

BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross

Spring, 2020

Brothers celebrate 200 years of serving others

By Brother George Klawitter, CSC

In 1818, when the French Revolution was still very much a dreadful memory in most of France, the bishop of Le Mans asked a gentle country parish priest named James Dujarié to found a group of brothers to educate boys in the diocese. Father Dujarié was a logical choice for this task because a dozen years earlier he had founded the Sisters of Providence, a group of pious women to educate girls in the area.

By 1820 Father Dujarié had accepted four promising young men into his rectory in Ruillé, a little town 30 miles south of Le Mans. He called them the Brothers of St. Joseph. His third recruit in 1820 was a wonder: Brother André Mottais. So promising was this young man that Father Dujarié sent him off to Paris to study for six months with the Christian Brothers. Mottais thereafter became a very effective leader for the hundreds of young men who came to Ruillé to be trained as religious teachers.

Mottais guided the young men through a simple novitiate training, teaching them not only catechetics but also the rudiments of arithmetic, penmanship and grammar. After a few months of training, the new teachers would filter out to towns around the diocese to run schools. Mottais would visit each of the schools every year to check on the quality of the brothers'

work. He generally walked village to village because the roads were bad.

The earliest brothers lived in the rectory, sleeping in the rat-infested attic. As they grew in number they lived in the laundry room, the barn and the stable. In 1824 Father Dujarié had a separate



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Celebrating 200 years of following brothers' footsteps

One of my favorite quotes from the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross speaks of the value and legacy of our vocation to religious life in Holy Cross. It says:

"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 had walked side by side in their following of the Lord. They beckoned us to fall in step with them. We wanted to be part of the family they formed in order to share in their life and work." (Constitution 5)

This is an appropriate quote as we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Brothers of St. Joseph. Father Dujarié founded the Brothers of St. Joseph in 1820 in order to provide basic education in rural France, a mission that had been absent for more than a generation following the French Revolution. There was a great need, and Dujarié responded with courage and creativity by enlisting young men to put their faith to work as part of our family.

With failing health, Dujarié sought new leadership for his young community of religious brothers. In 1837, the Rev. Basil Moreau united Dujarié's brothers with a small band of auxiliary priests to form a new group that he called the Congregation of (from) Holy Cross; named for the small town outside Le Mans, France. The Brothers of St. Joseph thus became the Brothers of Holy Cross.

The grace-filled visions of Dujarié and Father Basil Moreau came to life in the commitment of young men who joined them and did what was needed for that time. Today, we are a group with different demographics (mostly older men) but with the same willingness to do what is needed for our time. Though much less grand, the generous response of our elder religious to the realities of a

pandemic that has caused significant changes, has been similarly generous and inspiring. When the housekeeping staff could no longer come in, a volunteer list went up that was filled almost immediately.

In spite of the restrictions required for good health, many of the brothers are finding new routines for prayer and worship that continue to nourish their spiritual needs in the absence of most forms of shared prayer and Mass. That this began in Lent and continues through the Easter season may be inspiring a humbler connection to the love and mercy of a God whose grace is enough – not dependent on what we do or do not do, but accepted as a gift from a God who only knows how to love.

In this year of celebration, I remember so many who have gone before me to make such a clear path marked by our shared life and work. I am also reminded that joining this family of brothers may bring challenges. But they are challenges we meet together with generosity, love and hope. Please join with me in both joyous celebration and humble acceptance of what we share from our God and each other.

Your brother in Christ,

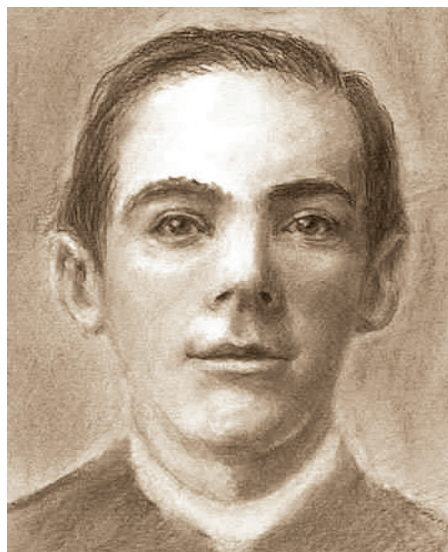


Brother Ken Haders, CSC
Provincial



Brother Ken Haders, CSC
Provincial, Midwest Province

building erected for the brothers: the Grand St. Joseph. How spacious it must have seemed to the men—it had a large refectory, classrooms and ample sleeping quarters. The property also had a garden, a pond and a small brook.



