

# Brothers

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross  
Third Quarter, 2001



## Reaching Out To Others

### Provincial Message



Br. Donald Gibbs, C.S.C.  
Provincial Superior

*"We are men with hope to bring."* This statement from the constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross aptly describes the mission and varied ministries of the Brothers of Holy Cross. Whether in the classroom, working for the community or ministering directly to the suffering and less fortunate, the Brothers of Holy Cross reach out in a preferential way to the poor and oppressed. We come not just as servants, we come as neighbors.

In the following pages you will read about two such ministries of the Brothers of Holy Cross. Boysville of Michigan began 53 years ago as a residence for boys from problem homes. Today, Holy Cross Services, of which Boysville is a part, has expanded to include centers throughout the state of Michigan and ministers to boys and girls not only from problem homes, but to young people in difficulty, or having substance abuse problems or who have suffered abuse in one way or another.

Our constitutions further state that all of us are involved in the mission whether we work in the ministries of the congregation or work to sustain the community. Brother Raymond Papenfuss is a good example. After 28 years as a missionary in Ghana, West Africa, he is the mission promoter for the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross. In addition to his ministry of raising funds

to support our missions, Brother Raymond devotes quality time to Matthew Cook and has been a valuable instrument in his development and adjusting to life in today's society despite his severe physical handicap.

It is not so much what we do that is important; it is who we are and how we respond to the Lord's call in our lives that is significant. As Brothers of Holy Cross, each of us has heard a unique call to follow Jesus. It is the same call given to each person to follow the Lord. In responding

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to this call the brothers become his disciples and stand side by side with all people. Like

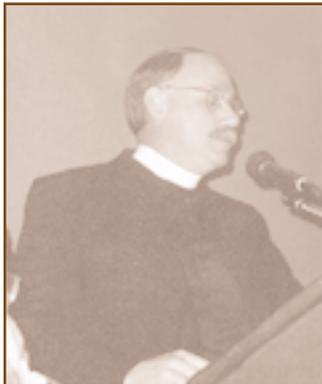
them, the brothers share the same weakness and same struggles. Yet they are made new through the same love that Jesus has for everyone. As they minister to others in a variety of ways they bring a hope for a world where justice and love prevail. The Brothers of Holy Cross follow in the footsteps of many men and women who have preceded them and who have brought hope to others.

The brothers bring this hope today and invite men to listen to Jesus' call in their lives and to join them in the Lord's mission to serve the needs of the church and the world. The Lord Jesus is calling, *"Come. Follow Me."*

# Educating Through Faith

The mission of the Brothers of Holy Cross is to be *educators in the faith*: bringing the hope of Jesus by promoting justice and preserving human dignity. That mission has led the brothers to a variety of settings and cultures where their diverse ministries are focused on effecting a positive change (conversion) in the lives of those to, and with, whom they minister.

One such ministry took root on a plot of land acquired from Henry Ford near the small farming village of Macon, Michigan (twenty miles southwest of Ann Arbor). In 1948, at the invitation of the Detroit Archbishop Edward Mooney, the Brothers of Holy Cross opened Boysville of Michigan. The original purpose of Boysville was to provide a sound education in a home-like environment for boys from troubled or broken families. Referred and often sponsored by local councils of the



Br. Francis Boylan, C.S.C.,  
Executive Director

Knights of Columbus and pastors, boys found their way to the *ville* from farms, towns and cities across the state.

From those simple origins fifty-three years ago, Boysville has emerged as a national model for child and family treatment and advocacy. From a few pioneering brothers struggling to create a safe and healthy environment in which they could educate their young charges, Boysville has grown to a professional



1961 Brothers of Holy Cross staffing Boysville (l-r)  
**Front Row:** Br. Paulus McGory, Fr. Dayberry, chaplain, Br. John Lavelle, director, Br. Severin Smith  
**Second Row:** Brothers Oliver Baran, Edward Overstreet, Romain Healy, Leonard Siwierka, Aloysius Glombowski  
**Third Row:** Brothers Charles McBride, Philip Armstrong, Charles Mack, Gregoire Bleau  
**Back Row:** Brothers Austin Maley, James Reese, Francis O'Donnell, Alexander Buckley

community of over 900 brothers and dedicated social service workers ministering to over 3,500 boys and girls each year. From a local *ville*, Boysville has expanded to a far-reaching *metropolis* of caring and hope, providing a wide range of services to children and families at risk. From the first campus still located on the original site, Boysville has transported its ever-growing services (now numbering eighteen different programs) to over thirty-five locations in the state of Michigan under the aegis of Holy Cross Social Services of Michigan.

