

# BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

*Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross*

June, 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

Dear Friend of Holy Cross,

This is the final introductory column that I will write for the *BROTHERS* newsletter. My time as Provincial for the Midwest Province is nearing an end, and on the day before our jubilee celebration in June, our new provincial superior, Brother Kenneth Haders, will begin his term.

As I review these last nine years, I see that the time has passed quickly and certainly can be characterized as a great blessing. Among the many highlights has been the opportunity to meet many wonderful and faith-filled people dedicated to our sponsored ministries and who have great appreciation for our Brothers. In this same light, I too have had the opportunity to increase my knowledge and level of relationship with our members, including the jubilarians who are saluted in this newsletter.

This edition of *BROTHERS* features men celebrating their 40th, 50th and 60th anniversary year of first professing vows as a Brother of Holy Cross. Over the last nine years I have developed a real admiration for these men. This particular group of jubilarians can best be described by these expressions: faithful to their vows and religious life, Gospel-directed in discerning how God has called them to serve others in Holy Cross, hardworking and practical in their respective ministries, and unafraid of obstacles and challenges in life.



As I read over the life sketches contained within these pages, one overriding descriptor seems to emerge, that is, a love for their journey as religious brothers in the Congregation of Holy Cross. The following from our Holy Cross Constitutions states this well:

*"We asked how we might follow, and we found many footprints on the road. A great band of men had passed this way, men who had made and lived by their vows, men who walked side by side in their following of the Lord...We wanted to be part of the family they formed in order to share in their life and work."*

*-Constitutions 1, 5*

As you read our jubilarians' life stories, please join me in thanksgiving for these men who have given completely of themselves as Holy Cross Brothers. They have faithfully lived their vows, are mission-driven in following the call to be of service to others, participate fully in the life and work of the Congregation, and after these many years, still stride in the footsteps of Blessed Basil Moreau and our great band of Holy Cross men.

May St. Joseph, Patron of the Brothers, and his disciple, St. André Bessette, pray for us.

In Holy Cross,

*Bro. Chester Freel, csc*

Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.  
Provincial Superior

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*"We asked how we  
might follow, and  
we found many  
footprints on the  
road."*

*-Constitution 1*

Remembering our Deceased Brother  
in Your Prayers

Brother Raymond (LeRoy) Trottman, C.S.C.  
at the age of 91  
died March 18, 2018  
58 years of vowed religious life



## Celebrating jubilees and renewal of vows in June

The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross will honor 13 brothers celebrating their 60th, 50th and 40th jubilees of religious profession on Saturday, June 16.

These jubilarians have ministered in several countries and served in various capacities—as principals, health care workers, counselors, maintenance engineers, drug rehab center directors, athletic directors, teachers, technicians, United States Post Office employees and numerous others.

Joining our jubilarians will be friends and relatives from around the world, along with a Brother of Holy Cross from the Moreau Province, Brother Robert Fontaine, who is celebrating his 70th jubilee. The Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of Notre Dame at 10:30 a.m. Following the Mass there will be a banquet in the Morris Inn Banquet Hall.

The Rev. Christopher A. Kuhn, C.S.C., will be the celebrant and homilist.

Brother Ken Haders, newly elected Provincial of the Midwest Brothers Province, will accept the brothers' renewal of vows. Music for the celebration will be under the direction of Brother Daniel Kane of Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio, assisted by Mrs. Barbara Ziliak. Brother Joseph Fox of Holy Cross Village will be the master of ceremonies.

For more information on the  
**Brothers of Holy Cross**  
visit our website at:  
**[www.brothersofholycross.com](http://www.brothersofholycross.com)**

*The Brothers newsletter is a publication of the Development Office, Midwest Province. For questions regarding the newsletter, address changes or other matters related to the development office please contact: Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C., Director of Development, P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0460 (574)631-2928 or [rsmith@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:rsmith@brothersofholycross.com)*

# 60-year Jubilarians

## Brother James John Bluma, C.S.C.

James was born July 1, 1928, to Edward and Julia (Ozmarek) Bluma in Green Bay, Wis. His family had strong Polish Catholic roots, and he was the fourth of seven children: three brothers and three sisters. Brother James graduated from St. Mary of the Angels Grade School, and then from Cathedral Catholic High School taught by the Norbertine Fathers.



Upon his graduation in 1946, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps because they offered a four-year college scholarship after serving only two years. "It was a great deal," he said. In 1952 he graduated from St. Norbert's College with a bachelor of arts in business and worked the next five years for Kraft Foods.

