

BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross

Spring–Jubilee 2023

God is doing something new in Ghana today

BY BROTHER KENNETH HADERS, CSC, PROVINCIAL

My first exposure to Holy Cross in Ghana was when some of the Ghanaian brothers came to meetings of the Midwest brothers, since they were part of our province. Over the years, I explored ministry in Ghana and was later invited to help the District of West Africa talk about their goals and plans as moderator of several of their District Chapters.

The word Akwaaba – Welcome – is singularly important in defining the people of Ghana. When they say “you are welcome” they truly mean it. In over a dozen trips, I have always felt welcomed. More recently, I was welcomed as a senior brother in the Ghanaian family of Holy Cross. And to the degree that my experience or insights were helpful, I have been happy to share. But in truth, I often received more than I gave. They are such an amazing group of Holy Cross religious!

Over several visits, including helping at several chapters, I saw dreams articulated, policies drafted, plans presented, ideas debated, disagreements explored and leaders emerge. With prayer, we will see where Providence leads as they begin a new level of responsibility as the new Province of West Africa.

Today, there are only nine more brothers in the Midwest province than there are in the new Province of West Africa. They are

growing in numbers and expanding in ministries. In addition to their traditional ministries in two secondary schools, where the brothers have served for more than 60 years, and in a technical school, the brothers have for many years directed a retreat/conference center. They have also coordinated a ministry of prayer associated with Holy Cross Family Ministries – of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton fame. In the past few years, the brothers have opened a new secondary school named in honor of Brother André, our first Holy Cross saint, have expanded to provide youth ministry in two dioceses in the Northern part of Ghana, have assumed responsibility for a preschool and for a ministry to a colony of families formed around the stigma of their older members having had leprosy. This year five young Ghanaian brothers will make their final profession of vows as members of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

In many ways Moreau’s zeal may be the defining virtue of Holy Cross in West Africa. There is a great desire to “make God known, loved and served” through the witness of good



Brother Kenneth Haders, Provincial, shares his comments at the Inauguration of the Province of West Africa.



A group of Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters gather with the Most Rev. Charles Gabriel Palmer-Buckle, Archbishop of Cape Coast outside the Chapel of St. André, Brafoyaw, Cape Coast on Feb. 11.

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lives lived and generous commitment to ministry. But beyond that basic definition of this important Holy Cross virtue, I am reminded of the mantra, “no magic, only zeal,” that I offered to the brothers at the end of the last district chapter, where plans were detailed and approved to become an independent province of brothers. I warned them that success would not be accomplished by any unexplained magic, but only by zeal – and as Moreau wrote, those who are animated by this virtue of zeal will fulfill their duties “with eagerness, affection, courage and perseverance.” I pray that zeal will always be the foundation of this new province of brothers who have grown to



Brothers of Holy Cross from Ghana and the Midwest Province gather on the steps in front of Chapel of St. André, Brafoyaw, Cape Coast on Feb. 10. They spent several days together building a bond and sharing ideas.

be independent religious with their own leaders and ministries. With the establishment of a new province of brothers, God is doing something new in Ghana!

In this issue of BROTHERS, we also celebrate the anniversary of profession of six brothers. As I look back on the ministries of these brothers, I am amazed. They are a true reflection of the advantages of being a religious brother in the church, as each has brought Jesus’ ministries of teaching and compassion to life in a

variety of ways, but always as brother. Our constitutions include a beautiful summary of our vocation:

“As disciples of Jesus we stand side by side with all people. Like them we are burdened by the same struggles and beset by the same weaknesses; like them we are made new by the same Lord’s love; like them we hope for a world where justice and love prevail. Thus, wherever through its superiors the congregation sends us we go as educators in the faith to those whose lot we share, supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere in their efforts to form communities of the coming kingdom.”

(Constitution 12)

I would like to focus on the last sentence of this quote because it speaks to the great motivation of our life and work as Holy Cross religious. We are about the business of building the kingdom, a place where God’s ways are brought forward in this world, a world where justice and love prevail. It is how we live, what I believe is the charism given to us by our founder, Blessed Basil Moreau, to create a future better than our own by our participation in “forming communities of the coming kingdom.” Being an educator in the faith is less a statement about teaching about our Catholic faith than it is a statement of who we are as men in and within a faith tradition that calls us to join with others of grace and good will to bring the reign of God to our world.