Every Boysville program is designed to reunite children with their families, providing all with the tools and skills to become successful and contributing members of society. With an emphasis on the spiritual, moral, emotional and intellectual development of every child and family who turns to Boysville for help, the Brothers of Holy Cross and the Holy Cross Social Services Advocacy Department speak out on behalf of children and families at risk. They meet and speak with the courts, law enforcement agencies and legislators seeking avenues leading to bridges of hope and laying foundations for a more just and humane treatment of the dispossessed and disenfranchised of society.



Bishop Kenneth Untemer of the Saginaw Diocese at the Annual Appreciation Day Open House on the original Clinton campus. Six boys were confirmed as part of the day's activities.

There is no doubt that the Boysville community continues making inroads to those bridges of hope and laying foundations for a more just and humane society. Post-treatment studies reveal measurable success for eight out of ten children and their families served by the agency. (*Success at Boysville is understood as living in a family environment, being enrolled in school and/or employed, and being free of any adjudication in the legal system.*)

While the original focus of Boysville has been adapted to meet the needs of today's society, the Brothers of Holy Cross remain faithful to Boysville's original mission: striving to do God's work — bringing help and hope to children and families in need.

## Boysville Success Stories...

**James** recently visited the non-secure detention home where he found refuge before his court appearance for vandalism and home invasion. The purpose of his visit was to thank the *Boysville family* who listened, offered encouragement and helped him overcome his negative behavior. Now a college graduate and salesman for a medical supply company, James and his wife are expecting their first child.



After living on the streets of Detroit for three years, **Valerie**, a crack-addicted mother with a two-month old son, was arrested for prostitution at sixteen. During her treatment in a Boysville residential group home, she became an honor student in an intensive computer-based educational program and discovered talents in math and poetry. Valerie's progress led her to Boysville's supervised independent living program where she was assisted in finding employment and in learning to live on her own. Today, Valerie has a GED and is in the process of regaining custody of her son.



With a history of vandalism and truancy, fifteen-year-old **Raimon** was arrested for domestic violence. He was enrolled in Boysville's long-term residential treatment program. Thirteen months later, Raimon was reunited with his family. He finished high school with his peers and won an achievement scholarship to the local community college. Raimon, having just completed his sophomore year as a collegian, is planning a career in social work.

## Story of Matt and Mond:

### Holy Cross Brother Cares for Disabled Teen

In Africa, the measure of a father has little to do with biology; it's about investment in a relationship. That, simply put, is how a Holy Cross Brother became a father to a 6-year-old boy, a boy so severely mentally and physically disabled that nobody wanted to help him. The 14-year friendship proves the adage: Anybody can be a father, but it takes a special person to be a dad.

On a sunny Saturday afternoon at Holy Cross College, Brother Raymond Papenfuss, CSC, pauses after Mass with his remarkable wheelchair-bound friend, Matt Cook. After a few moments, Matt frowns, squirms in his chair and says, "Car." "Car?" the smiling brother asks. "Why? What is it you want?" The boy puts his fingers to his mouth, his sign for eating. "No, tell me in words," Brother Raymond says. "Bob," Matt says. "Bob." "Yes, we're going to Bob's," he tells him, and then explains, "we always go to Bob Evans after Mass. He gets impatient if it takes too long." Matt then stretches out his arms, and Brother Raymond accepts this sign without asking for a word: Matt needs a hug and he gets one without delay, wrapped in the arms of the guy he's come to know as "Mond."

Brother Raymond worked in the health-care field at the brothers' mission in Ghana for 28 years. When he came back to the states, he wanted to become involved in the health field here. He visited Northern Indiana State Development Center, and met Matt Cook, then 6, a multiply handicapped boy.