Throughout these years, James knew that he had always wanted to be a teacher; and he had remembered a high school visit from Brother Eymard Salzman who talked about the Brothers of Holy Cross and their apostolate of teaching youth. The seed was planted over 10 years earlier, and he wanted to take a closer look.

Brother James loved teaching; Brother Reginald Juszczak told him the brothers needed a math teacher and he was it. He was surprised, but became a dedicated math teacher through the years. "When you are needed to do a job, you just do it," he said.

Later, he received an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Loyola University in Chicago. Among his many administrative posts through the years: Brother James was principal of Memorial High School in Evansville, Ind., for 14 years and counselor at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind., for 15 years before retiring.

"I joined a great group of men," he said, "and my experience of community life, prayer life, dedication and mutual support have always been great! Columba Hall is a great place to live. I look back with great gratitude: not for what could have been, but for all that is."

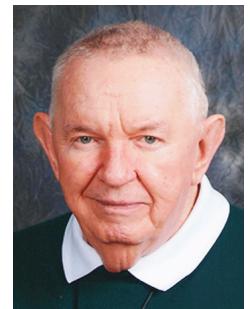
## Brother Thomas Cunningham, C.S.C.

Thomas and nine siblings were raised by their parents, Lawrence and Mary Cunningham, in Minnesota. His early education was at public schools. He graduated in 1957 from Bethlehem Academy in Faribault, Minn.

Two weeks after graduation, he entered the juniorate

program in Watertown, Wis., to begin his journey in Holy Cross. He received the habit in August of 1957 and was professed in 1958.

He graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1963 and a master's degree from DePaul University in 1969. His teaching career included St. Edward High School (1961-62); Monroe Catholic Central High School (1963-67); St. Joseph High School (1968-71); and Holy Trinity High School (1972-87). During his teaching career, his various duties included moderating newspapers and yearbooks, treasurer of Holy Trinity, working for 15 summers with students to paint and clean classrooms at Holy Trinity High School, 16 years as athletic director of Holy Trinity High School, and six years as president of the Chicago Prep Conference. Upon leaving Holy Trinity, Brother Thomas was awarded the Peter Claver Hosinski Award.



After a renewal program in Canada, he began a ministry with persons infected with HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C., Hoboken, N.J., and Salt Lake City, Utah. He helped found the New Jersey-based Chrysalis Retreat Program, an ecumenical group offering retreats for both men and women infected with HIV/AIDS. In 1993 he was hired by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

In 1999, Brother Thomas enrolled in a CPE program at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, Calif. For the next nine years, after being board certified by the National Catholic Chaplains Association, he was employed by Catholic Healthcare West to be a chaplain at St. John's in Camarillo, Calif., and at Marian Medical Center in Santa Maria. In 2008, the provincial asked him to become the religious superior at Schubert Villa/Dujarie House, where he served the next six years. He is presently retired and enjoys driving his fellow brothers to various appointments. He also is a lector and a Eucharistic minister at Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend.

"I am thankful to the Brothers of the Midwest Province for affording me the opportunity to seek employment outside the usual ministries related to education," Brother Thomas said. "I found my ministries to persons on the margins of society to be growth producing in both my personal and spiritual life."

## **Brother Ronald Drahozal, C.S.C.**

“Wonderfully Wonderful!” was the quick response of Brother Ronald to describe his life of 60 years as a Brother of Holy Cross. He was born on Nov 14, 1937, into a close Czech community in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He has three brothers and one sister who all live close to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He graduated from St. Ludmil’s Grade School and St. Wenceslaus High School before entering the brothers on Aug. 15, 1956.



After his graduation from St. Edward’s University in 1962, Brother Ronald was assigned to Bangladesh and has been there ever since. His first few decades there he taught in St. Gregory’s School but later became aware of the “massive” drug problem that the youth and adults had been suffering under. He opened a drug rehabilitation center, which accommodated 40 to 60 children and included a school for grades 1-5. In addition he served over 100 adults daily at the APON Drug Rehabilitation Center. It was the first drug rehab center in Bangladesh. He was known as the “pioneer of drug rehabilitation” in Bangladesh. He founded the drug center in 1988 for the very poor and destitute in the area. “The children would earn a little change on the streets of Bangladesh and buy “Baba” drugs. “Baba” also means “father.”

“We had a good success rate of children and adults who came to our center and remained clean,” he said. “Perhaps they numbered into the thousands. One of our staff members was a Holy Cross Sister, Sister Monja Corraya who dedicated her life to the drug center and did a marvelous job.

“If I go to heaven, it will be the drug addicts who take me there.”