This is the work so well executed by our jubilarians. Through a variety of ministries in places on three continents, they have been men of grace and good will who have, through their lives and ministries, brought a little more of God’s ways into our world. We can join with them in thanking God for the ways they have stood side by side with many people to be made new by the same God’s love. ✚



Jubilarians to renew vows in April at Mass of Thanksgiving

Five brothers of Holy Cross celebrate 270 years of religious profession.

The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross will honor five Brothers celebrating their 70th, 60th, 50th and 40th jubilees of religious profession on Sat., April 29, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana at 10:30 am.

Three of these brothers reside in the Notre Dame and northern Indiana area, one in Chicago, and one in Nairobi, Kenya.

Also joining in the celebration will be Brother Nicholas

Thielman, CSC, from the Moreau Province.

Brother Ken Haders, Provincial of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross, will accept the brothers’ renewal of vows. Dr. Andrew McShane will be the musical director and organist, with Mrs. Halle McGuire Hobbins as the cantor. The Rev. Paul Doyle, CSC, will be the celebrant.

A brunch will follow the mass in McKenna Hall for invited guests.

Brother Joseph Fox, CSC, of Holy Cross Village, Notre Dame, Indiana is coordinating the event.



Brother Raymond Papenfuss CSC

Raymond Papenfuss was born and grew up in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He knew at a very early age that he wanted to become a teacher and work within the Church. He had no idea what a religious brother was. His parish priest, Msgr. Riorden, directed him to Holy Cross. Brother Raymond professed his first vows in 1953.



“As I think about my life in Holy Cross it is clear to me that the 28 years I spent in Ghana have had a great effect on me,” Brother Raymond said. “The many relationships I have formed over the years have given me a deeper understanding of God, myself and human relationships—a way to experience the joy of life and to keep everything in proper perspective.”

Before going to Ghana, Brother Raymond spent three years teaching at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago. In Ghana he taught, did some parish ministry and worked at establishing a trade school. After an attack of cerebral malaria in 1987 he had to return to the States.

“I am still in contact with students from both Trinity and

70-YEAR JUBILARIAN

St John’s school, Ghana,” Brother Raymond said.

Upon his return to the U.S., he spent one year teaching at Holy Cross and Saint Mary’s Colleges. He also served as assistant provincial for 12 years and spent time in vocational work.

“Probably the most important opportunity for me was the chance to work with the multiple handicapped community in South Bend, especially Matt Cook who has been part of my life for the past 35 years,” Brother Raymond said.

“Over the years my spiritual mentors have been Merton, Keating and Rohr. They convinced me that God loves everyone unconditionally, that there is nothing we can do to make Him love us more and nothing we can do to make Him love us less,” Brother Raymond said. “Growing up in the pre-Vatican church with all of the rules and regulations, this was a great truth to become aware of—the good news everyone needs to hear. This spiritual insight is, clearly, the biggest influence in my life and has brought me to where I am now.

“I am safe within God’s unconditional love. The two most importance experiences in my life are the time I was able to spend in Ghana and my time with Matt Cook. I thank God for His loving kindness in giving these opportunities to me.”



Brother Joseph McTaggart, CSC

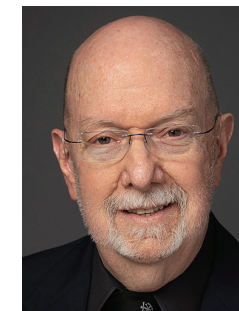
Poet and essayist, T.S. Eliot once wrote, “We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring, will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time.”

Joseph McTaggart was born April 14, 1942, in Cleveland, Ohio. He professed his first vows on Jan. 26, 1963.

“It is God who called, led and sustained me the entire way,” Brother Joe said. “Fateful detours and wrong turnings,’ as Carl Jung posited, have really been my journey these 60 years of spiritual calling. And it has taken me all of these years to fully embrace that it really was a ‘calling’ or ‘vocation.’”

60-YEAR JUBILARIAN

Brother Joe served for eight years as a teacher at Holy Trinity High School in Chicago and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis before moving into campus ministry at Wayne State University and later at the University of Notre Dame until 1983.