Matt was born with a rare birth defect that had caused his brain to develop outside his skull. Surgery immediately following birth caused permanent damage to his brain. He grew up in the state system, where

Brother Raymond found him. "When I came back to the states, from Africa, he was living there, and I went every night," Brother Raymond said. "I felt that what was needed was stimulation. They all said he wouldn't be able to do anything, he wouldn't be able to sit up, he wouldn't be able to talk, they gave him very little hope. I said, the problem is, there's no stimulation. So I started working with him, and talking with him, and especially taking him to the mall, where he got a lot of stimuli. Also, when you work with a person that's multiply disabled, it's very important to keep a regular schedule. It gives the security that is needed." The visits continued for many years, and improvement was slow. But a relationship was developing, a lasting relationship that would change the lives of both the brother and the boy.

At age 12, Matt achieved his first miracle: a single spoken word: "car." And Brother Raymond was there for it. "It was a wonderful moment," he said. "He now has a vocabulary of about four or five hundred words, which he'll use appropriately. He can understand things, he can do things, if he decides he wants to, he is, after all, a teenager . . ." Brother Raymond used a familiar wince, the wince understood by every other parent of teenagers trying the wings of behavioral independence. Matt continued to bloom in the sunshine of Brother Raymond's love. In accordance with state statute, he attended school, first at McKinley, then at Clay Middle and Clay High School. "At Clay, Matt enlarged his vocabulary. He learned all the swear words that he heard the kids using in the hallways," Brother Raymond said. "I've never heard them from him; he wouldn't use them in my presence. I have to take it on faith that he knows them. His teachers say it's an instinctive thing, he knows his relationship with me is that of son and father, so he doesn't swear in front of me." One instructor wanted to put Matt into behavior modification for using swear words. "I told them, 'no you will not,' the brother said.

“He’s a teenager. All teenagers swear, so it’s age-appropriate.” But Matt had one special word in his vocabulary, a word he uses only to describe a visit with Brother Raymond. “He calls me Mond,” Brother Raymond said. “Never to me, only to other people. If someone asks him, where were you today? He’ll say Mond.” Matt now learns life skills at Brown Elementary School’s young adult program. Five years ago, Brother Raymond got him into a small group home, Woodmont, in the Bethphage System, an outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. “It’s a regular house in a residential neighborhood, he lives with three other fellows. There’s 24-hour supervision. Richard, Carl, Kevin, those are his friends. Getting into there, he just blossomed forth. He’s energetic, he’s talking more, he’s happier.” But as every parent knows, a baby’s mission in life is to one day no longer be your baby. Just as there is a time for constant attention, there is also a time for backing off. Matt, now 19, is ready to live a life that is somewhat more independent than the early experts predicted. “He’s set



for life now. It’s changed the pattern. Since he’s got a family there. I thought it was very important that he root himself in that family. So now, I take him out every Saturday. I pick him up around 2:30, we spend a couple hours at the mall, we go to Mass (at Holy Cross College), out to eat and go for a ride. After I’ve been with him for the day, at some point he’ll look at me and say ‘home’ and ‘bed.’

“On Tuesdays and Thursdays I go to give him range of motion exercises in the afternoon. His hips are troubled, his knees, his feet, his arms. He has many, many things wrong with him.

This helps keep him a little bit limber. I spend those three days a week with him, the rest of the time he spends with his family at Woodmont. His mom is in Lafayette, I’m very good friends with her and I try to keep them connected as much as possible.” Looking back, Brother Raymond said he realized he had, in a very real sense, adopted the boy.

“In Africa, the way the people there look at fatherhood is that biological parenting is not the significant factor. They would say, even toads do that. The real father is the person who develops a relationship with his son. When I was in Africa, and even still, I’d get many letters from people who are now adults, who would sign ‘your loving son.’ They recognize that the important thing in fatherhood is developing a relationship in which you have trust, in which you have caring; you’re doing things that a father should do for a son or a daughter.”

In Africa, people have many fathers, besides the biological one. In the role of son, Matt has come to learn about God’s unconditional love for him. In the role of father, Brother Raymond has realized that all humans need to acknowledge the fact that we are all dependent, upon each other, upon God, for everything.