## **Brother Charles Drevon, C.S.C.**

For Brother Charles Drevon, it all started in 1954 as a sophomore at Sacred Heart College, a juniorate of the Brothers of Holy Cross in Watertown, Wis. His longtime friend Brother Charles McBride, had arrived first. He knew that being first to arrive carried some privileges from his experience as a freshman at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago. After their sophomore year, the brothers began phasing out the juniorate program and turned Sacred Heart College into a military



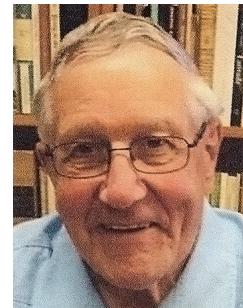
academy for boys in grades six through eight. In January 1957, without formally graduating from high school, these two lifelong friends were off to the novitiate.

Brother Charles used his talents teaching physics, math and electronics at Holy Trinity High School, Cathedral High School, Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Ill., and Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind. During his 20 years at Holy Cross High School he developed a computerized student information system program which served the school for more than 10 years. His program was also used by Notre Dame for Girls High School in Chicago. He also taught physics, math and electronics and eventually became science department chair, assistant principal, and principal. He spent 24 years at Holy Cross College as an instructor, IT director, and student information system administrator.

When he is not teaching or working with computers, Brother Charles can be found on the golf course at Notre Dame’s Burke or Warren courses, fishing in Canada with friends from Chicago, fishing locally or building model ships.

## **Brother Walter Gluhm, C.S.C.**

Brother Walter was born on Dec. 15, 1934 in Hamilton, Ohio, and was the youngest in a family of two sisters and one brother. Raised in a good Catholic family, Walter attended St. Peter in Chains Grade School and Hamilton Catholic High School, taught by the Marianist Brothers from Dayton, Ohio. After graduating from high school in 1952, he worked for three years as a shipping clerk at a small local manufacturing company.



In 1955, he was drafted in the Army for two years, serving most of his time at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Upon being discharged, he inquired about a religious vocation through an ad in the Sunday Visitor that mentioned helping “underprivileged boys” with the Brothers of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Ind. He entered the religious life in June of 1957.

Brother Walter’s many ministries have included working as a postal clerk, serving at several boys’ homes and missions in Georgia and teaching at schools in Indiana, Kentucky, Arizona and Louisiana. While in New Orleans, he experienced Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Brother Walter was named superior at Columba Hall at Notre Dame and served for six years. In 2011 he was sent

to Austin, Texas, where he currently teaches at two Catholic grade schools and volunteers for a group called "Driving a Senior" once a week.

"The 60 years of religious life have been a great blessing, living with so many priests and brothers in community life," Brother Walter said. "I have been blessed also with many nieces and nephews from Ohio, Kentucky and New Jersey, who have supported me spiritually over the many years as a brother, or to them as an "Uncle."

### **Brother Richard Johnson, C.S.C.**

Brother Richard Johnson was born and baptized on Feb. 11, 1937, the first of seven children. He started kindergarten at Grant Grade school but transferred in third grade to St. Patrick Grade School with the Ursuline Sisters. A cousin had threatened Richard's father with eternal damnation if his children were not brought up Catholic!



It was during this time that the religious life of the Sisters impressed the young student and the seed was planted for a religious vocation. During his first years attending Ursuline High School, he became aware of the Holy Cross Brothers as a vocation. He met a Holy Cross Brother for the first time at the formation house in Watertown, Wis.

Brother Richard earned a bachelor's of science in physics and math from St. Edward's University and a master's in education with a math minor from St. Mary's, Winona, Minn.

He taught in schools in the Midwest, California, St. Croix, VI, and Ghana, West Africa.

"What a blessing and joy it has been to see God in so many faces," Brother Richard said. "Teaching the hearing impaired at Holy Trinity, Chicago, Sek Deaf, Sekondi, Ghana, and Cape Deaf, Cape Coast, Ghana, was a special gift to me."

Following his teaching career, Brother Richard spent a number of years in computer programming work at Boysville, Mich., and Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind. He is currently the webmaster for the province website and for Midwest Midweek, a province newsletter.

"A shared life with Brothers in the Congregation of Holy Cross has offered me support and friendships in all aspects of my life," Brother Richard said. "With the ups and downs in life, being with brothers in a Holy Cross brotherhood for me has been the way to follow the Lord."

### **Brother James Leik, C.S.C.**

James was born in 1931 and raised in rural Portland, Mich. He is the eldest of five children. He was educated at St. Patrick Grade School and Portland High School. He entered the U.S. Air Force Jan. 1, 1951, during the Korean Conflict and served four years, being stationed at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas; Mitchell Field AFB Long Island, N.Y.; and Itazuke AFB Kyushu, Japan. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.