“I am most indebted to God and for the direction and decision-making of past and present leadership of the Midwest Province of Brothers for all that I have come to know and have experienced,” Brother Joe said.

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“I was the beneficiary of having the freedom to discern and follow another call.”

This new calling allowed Brother Joe to study at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley and perform a Clinical Pastoral Education Residency at Presbyterian Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. This was the beginning of a 16-year career as a Chaplain at Providence of Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, California. He also took classes to become certified in Chemical Dependency and Alcohol Rehab before returning in 2001 to serve on the staff at Dujarié House, Notre Dame, Indiana. Here he worked with the brothers who had health care needs.

“I have learned so very much by the grace of God from the totality of my life’s journey. Eliot’s full-circle concept has helped

me see, gratefully, that reality now in my life,” Brother Joe said. “And, as I look reflectively at these 60 years and my life’s work as a Brother in Holy Cross, I see it not in a ‘mirror dimly’ as before, but rather boldly now, experiencing that it truly was God and the Spirit leading and blessing me in the entire process from its first inkling to this very moment as well.

“To my family, my community and to the blessing of Providence itself, I am most indebted—and gratefully so,” Brother Joe said. “This sixtieth year marker is highly symbolic of the ‘exploration’ of it all, and the providential purpose alluded to by Eliot in his great insight and poetic expression of ‘knowing of this place for the first time’ makes so much sense now.

“God has given, provided for, sustained, blessed, and personally gifted me through it all,” Brother Joe said.



50-YEAR JUBILARIANS

Brother Robert Livernois, CSC

Robert Livernois grew up on a dairy farm in Anchorville, Michigan. He first met the Holy Cross brothers while attending a Catholic Student Mission Crusade conference held in 1968 at Notre Dame, Indiana. After two years of studies at Holy Cross College, Bob entered the Congregation of Holy Cross Novitiate in Bennington, Vermont. Brother Bob professed his first vows in 1973.



“In the past 50 years I have had the opportunity to grow personally and professionally while attempting to serve God and those around me,” Brother Bob said. “As I reflect on my youth, I realize the gifts I received from the many role models I encountered. Through daily prayer, Sunday Mass, and an emphasis on honesty and integrity, my parents modeled what it meant to be faith-filled Catholics. They insisted on 12 years of Catholic education where I witnessed religious and lay teachers who taught me both in and out of the classroom by the way they lived their lives. I am ever grateful for this gift.”

Earning a degree in social studies from Indiana University in South Bend, Indiana, Brother Bob was assigned to LeMans Academy where he taught middle school students. With a master’s degree in guidance and counseling, Brother Bob became a high school counselor, first at Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview,

Michigan and then St. Joseph’s High School in South Bend.

Preparing for school administration, Brother Bob attended Ursuline College before serving as principal of St. Mary Catholic Central High School in Monroe, Michigan. He then accepted a position at Holy Cross College, first as Dean of Students and then as Director of the Conditional Acceptance Program.

In 2006 Brother Bob moved to Ohio, where he served as chair of the Social Studies department at St. Edward High School for six years before moving to Archbishop Hoban High School where he ministered as an associate principal and then Vice President for Mission and Leadership. In 2020 Brother Bob moved to Holy Cross Village where he promotes the mission of Holy Cross to the staff and residents.

Throughout his time ministering in schools, Brother Bob shared his passion for promoting the mission of Blessed Basil Moreau while encouraging students to recognize and develop their leadership skills. Be it teaching leadership classes or taking students to leadership retreats and conferences, many students grew to appreciate their potential as leaders. More recently Brother Bob has organized a number of retreats for faculty, staff and students designed to promote Holy Cross values.

“Father James Dujarié, founder of the Brothers of Saint Joseph, said ‘While there is time, let us do good.’ Now, in my later years, I believe that it is important to do all that I can to ensure that the mission, established by our early founders, continues on at each of our ministries. It is God’s work and I am blessed to be part of the journey.”

Brother James Van Dyke, CSC

James Van Dyke grew up in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. While attending Marquette University, he became acquainted with the Brothers of Holy Cross at St. Charles Boys Home. The brothers’ examples of faith, service and community led James to join Holy Cross. Living at St. Charles as a student allowed him to learn from brothers with years of experience.