Brother James Kane sketched this drawing of Brother André Mottais, an early and effective leader of the brothers.

The formation of the religious recruits in Ruillé was often cut short by pressing calls from pastors for brothers to come and run their little parish schools. Dujarié, kind to a fault, responded as quickly as he could to the pleas, but unfortunately many vocations were short-lived because the young brothers so sent out, one by one, were often inadequately trained in academics and woefully unprepared for the challenges they would meet, both professionally and spiritually, in the little towns.

In their first 10 years the brothers grew by leaps and bounds, but after a mini-revolution in 1830, the Brothers of St. Joseph started to experience rough times. Because their founder, Father Dujarié, was getting old and sickly, he was no longer able to shepherd the community so Mottais suggested to the bishop that the brothers be transferred to the care of a priest younger than Dujarié.

Thus in 1835 the brothers moved their motherhouse from Ruillé to Le Mans, where their new superior, Basil Moreau, taught in the local seminary. Father Moreau had gathered a few priests into a small community. In 1837 he blended these priests with the Brothers of St. Joseph to found one community. Since they centered their work



Brother Hilarion Ferton, sketched by Brother James Kane, was the brothers' superior in Algeria before he died of cholera.

in the Le Mans suburb called Sainte-Croix (“Holy Cross”), they came to be known as the Congregation of (from) Holy Cross. The brothers renewed their strength under Moreau and grew year by year.

Among the earliest Brothers of St. Joseph were strong members like Brother Vincent Pieau, who came to Indiana in 1841. He helped found the University of Notre Dame the following year. Pieau was a master teacher who had been selected to train new teachers in America. Alongside him worked Brother Lawrence Menage, who set up the Notre Dame farm, and gentle Brother Francis Xavier Patoy, a carpenter who ran the Notre Dame trade school and lived until 1896, outliving all the other Holy Cross pioneer religious.

Early Brothers of St. Joseph were at work not only in America—they taught in Algeria as well. One of their strongest men in that country was Brother Hilarion Ferton, who was sent there in 1844 but who died there of cholera: he was a wonderful superior for the brothers on mission in that country.

Today the brothers minister in 13 countries, where they run schools and universities, work in parishes and do outreach to the needy. Thus the early Brothers of St. Joseph are still working for the Church—vibrant from 1820 to 2020.

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A love for the Brothers of Holy Cross began for Brother George Klawitter when he was 13 years old and he entered their postulate-high school in Watertown, Wis. That love and admiration for the many brothers he has come to know in his 65 years since—first as a student and then as a brother for 60 years—has never been lost.

The Congregation of Holy Cross is celebrating 200 years of brothers, brothers like Klawitter. They have taught in schools and universities, worked in parishes, ministered to the sick and showed compassion for the needy.

Klawitter taught English at the high school and college level for 57 years. Yet his curiosity and respect for the brothers who came before him led him to delve into the history of the brothers so he could better understand the contributions the early brothers made to the 19th century Church in northwest France and in Indiana.

“The brothers always seemed to be relegated to footnotes, if mentioned at all, in Holy Cross histories,” Klawitter said. “I wanted to read about the day-to-day work that the brothers did in schools.”

The Brothers of St. Joseph grew out of the religious revival following the French Revolution,

They came with generous hearts and noble ideals

but in Klawitter’s mind their noteworthy contributions to religious schools in northwest France had been overlooked, and their leaders have gone unheralded.

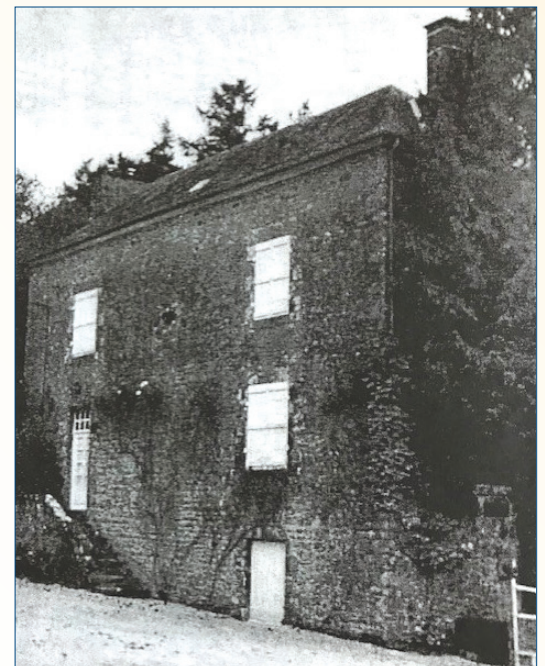
Thus began his quest of seeking information from the Congregation of Holy Cross records, in the University of Notre Dame Archives in the Hesburgh Library, Notre Dame, Ind.