He enrolled as an undergraduate student at Michigan State University in January, 1955. He received a bachelor of arts from St. Edward's University, an MBA from the University of Notre Dame and a master's in economics from the University of Illinois.

James entered the Brothers of Holy Cross in January, 1957, and was perpetually professed in August, 1961. Brother James taught at St. Joseph's High School, South Bend, Ind.; Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio; Cathedral High School Indianapolis, Ind., and Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Ill., before going to Holy Cross College in 1967.

After 51 years, he continues his ministry at Holy Cross College today. He worked with Brother John Driscoll as co-developer of the College, as its treasurer, interim president, instructor of accounting, business and many other business and administrative positions. He presently is the college's full-time archivist.

"I chose to serve my Creator through developing my interior life and using my talents best by entering as a religious with the Brothers of Holy Cross," Brother James said. "My commitment, assisted by grace and prayer, has not wavered."

### **Brother John May, C.S.C.**

In his 60 years as a Brother of Holy Cross, Brother John May has had many opportunities and challenges. He spent his early years continuing his education while teaching.



He was on the founding faculty at Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Ill., in 1961. He received a bachelor's degree in English and music from the University of Notre Dame in 1964. That summer he was granted a Wall

Street Journal Grant to study journalism at the University of Minnesota. Following the graduation of the first class at River Grove, he was sent to Bishop David High School in Louisville, Ken.

Brother John earned his master's degree in English from Butler University in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1969. Other graduate studies were at Boston College, the University of Akron and Ursuline College.

After Bishop David, he was sent to Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio, where he served as assistant principal. Eight years later, he went to Gilmour Academy, where he spent 18 years in various administrative positions.

In 1995 Brother William Geenen invited Brother John to come to Notre Dame and help plan Holy Cross Village. As Director of Planning, he supervised the construction of many of the village buildings and took care of other necessary details.

During his career, Brother John worked at two new schools, River Grove and Louisville, and helped convert Archbishop Hoban and Gilmour to coeducational schools. In 2010 he had a stroke, which impaired his mobility.

"All of my years have been blessed with challenges and enjoyable ministries," Brother John said.

### **Brother Jerome Meyer, C.S.C.**

Jerome was born on Feb. 21, 1939, to Gertrude and Yaro Meyer, the third child in a family of five. They lived in the same house in Cleveland, Ohio, that his parents built and lived in for over 60 years.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph provided me with a solid elementary education at St. Vincent de Paul Grade School in Cleveland," Brother Jerome said. "It was during this time that the idea of a religious vocation was implanted in my mind, which lasted throughout my high school career at St. Edward in Lakewood, Ohio."

"It was through the interaction with the Brothers there that my interest in joining them was nurtured," Brother Jerome said. "By being involved in many extracurricular activities, I was able to experience the brothers outside the classroom and develop a desire to follow in their footsteps."

Acting on this decision, he entered the novitiate and was professed in 1958. He later graduated from St. Edward's University. Since then he has served in several ministries: Archbishop Hoban High School for 10 years, St. Edward High



School for 25 years and the University of Notre Dame for 17 years. He now lives at Columba Hall.

"I feel very blessed by what the Lord has allowed me to experience in my religious life. He has placed many people into my life who have helped me to grow in my relationship to God," Brother Jerome said.

### **Brother Donald Schapker, C.S.C.**

Donald was born on Feb. 20, 1939, the youngest of seven children, to Henry and Mary (Seibert) Schapker in Evansville, Ind. His family still calls Evansville home, and when the weather permits he visits his two brothers, Carroll and Henry, and his sister, Mary.

Donald attended St. Joseph Grade School and later graduated from Memorial High School in 1957. Through his high school years he was impressed by the dedication and spirit of the brothers and recalls having Brother John Stout in his freshman and senior years. He was so impressed that he joined the Brothers of Holy Cross right after graduation. Needless to say, he has been a brother ever since.



Brother Donald is known to be easygoing and unflappable, with steadfast dedication. He has a kind and quiet disposition that in his words "takes each day as it comes, and makes the most of it".

Looking back on the 60 years of religious life he reminisced: "Each life has its ups and downs, and my life, thank goodness, has had a lot more ups."

In 1961 when Brother Donald moved into Columba Hall he unpacked his suitcase and has lived there for the last 58 years. When he first arrived, he began working with 10 to 12 other brothers at the Notre Dame Post Office and remained in service there for 37 years. After retirement, he has worked for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy for the next 12 years. How is that for steadfastness?