The Holy Cross Novitiate in Bennington, Vermont, included brother and priest novices from throughout the U.S., expanding Brother James’ perception of the congregation. Under Father Thomas Barrosse and Brother Thomas Moser, the novitiate was truly formative, and subsequent years have deepened his appreciation for the foundation it provided.

In 1974 Brother James moved to Chicago to teach at Holy Trinity High School. The school’s large community of

brothers, diverse students and urban location significantly impacted Brother James’ sense of mission and ministry. While there, he also obtained a master’s degree in Religious Studies. As with others who served at Holy Trinity, Brother James believes that the students and their families taught him more than he taught them.

Brother James decided to go to law school, obtaining a juris doctorate degree in 1986. He worked for the Cook County Criminal Court through 2000, primarily in the areas of youth crimes, family violence and substance abuse. He then served as Director of Salvation Army Correctional Services in Chicago, overseeing a facility under contract with the U.S. Department of Justice for people transitioning from Federal prisons.

Wishing a return to serving people directly, Brother James “boomeranged” to Holy Trinity in 2014, teaching social studies and helping with campus ministry. He draws inspiration from the examples of St. Joseph and St. André Bessette, humble men who responded wholeheartedly to the call of God.



40-YEAR JUBILARIAN

Brother Paul’s jubilee celebration will take place in the Province of West Africa at a later date but he joins his Midwest brothers in April.

Br. Paul Kofi Mensah, CSC

Paul Kofi Mensah was born 63 years ago at Asankrangwa in Western Ghana to Kwabena Mensah and Theresa Amoah. He was the oldest of five children. His primary, middle, and secondary education were all in Asankrangwa.

Paul was called to the religious life during his third year in secondary school when his good friend, now Rev. Fr. Dr. Philip Danquah was a student of St. Theresa’s Minor Seminary, where the Holy Cross Brothers were administering. He showed Paul a vocation brochure from the Holy Cross Brothers. His initial desire to go to the minor seminary waned after reading the brochure about the brothers. Brother James Kozak became his vocation director, postulant director and novice director.

“I owe Brother James a debt of gratitude because he sustained my desire,” Brother Paul said.

Brother Paul professed his first vows in 1983 and continued his formation in the United States. He received his bachelor’s in business administration at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas in 1991 and continued formation studies and received a

master’s degrees in theology specializing in spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in 2005.

He has served as a District Superior; formation director and various phases of formation programs; District Council leadership and a missionary in the District of East Africa; District Steward; manager at Catholic Mission Press; Executive Secretary at the Conference of Major Superiors; Catholic Bishops Conference in finance; and board member for the insurance company of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Ghana. He was assigned to East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya in November of 2018. Over the last five years, he has been ministering in the post novitiate formation as an assistant director and steward accompanying the younger confreres in their journey to the priesthood and brotherhood.

“Being a missionary in the Province of East Africa has strengthened my religious vocation in Holy Cross,” Brother Paul said. “Just as our historical members who sowed the foundation for the West African mission our Constitution 2:17 says “our mission sends us across borders of every sort.”



The virtue of Zeal is behind the making of the Province of West Africa

BY
MARY ANNE DECECENZO, EDITOR

The making of the Province of West Africa, declared on Jan. 1 and inaugurated on Feb. 11, had its first seeds planted when three Holy Cross brothers from the Midwest Province answered the call to teach at St. John Secondary School in Sekondi, Ghana in the late 1950s.

At the invitation of the Archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana, it was his desire to bring missionary help to a region rich with many Roman Catholic communities but lacking the personnel to satisfy the needs of its people. He believed if the Church was to grow in the region, he needed Ghanaians to be in formation for the priesthood and religious life.

“From the beginning, generosity was a hallmark in the establishment of Holy Cross in West Africa,” said Brother Paul Bednarczyk, Superior General. “With the foresight and support of the Midwest Province of Brothers, three brother missionaries came to Ghana in 1957 with tremendous zeal, eager to share the gift of our Holy Cross charism of being ‘educators in the faith.’”

Brothers Rex Hennel, Eduardo Michalik and Donald Allen arrived in Takoradi Harbor in Dec. 1957 ready to start the journey we celebrate today. They would soon be joined by four more brothers including Brother Raymond Papenfuss, featured on pages 3 and 9. He is the last living brother of this initial group.