“So we start in 1820, just 18 years after the end of the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror,” Klawitter said. “France was devastated, its people demoralized, its government reconstituted, its royalty humbled, its institutions, including the Church, demoralized. In that year young men started to filter into a little French town called Ruillé, coming because they had heard in their parish churches in central France that young men were being recruited to work as teaching brothers in village schools. They came to Ruillé with

great hope for a religious career. They came with generous hearts and noble ideals.”

James Dujarié, a parish priest, was given the task of organizing and providing training for these young men eager to help resurrect a broken school system.

“When Pierre Hureau came to Ruillé in July 1820, the Brothers of St. Joseph began,” Klawitter said. “Before his arrival, the brothers were just a dream, a hope, a plan, but once he got to



The birthplace of Brother Andre Mottais, sometimes known as the Brothers of St. Joseph’s second founder.

the little town, the Community started.”

Klawitter was able to handle primary documents in the priests’ archives and many items in the Holy Cross General Archives, which had gradually been shipped from Rome.

“I wanted to get close to individual brothers by translating their letters from French to English. I gradually came to feel I knew Brother André Mottais, Brother Vincent Pieau and Brother Leonard Guittoger, among others.”

Klawitter traveled to a number of small towns in northern France, where the early brothers grew up, and he visited New Orleans to research the orphanage there that the brothers took over in 1849.

As his research grew, Klawitter learned just how significant were these “good-willed” men who rallied in the 1820s to serve as religious teachers for young children in little French towns. He has since published several books based on his findings.

“I was very happy to find out that the early brothers in France were run by a council of four brothers,” Klawitter said. “Their founder, Father Dujarié, left the day-to-day assignments up to the four men, in particular to their primary director, Brother André Mottais.

“I was surprised to find out that most of the brothers lived alone, teaching in one-room schools,



Brother George Klawitter has given the Brothers of Holy Cross a gift in his chronicles of the early years of the Brothers of St. Joseph.

away from their motherhouse in Ruillé. They gathered in Ruillé only once a year when they returned to the motherhouse for a two-week retreat at the end of August,” Klawitter said.

Klawitter made a number of interesting discoveries among the early brothers, but the most endearing to him were things he found out about three young men in particular.

“Brother Hilarion was a brave young brother who was chosen to lead the brothers back to Algeria two years after the first mission there had collapsed,” Klawitter said. “Sadly, he died in Algeria only five years after his arrival. His letters are rich in details about the country.”

A young brother of only 20 drowned in the Ohio River near Madison, Ind., in the summer of 1845. “Brother Anselm so desperately wanted to be at Notre Dame with the other brothers,”

Klawitter said.

“Similarly I found the journal of young Brother Gatian to be fascinating,” Klawitter said. “He joined the brothers at the age of 14 and was sent to Indiana with five other brothers in 1841 when he was 15. What a lively journal he wrote! He learned English in America rather quickly, and his letters written in English after only a few years in Indiana sparkle with energy. He was not afraid to speak his mind.”

The Congregation of Holy Cross combined the Brothers of St. Joseph and the Auxiliary Priests of Le Mans founded by Blessed Basil Moreau in 1835. Holy Cross priests and brothers have served in schools and parishes in Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

Klawitter retired in 2012 from St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas, where he taught for 18 years and chaired the Department of English Literature for eight years. He retired in 2019 from Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind. He has published several books, including *The Brothers of St. Joseph, After Holy Cross Only Notre Dame* and *Early Men of Holy Cross*. He has also published two books of Holy Cross missionary letters: *Adapted to the Lake* and *Holy Cross in Algeria*.

The Congregation of Holy Cross celebrates 200 years of the brothers as they continue to share “generous hearts and noble ideals” to countless people around the world. ✚

A planned gift given in gratitude and honor to brothers

We know why people give. It's out of gratitude, personal stewardship, a commitment to Christ and His Church to bring about His Kingdom.