“The reality is that he finds out about the love of God through his relationship with me, while at the same time reflecting God’s love to me in a very pure way, because he’s just open,” he said. “He doesn’t make any requirements the way we do on each other. He’s just there. When you look at somebody with Matt’s handicaps and disabilities, I think you can be more aware, that’s really how we are, but we’re not aware of it. He depends on everybody for everything. We create an illusion that we don’t depend on anybody for anything.” Matt is, Brother Raymond insists, “a mighty work of God’s hand, precious in his sight.”

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## A Family Reunion

With the renovation of the Midwest Province Administrative Center approaching completion last summer, and knowing the provincial offices of the Indiana Province needed to relocate to larger accommodations, Br. Donald Gibbs, C.S.C., Midwest Provincial, invited Fr. William Dorwart, C.S.C., Provincial of the Indiana Province, to consider leasing space available in the Administrative Center. Fr. Dorwart studied the possibilities and, after consultation, accepted the invitation.

On December 15, the provincial of the Indiana Province and his two assistants moved their offices to the Administrative Center just off State Road 933 North in Notre Dame. A month later, the staff of the Indiana Province business office occupied the



upper floor of the building. Both provincials and their assistants share private office space on the ground floor opposite the entrance to the Midwest Province business office wing. The Midwest Province also occupies the space on the lower level, apart from an open staff lounge.

This collaborative use of administrative space is symbolic of wider congregational directions gaining momentum today as provinces and districts in Holy Cross seek optimum efficiency in their governing structures as well as to refocus directions in mission.

Novel as this move may seem, it is but one further step in the collaborative process. For years the Midwest and Indiana Provinces have been working together in formation programs for the incorporation of new religious. Since 1989, the two groups, together with the Eastern Brothers’ Province, shared novitiate

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## A Family Reunion

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facilities, staff and programs in Uganda, East Africa. Two years ago the same collaboration accompanied the shifting of the novitiate site to Ghana, West Africa. For many years the Midwest Province has worked with the Indiana Province in the formation of all Holy Cross North American novices at the Marigreen Pines novitiate in Cascade, Colorado. Br. Thomas Moser, former Midwest provincial, remains on Fr. David Guffey's staff at Cascade.

In August of this year a new vocation venture for the Midwest Province conceived by Br. Donald Gibbs and his assistant, Br. Robert Fillmore, began. The Midwest



Province will collaborate with the Indiana Province's Old College program on the Notre Dame campus for candidates discerning a vocation to the religious life. Two young men, both graduates of Reitz Memorial High School, Evansville, Indiana, will join this program to pursue their investigation of the religious life as Brothers of Holy Cross while they study at Holy Cross College. Brother Jerome Meyer, rector of Knott Hall at Notre Dame, will work with Fr. Charles Gordon and his staff in the Old College program.

We are witnessing the concrete realization of collaborative dreams centering around increasing administrative and program collaboration between the brothers and priests of Holy Cross. Surfing the cusp of a larger congregational breaker, these initiatives exemplify possibilities that are not yet clearly perceived or detailed. One certainty is that the Midwest and Indiana provinces will be in the forefront of the planning and action.

## The Road Led Me to the Brothers of Holy Cross

Robbie Davidson began his journey to the Brothers of Holy Cross eighteen years ago. According to Robbie, his parents, Robert and Jane, created a close family atmosphere early in his life in Evansville, Indiana. Faith was an important part of their life as a family and as well as in their reaching out to ill relatives.

Much of what happened during his high school years strongly influenced the way he began to envision his future. Receiving a high ranking in his class at the end of his high school career at Reitz Memorial High School was one of his many accomplishments.

Robbie is a man of action. He was a national debate representative this summer where he placed in the top 20%; he has been a summer camp volunteer for Muscular Dystrophy, a



Robert J. Davidson

recipient of the Eagle Scout award, and a peer member in the Promise to Keep Program which encourages middle school students to remain chaste. Throughout high school he was elected to class officer positions, chosen as a member of the National Honor Society and he has served on the school newspaper staff. These experiences both developed his skills for leadership and service as well as deepened his spirit of generosity and openness to others. They have given him a sense of what is important in life and what needs to be a part of *continued on back page...*

## A Discovery Leads to a New Option

During his senior year, Charles Riffert discovered a way of following his dreams that had their inspiration in his family. Jake and Kristel, Charles' parents, provided a stable and loving environment for him to develop the confidence and caring spirit that freed him to easily reach out to others.