These pioneer brothers found themselves more than 5,000 miles from home on the west coast of Africa in an agricultural country of 92,000 acres of primarily rain forest, savanna and scrub land with a tropical climate. Although English was the



Brother Michael Amakyi embraces Sr. Margaret Nimo, CSC before Mass on Feb. 11.

national language, there were many dialects of traditional languages spoken in Ghana. The brothers, quickly immersed themselves into the culture of the Ghanaian people including learning Fanti, the primary language of the African student.

These brothers were not going to fail as evident in the many



Brothers Paul Mensah, Cleophas Kyomuhendo, Raymond Papenfuss, Ken Kunditani, Joseph Fox and Anthony Dadzie sit under a tent at the outdoor Mass celebrating the Inauguration of the Province of West Africa on Feb. 11.

communications they sent to the Mother Province which are found at the Midwest Province Archives Office in South Bend, Ind. They worked with great determination assuring that Holy Cross would indeed sink its roots deeply in Ghana.

Vocation promotion was intentional but not at the expense of organizing a well-run school. Education was based on the British system and held in high regard. The brothers also saw the needs of the people of Ghana and built a trade school to train students to be of service to their communities. The Holy Cross Technical Institute in Takoradi was built primarily by the students under the direction of brothers like Brother Raymond.

The Holy Cross brothers were able to start a formation program just five years after their arrival in Ghana to train young Africans to become Holy Cross brothers. In the early '60s young Ghanaians studied at St. Joseph Hall of St. John's Secondary School under the direction of Brother Raymond. Brother Joseph Tsiquaye became the first Ghanaian brother to profess his vows in 1971.

Benefactors from the United States and Europe provided the necessary funds to establish a house for the brothers' formation in Brafoyaw. Dujarié House and the Continuing Formation Center followed. The Brothers House and office were built by donatons from families in the US followed by Brother St. André Chapel.

In 1967, the foundations for growth and permanency of Holy Cross in Ghana were laid when the Holy Cross

communities in Ghana and Liberia were given recognition as a District of the Midwest Province.

Even as more Africans were entering the congregation to become brothers, the Midwest Province continued to send brothers and resources to sustain the growth of Holy Cross in this region. The mission of building up the local Church in West Africa grew quickly with more personnel and educational outreach in schools. Today the Province of West Africa has 50 members in their community.

Over the 65 ensuing years, as the number of professed African brothers grew, and through many chapter meetings with the Midwest Province, it was evident that the zeal to sustain Holy Cross in this region warranted the declaration of the Province of West Africa. Chapter meetings provided the opportunity for a rich dialogue among the brothers from both continents.

“I saw dreams articulated, policies drafted, plans presented, ideas debated, disagreements explored and leaders emerge,” said Brother Kenneth Haders, Midwest Provincial Superior. “Brothers Joseph Tsiquaye and Joseph Annan, two men of very different personalities, both presented initial impressions I found fascinating and engaging. Later, I met Brother Michael Amakyi and a connection was forged that was based on mutual interest in the context of a shared vocation that existed on two separate continents.”

These dreams, plans and policies were presented to the General Chapter of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome



Members of the new Provincial Council recite the profession of faith and take the oath of office at the Inauguration of the Province of West Africa in Brafoyaw, Cape Coast on Feb. 11.

in June 2022. The Province of West Africa was officially created on Jan. 1, and was formerly inaugurated on Feb. 11 with a week-long time of meetings, prayer and sharing among the brothers from the US and Ghana.

The Most Rev. Charles Palmer-Buckle, archbishop of Cape Coast, concelebrated a Mass of thanksgiving with

Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters from Ghana on Feb. 11 as the Province of West Africa was formerly declared.

Following the homily Brother Paul Bednarczyk, superior general, called forth Brother John Affum, Province of West Africa superior, and his council. The profession of faith and the taking of the oath of office was recited by the brothers in the presence of the assembly.

A traditional African celebration took place following the liturgy complete with students performing native dances and singing. Family and friends joined in the celebration.

“We respond to the call to duty as we celebrate the beginning and the readiness for another page in our Holy Cross history, ministry and service with and for others in pursuing the presence of God's Kingdom here in Africa and in Holy Cross around the world,” said Brother John. “Our first duty is to be thankful to our senior membership—the second founders of the Ghana mission. I call them so because the baton was handed over to them at the earliest in the stories of our history and they kept the fire up, kept the zeal burning.”