Louise Didion exemplifies this giving commitment and the Brothers of Holy Cross are blessed by her example.

Louise was the grandmother of Brother Larry Stewart, CSC, or "Lar" as he's affectionately called. He's known as an educator, historian, cyclist and outdoorsman to the folks around South Bend, Holy Cross College and St. Mary's College.

Lar's "active" and most recent outdoors motion was the trek, walking and biking 322 miles on the "Notre Dame Trail" pilgrimage from Vincennes, Ind., to Notre Dame, Ind., in August, 2017.

Prior to the pilgrimage, Stewart taught and served



Brother Larry Stewart on the Notre Dame Trail, a pilgrimage from Vincennes, Ind., to Notre Dame, Ind., in August, 2017.

at St. John's School in Sekondi, Ghana, West Africa; Holy Cross Junior College, Notre Dame, Ind.; St. Mary's College,

Notre Dame, Ind.; Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.; Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.; and St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas.

Occasionally in conversation Stewart talks about "the farm." Anyone who has heard talk about the farm knows it is near Bellevue, Ohio. This parcel of land has been part of the Stewart/Didion families since 1852 and most of it remains in the Stewart/Didion family.

Brother Larry's grandmother was grateful for his



The Stewart and Didion family farm in Bellevue, Ohio

vocation and inspired by his ministry. As a way to honor him she specified in her estate that after the death of her last living child, Aunt Dorothy (one of 13 children Louise and her husband August joyfully brought into God's Kingdom), that Brother Larry benefit from the sale of a portion of the family farmland. As a result, the Brothers of Holy Cross would receive a gift because of the gratitude of his grandmother for a life lived well in Christ, a life that has witnessed to and educated countless students.

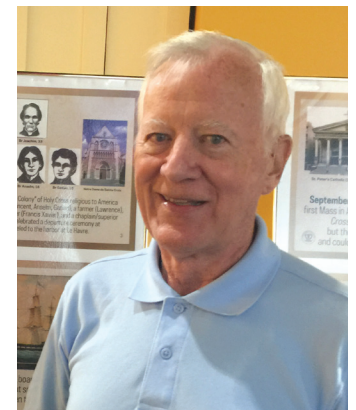
Stewart is retired and lives at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus.

He continues to work on archive projects recording the history of the brothers.

The brothers have been blessed to receive gifts like Louise's, a gift planned before her passing and made to celebrate life, in

this case, Stewart's, in recognition how one life can transform the lives of many others.

If gratitude for the Brothers of Holy Cross inspires your giving, consider remembering the brothers in your estate plan in honor of a brother who has impacted your life and to perpetuate the mission and ministries of Holy Cross. ✙



Brother Larry Stewart

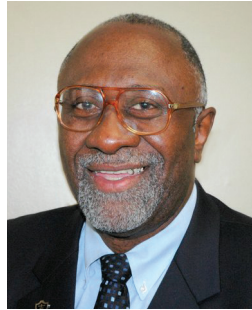
Ways to thank the brothers who have touched your lives

BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, CSC • DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Brothers of Holy Cross never let a day pass that we don't think of and offer prayers for you with gratitude for sharing in our ministerial journey. It's part of our promise and our stewardship to you. All that you have done for us in your prayers and giving continues to inspire our work.

A few days ago I was writing thank-you notes for gifts the brothers recently received. With all the events and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, I decided to make some phone calls to thank folks for their generosity and to let them know that the Brothers of Holy Cross are still remembering them in our prayers. Some of the people I spoke to were surprised yet pleased to know of our concern for them, concern that extends to you and all of our partners.

Brother Larry Stewart's story on the preceding page



Brother Roy Smith, CSC

describes how his family decided to recognize and thank him for his example and inspiration to them over many years. Many donors make gifts in gratitude to brothers who have impacted their lives. Here are a few messages that accompanied recent gifts:

- *"For the brothers who taught at Archbishop Hoban High School from 1963-1967"*
- *"For all the brothers who taught me at St. Joseph High School"*
- *"For Brothers Robert Kelly, Daniel Kane and Robert Lavelle who helped me grow while I was at Gilmour."*

Below are a few options you might consider to thank a brother who has been and probably continues to be a positive influence in your life. When you take advantage of one of these ways to make a gift of gratitude, let me know which Brother you're honoring and why. Your story is important to us.