While attending Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana, Charles quickly found himself heavily involved in school activities. Baseball, track and soccer were natural ways for him to meet his need to be physically active. One of the best memories of his high school sports career was running in the state track competition. His election as senior class president capped four years of serving in a variety of class offices. Two significant organizations Charles enjoys working for are Teens for Life and Promise to Keep. He is a Eucharistic Minister in his home parish of St. Benedict and he has worked as a leader on retreat teams.

Charles sees himself as a person who works well with others and who is a stabilizing influence when things are not going well.

Although his service experiences have helped Charles discover what he wants to do in his life, it was in the fourth grade that Father Gregory planted the idea of a religious vocation. Throughout high school he admired the two Holy Cross Brothers who taught at Reitz Memorial. He liked what they did and the way they lived. Their example helped him discover what he was looking for as he began to put things together for his future. In the spring of this year, the realization of his interest in helping others and his sense of being called to religious life became clearer. It was then that he made his decision to join the Old College program at Notre Dame.



Charles Riffert

# The Road Led Me to the Brothers of Holy Cross

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a religious vocation had been present in his thinking for years, but it was not until this year that the road to his future became clearer. His contact with Brothers Eugene Phillipp and John Stout, teachers at his high school, and seeing how they lived and worked gave him a sense for the road he wished to take. Visits to Notre Dame, where he got to know more brothers and young people interested in joining Holy Cross and a retreat experience for those considering religious life gave Robbie the support he needed to set his feet on the road to check out the life of a religious brother.

## Come and See

There is a right time in everyone's life to make decisions. Recognizing when the time is right to decide about a career, when to get married

or when to move on is a significant step in a person's life. If the timing is important, so is discovering the opportunities that are available once the decision is made.

For those young men graduating from high school who are sensing a call to religious life, there is a clear choice - "Old College Program." This program is designed for college undergraduates who want to discover if religious life, as lived within the traditions of the Congregation of Holy Cross, is the way of life for them.

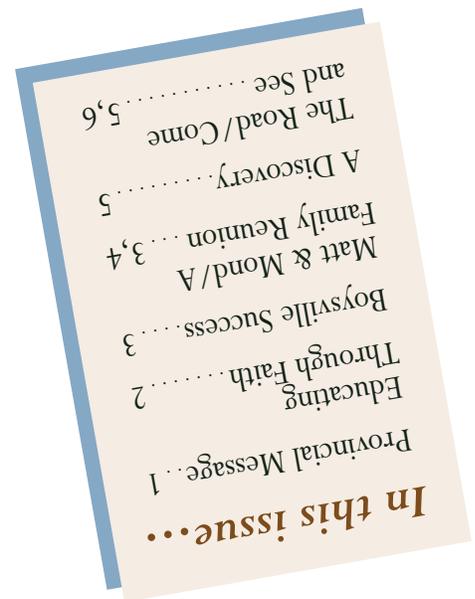
The goals for the program include the development of the human person, deepening of the spiritual life, academic preparation, growth in the skills for living community life and discovering personal gifts for service.

The first two years are spent attending either the University of Notre Dame or Holy Cross College. The men are introduced to religious life in Holy Cross through daily Eucharist, community prayer,

spiritual direction, ministry placement and academic offerings. At the same time, they are able to fashion the rest of their academic program according to their intellectual interests and to major fields of study they may wish to pursue in graduate studies later. They are encouraged to spend a semester or a year studying abroad in one of Notre Dame's numerous foreign study programs and to take advantage of the wide variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities available on campus.

Applicants are not expected to have resolved all their vocation questions before entering the program, but they should be practicing, confirmed Roman Catholics of excellent personal character with the capacity to serve the Church faithfully as a member of the Holy Cross community.

*For further information about the Old College Program, contact Brother Carlos Parrilla, C.S.C., Vocation Promoter, at P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0460 or cparrilla@hcc-nd.edu.*



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