ZEAL has been the defining virtue of Holy Cross as the pioneer brothers exhibited. With a nearly 65 year legacy there is still a great desire to make God known, loved and served through the witness of good lives lived and generous ministry through the Congregation of Holy Cross.



Brother Paul Bednarczyk, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, reads a proclamation declaring the inauguration of the Province of West Africa.

Inauguration of the Province of West Africa Feb. 11, 2023



Reflections of a pioneer brother of Holy Cross in Ghana

By Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC

I went to Ghana in 1959. I had been teaching at Holy Trinity High School, Chicago for 3 years. I was 26 years old.

I taught English language and literature and religion.



Brother Raymond Papenfuss shares comments at the Mass for the Inauguration of the Province of West Africa on Feb. 11. Brother Raymond was one of the first brothers in Ghana in the 1960s.

Before I did parish work in Ghana I studied the culture carefully. I learned one of the languages, Fante, and learned from the elders about the spiritual beliefs of the people. I was fairly well immersed in the life of the people through my experiences at the high school. Working with the parishes led to the opening of the trade school.

The trade school was started because we became aware of the reality that many young men were unable to get into high school. The concept was to open a school that would teach trades so that the student would be able to get a job immediately after they left the school. Masonry, carpentry, auto mechanics and electrical wiring were the first courses taught. The students selected came from very poor families. They were taught by retired master craftsmen whose salaries were paid

by the Knights of Marshall (like the Knights of Columbus). I got sick in 1987 and returned to the US. The trade school developed along slightly different lines. An interesting note. All the buildings at the trade school were built by the students themselves with their teachers. I was present at their 25th anniversary. One of the original students came and told his story. He came from a very poor family and learned masonry. He said that he now had his own company and had 25 men working for him.

We had many difficulties at the beginning. However, when I left for Ghana an elderly Brother pulled me aside and told me this: 'Raymond, remember that the first job of a missionary is to work himself out of a job. Prepare the local people to carry on the work you start.' This was always in the back of my mind. Through the inspiration of an elderly Holy Cross Brother, Theophane, we started our formation program. The growth was remarkable. The Brothers took over the administration of St John's school



Brother Raymond Papenfuss processes with fellow Holy Cross brothers, sisters and priests on Feb. 10 to Our Lady of Sorrows Cemetery following a Memorial Mass for the many deceased brothers who served in West Africa.

in January of 1958. Ghana received District status in 1967. In 1979 Brother Joseph Tsiquaye became the first Ghanaian District Superior and in just over 60 years the District became an independent province.

Being present at the culmination of this process was a great feeling for me. We had completed our main task. We had worked ourselves out of a job. The new province was in very good hands with many capable people and is now developing on its own.



Brother Raymond Papenfuss accepts a plaque from David Ampofo, a former student at St. John High School, Cape Coast with classmate Nat Assan and Brother James Kozak looking on.

Primarily, my thoughts ran to gratitude to God for enabling all of this to happen. I always remember the quote from scriptures: One plants, another waters but God gives the growth. This is our reality and we must never forget it. My prayers are now that the new province grow and continue to inspire many people to come closer to Christ.

One special, unexpected gift that I received, was on the evening that we left Ghana. A group of students that I had taught over 50 years ago came to see us off at the airport. There were over 20 who came and it was a great experience of remembering. They shared with me how our actions at St John's had influenced their lives. This is something that every teacher needs to hear. ✝

Reflections of brothers on the inauguration of province

Province of West Africa, A dream come true!

The Brothers of Holy Cross in Ghana and the Holy Cross Family in Ghana rejoice in hope as St Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4, the attainment of Province status.

After years and months of prayer and preparations, deliberations and commitment to the cause of the Congregation, we have attained that which we have longed for—for many years!

The feeling of excitement, joy and ecstasy is beyond imagination and description. Almost like a roller coaster experience. This feat however calls for more work, vocation recruitment and we need to together justify the belief that our Mother Province, the Midwest Province and for that matter the entire Congregation, has placed in us.