I give thanks to you for your partnership and your care and concern for the Brothers of Holy Cross. ✚

Here are a few specific ways of giving to the brothers

Through a will, life insurance and retirement plans

A will is a simple legal document that sets forth the distribution of your property according to your wishes while providing protection for your loved ones.

You can give through your will by:

- Designating a percentage of your estate as a charitable gift to the brothers.
- Designating a specific amount of money or property (real estate or stocks).
- Gifting part or all of the estate that remains (residue or remainder) after other specific bequests have been satisfied.
- Combining a percentage or specific amount from the estate with the residue.

*Making a gift through a will to the brothers can be most efficiently completed using our legal name and location:
Brothers of Holy Cross, Inc., Notre Dame, Ind.*



Giving through life insurance

- If you own a life insurance policy that no longer meets your needs, you could name the Brothers of Holy Cross, Inc., Notre Dame, Ind., as a beneficiary.
- Purchase a new life insurance policy naming Brothers of Holy Cross, Inc., Notre Dame, Ind., as beneficiary.
- Allow the Brothers of Holy Cross to own a policy on your life. You can make an annual contribution to underwrite the insurance premium.

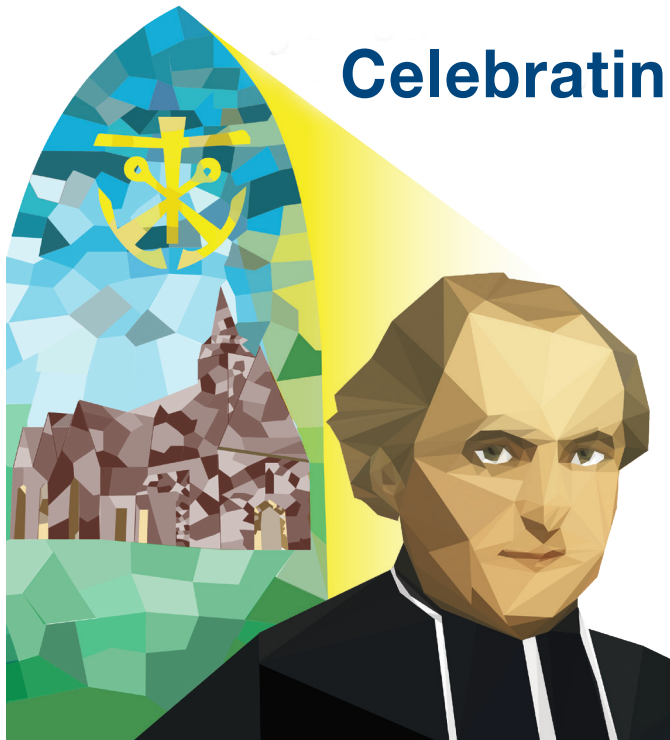
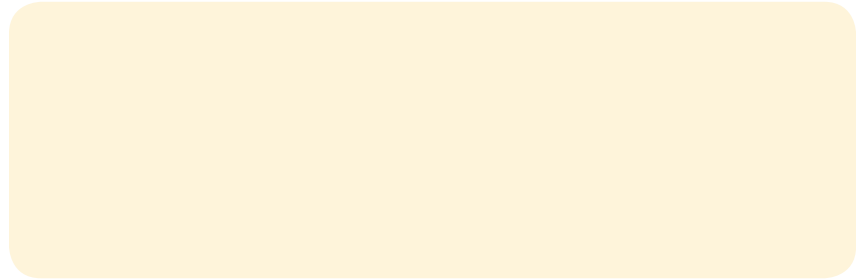
Giving through retirement plans

Many retirement plans are funded with pre-tax dollars and substantial income and estate taxes can be levied when these funds are left to family members or others.

Often a simple change in the name of the beneficiary is all that is required to make a gift through a retirement plan.

Stocks

Call Brother Roy Smith at 574.302.5702 or 574.631.2928 for information concerning stock options.



Celebrating 200 years of Brothers

**Brothers of St. Joseph
1820-2020
Brothers of Holy Cross**

*...to be a COMFORT to the widow,
the FATHER of the orphan,
the PROTECTOR of the poor,
the FRIEND of the sick...*

*Rev. Jacques-François Dujarié
1767-1838*

Founder of the Brothers of St. Joseph,
who Blessed Basil Moreau would later merge with his
Auxiliary priests to form the Congregation of Holy Cross