In 58 years, Brother Donald has seen a lot of changes at Columba Hall, as well on the Notre Dame campus. He is grateful for being an active part as a brother on this campus. "I feel very blessed."

### **j, C.S.C.**

John was born on June 8, 1939 to Joseph and Adeline Schuszler in Cleveland, Ohio. He has two sisters, Mary Ann McDonnell and Elaine Lee, who still live with their families

in the Cleveland area. He went to St. Patrick Grade School on Cleveland's West Side and the new St. Edward High School started by the Holy Cross Brothers. He took the industrial arts program for four years and got to know men like Brothers Leo Geiger and George Tilly in shop class.



"I was impressed by the warm personalities of the brothers, so it was natural for me to see if I belonged to such a dedicated group of men," Brother John said. "This led me to try the Brothers life at Watertown, Wis. My parents got to know Brother Charles Krupp at this time, and Brother Charles led my family through the beginning years of religious life."

He attended St. Edward University for two years before graduating in industrial arts from Indiana State University in 1962. He taught at Archbishop Hoban High School for 10 years before going to Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Ind., where he spent 10 years teaching and working in the 'Out School' program. He spent five years in the mission program in Bangladesh, followed by 20 years at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago as the school engineer. His last assignment was at St. Joseph Farm in Granger, Ind.

"I believe my vocation to Holy Cross is a calling from God for which I am always thankful," Brother John said.

## 50-year Jubilarian

### Brother Thomas Henning, C.S.C.

When Thomas graduated from St. Andrew's High School in 1952, he went to work in a bank in Detroit, Mich., for several years before entering the community at the age of 30.

"I felt an emptiness in my life," Brother Thomas said. "I wanted to find a religious order, and I found Holy Cross. I wanted to surrender my life in prayer and do his will in love. I decided to join the religious community of the Brothers of Holy Cross in the South-West Province. After some discernment, I moved to the Midwest Province, closer to home."



After his novitiate year he went to St. Edward University in Austin, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1970 and later a master's degree in theological studies from St. Meinrad School of Theology in

1995. Brother Thomas' assignments have been as business manager for LeMans Academy, assistant business manager for the Midwest Province and later business manager for St. Pius X Church in Southgate, Mich. He later worked in the administration office at Archbishop Hoban High School.

After 60 years of religious life, Brother Thomas continues to seek the Lord in his daily retirement at Columba Hall.

## 40-year Jubilarian

### Brother Bertrand Nee Wayoe, C.S.C.

Bertrand Nee Wayoe was born on July 6, 1960. In September of 1972 he entered St. John's Secondary School in Sekondi, Ghana which was then administered by the Holy Cross Brothers. At St. John's his interest in becoming a religious grew stronger. He began his novitiate formation on Sept. 10, 1977, and made first profession on Sept. 16, 1978.

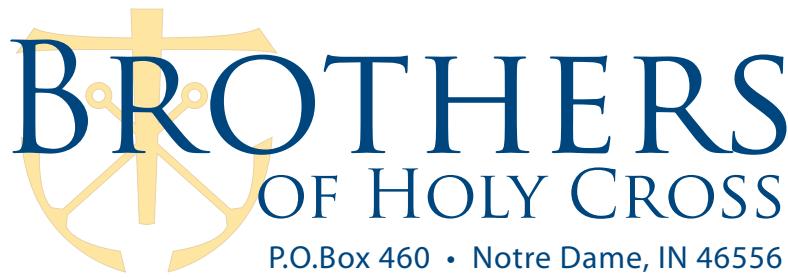


Brother Nee continued his education at St. Augustine's College in Cape Coast and furthered his studies at the University of Cape Coast. In 1983 he served as vocations director for the District of West Africa until June 1986, when he left for St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, to earn an undergraduate degree. He then enrolled in a postgraduate program in psychology at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

He returned to Ghana in August 1990, as the vocations director and was given the added responsibility of being the director of young professed brothers. In addition, he served at the Institute for Continuing Formation from 1991 to 1999. In June 1999, he was sent to Loyola College in Baltimore, Md., for more postgraduate studies in counseling and psychology.

He returned to Ghana in August 2001, as director of novices, a position that he held until July 2010. In December 2010, he moved to Goaso Diocese as director and also a resource person for the Goaso Diocesan Pastoral and Social Center. He spent three years in Goaso and returned to Cape Coast in 2014.

"On my return to Cape Coast, the Conference of Major Superiors of Religious in Ghana requested the district to release me for my appointment as the director of the Institute for Continuing Formation, an appointment that I hold to the present date," Brother Nee said.



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André Place, in Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Ind.  
Holy Cross Village is a ministry of the Brothers of Holy Cross.