The onus is now on us to build on where we are so that we can equally grow and in the future give birth to another jurisdiction. The pinnacle is within our limit, I believe strongly with Blessed Basile Moreau, St Brother Andre and St. Joseph on our side.

The feeling is very good and we can only give thanks to God as a faith believing Community of Religious Men of Holy Cross with Hope to bring.

Long Live Holy Cross, Long Live the Province of West Africa!

Brother Emmanuel Kenneth Goode, CSC
Assistant Provincial Superior & Vicar



A wonderful celebration of a dream come true! I really enjoyed my visit and am very grateful for any part, however small, that I played in the development of Holy Cross in Ghana. A tremendous group of Brothers in the Province of West Africa: indeed, men of hope with hope to bring to others.

Brother James Kozak, CSC



Indeed, my joy of our Province Status knows no bounds and the ultimate measure of it are the toils of our forebears, the witness of our fidelity to the gospel and our constant invitation to others to share in this joy of being Brothers of Holy Cross.

Brother Francisco Gillette, CSC



Our celebration is a testimony to the Providence of God for Holy Cross in Ghana. We stand on the shoulders of great missionaries of vision and commitment. They blazed trails, beckoned and mentored us to follow in their deep footprints. We are eternally grateful to God and to them all.

Brother J. Kofi Tsiquaye, CSC



I rejoiced when the new Province of West Africa was proclaimed on Feb. 11, at Brafoyaw, Cape Coast, Ghana. After 65 years of existence, becoming a Province, perhaps, is easier than living the reality of it. Our desire for this jurisdiction in the Congregation of Holy Cross means Holy Cross in West Africa will succeed and function well as a new reality. A Ghanaian proverb has it that "when a child learns how to wash his/her hands well, he/she eats with the elders".

We join our elders in Holy Cross as the all the members put our hands on deck with passion and zeal to work to make God known, loved, and served on this new reality. We pray for God's providence, support from our friends, and the Congregation of Holy Cross. Blessed Basile Moreau, our founder, urges us not to be afraid but venture into the unknown.

Greetings from Nairobi, Kenya where I am a missionary working in formation.

Brother Paul Kofi Mensah, CSC



The joy for me in attending the Inauguration of the Province of West Africa, an important milestone in the history of Congregation Holy Cross, but more importantly, was to see the joy and fresh enthusiasm of its membership. This day has been a long time in coming but well worth the sweat, tears and labor of love leading up to this momentous occasion moving from a District to the status of a Province in Holy Cross.

To witness, first hand, a group of Holy Cross men and their involvement within the Church and how they are meeting the needs of its people has been a truly rewarding experience for me. To see their individual and collective labor among the people they serve is inspiring and Divine Providence at work.

Brother Joseph Fox, CSC



The story of Holy Cross in Ghana spans decades since the arrival of Holy Cross Brothers sixty-plus years ago. Over the years, that story continues to be developed and realized through the commitment in responses to the needs and aspirations of those being served.

It has been a blessing and an honor for me to join others in celebrating the faith commitment, leadership, vision, and engagement of so many of my Holy Cross confreres who have led the district to become a province since their arrival decades ago. Brothers have together witnessed the call of the gospel in their lives and in their attention and care for those they serve and have attracted others to join in that effort. The blessings of Holy Cross, as expressed in our charisms of trust in Divine Providence, hospitality and inclusion, zeal for the mission, forgiveness, and hope, have taken firm root in Ghana and will be nurtured by the members of this Province of West Ghana and the support of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Brother Robert Lavelle, CSC



This special moment comes with gratitude and praise

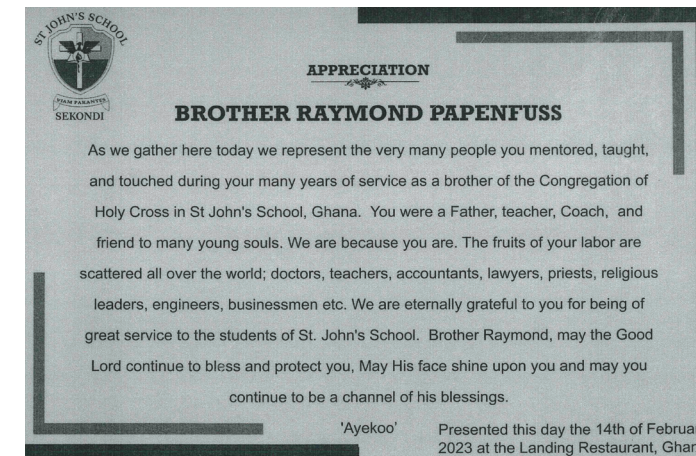
BY BROTHER ROY SMITH, CSC
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT—MIDWEST PROVINCE

