brothers, walking with them, as they struggle with health problems and feelings of loneliness. In many ways the young men and the older brothers continue their discernment. Each day they try and listen to where and what God is calling them to.”

“Brotherhood again speaks its lifeblood when caring and companionship is central and essential. Even when we are prohibited from visiting our brothers—be it due to the pandemic or severity of illness and circumstance—our prayer and holding our members in our hearts brings us full circle as caring and loving brothers,” Brother Joe said. “We are blessed indeed, and blessed especially in our declining years, to have such a brotherhood with whom we have spent our lives in our common ministry serving others.” 



Brother Joe McTaggart, health care assistant, shares progress notes with staff member Mae Quinn and nurse Mary Jones.

# Your generosity helps us to walk together

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, CSC, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

One of the characteristics of the Brothers of Holy Cross that contributed to my joining them over 60 years ago was the comradery and fellowship I witnessed among the Brothers at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. Their love and care for each other were clear as were their shared vision and mission for every student in the school. The Brothers were more than outstanding teachers and administrators—they invited us into their lives of faith and service—they invited us to be part of their family.

Holy Cross Brothers walking with Brothers is a beautiful, yet challenging ministry of love, compassion and tenderness. It is one way our family cares for each other.

Your share in the men and ministries of the Brothers of Holy Cross makes you part of our family, and we are blessed by your prayers and the material support that empowers the ministries of Brother Lew, Brother Joe, Brother Chris and many others. You enable us to still walk side by side with our brothers as they age in place. They continue to teach us as we walk with each other on our journey as companions with one another.

Together, we are a family united in mission, a union our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, would describe as “a powerful lever with which we could move, direct and sanctify the whole world.” What a powerful and hopeful truth!

On behalf of our Brothers who give selflessly in ministry and our Brothers who gracefully receive their care, I thank you for being part of the family and showing your love and care for your Brothers. Together we give, together we receive, together we transform hearts and minds for the Kingdom of God.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your thoughtful gift or contact:

Brother Roy Smith, CSC  
Director of Development  
P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556  
574.631.2928  
rsmith@brothersofholycross.com



Brother Roy Smith, CSC  
Director of Development



Brother Lew Brazil reviews a case management file with Bethany Heather, the province nurse. Brother Lew is the director of healthcare and aging for the brothers of the Midwest Province.

## Showing our Appreciation

As a small token of our gratitude for your generosity to the Annual Appeal, we will inscribe your name in the St. André Registry, a book in which the Brothers honor those who support our mission. The registry is prominently placed at the entrance of Columba Hall.

In addition to inscribing your name in the registry, the Brothers of Holy Cross are honored to remember you in our daily prayers.

You will also be recognized in our 2020 Annual Stewardship Report according to the level of support. We do not specifically indicate the amount of your gift. Our annual giving levels are:

### Brother Columba O'Neill Club Members

Gifts of \$5,000 and above

### Columba Hall Society Members

Gifts from \$200 to \$4,999

### Cross & Anchors Members

Gifts up to \$199



## Remembering our deceased brothers

Brother Thomas Joseph Dillman, CSC • 94 • Nov. 2, 2021 • 70 years a vowed religious

Brother James Edward Blaszak, CSC • 77 • Dec. 5, 2021 • 57 years a vowed religious

Brother Daniel Jojoe Dardoe, CSC • 62 • Dec. 5, 2021 • 37 years a vowed religious

Brother Joseph Annan, CSC • 71 • Dec. 30, 2021 • 45 years a vowed religious

Brother John Tryon, CSC • 73 • Jan 23, 2022 • 54 years a vowed religious