"He formed us, they, the brothers supported us, guided us, educated us."—David Ampofo

In the stories you are reading in this issue of BROTHERS, you may sense the joy shared in the inauguration of the District of Ghana to the Province of West Africa. Yet of all of the many special moments, a most memorable one took place a few hours before our 11 pm flight to return to the United States.

Word had gotten around that Brother Raymond Papenfuss was going to be in Ghana for a few days. Nat Assan, one of his former students, set in motion a gathering of some 25 students to join with the brothers who came from the United States for a meal at the Landing Restaurant on the edge of the airport grounds.

It was a grand reunion with moments of surprise and joy and some tears of gladness. This was an opportunity for



This plaque was presented to Brother Raymond Papenfuss by former Ghanaian students as he departed from Ghana in mid-February.

some former students such as David Ampofo to say, in person, a heartfelt thank you to Brothers Raymond Papenfuss and James Kozak and all those who along the way over many years influenced their lives. I

think Brother Raymond was moved, especially because some teachers do not get such a clear thank you. David stood among the group and passionately reminded his fellow schoolmates by saying "He (Brother Raymond) formed us, and they, the brothers supported us, guided us, educated us." It certainly was an emotional moment for all of us.

It is our intention and hope as Brothers of Holy Cross that you do hear and read often that we are so grateful that you have made this journey with us. Many of you have made it possible, through your prayers and generosity for 60 years, to come to this moment that the Lord has blessed the growth of the District of Ghana to now become the Province of West Africa. As they say, it takes a village. Thank you for being a part of that village.

In a special way let us all congratulate our jubilarians as we celebrate them for the years of dedicated service to build up the kingdom of God.



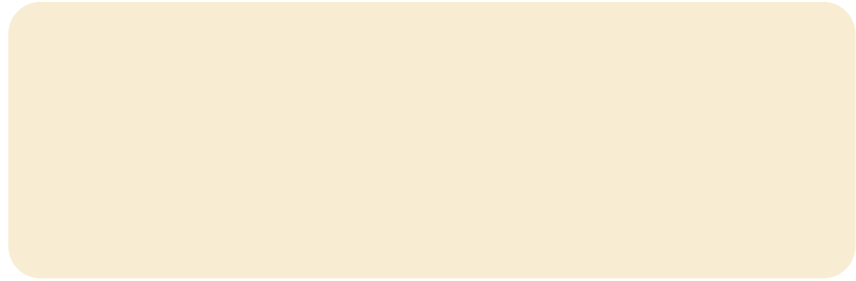
Brother Ken Goode presents Brother Roy Smith with a gift as a sign of gratitude to the brothers on the Inauguration of the Province of West Africa.

A path for the future of the Province of West Africa is shared in the words of our Holy Cross Constitutions:

"As disciples of Jesus, we stand side by side with all people. ... we are burdened by the same struggles and beset by the same weaknesses; ... we are made new by the same Lord's love;... we hope for a world where justice and love prevail. Thus,... we go as educators in the faith to those whose lot we share, supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere in their efforts to form communities of the coming kingdom."

Remembering our deceased brothers. May they rest in peace.

- Brother Jerome Francis Kroetsch, CSC • 90 • Nov. 24, 2022 • 60 years a vowed religious*
- Brother Thomas Frederick Moser, CSC • 83 • Dec. 20, 2022 • 62 years a vowed religious*
- Brother James Peter Newberry, CSC • 93 • Dec. 30, 2022 • 62 years a vowed religious*
- Brother Walter Bernard Gluhm, CSC • 89 • March 26, 2023 • 65 years a vowed religious*



“It is God’s own hand which has guided everything, and he it is whom we must thank above all....I beg you to unite your thanks with ours that we may draw down more abundant blessings from heaven upon our work, and above all, not stop their flow by a want of gratitude.”

—Blessed Basile Moreau
Founder, Congregation of Holy Cross, 1849