

Brothers

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross
May 2001, Spring Issue, No. 13, V. 2



Thanksgiving! Jubilee! Fidelity! Living the Mission of Jesus

Provincial Message



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

Jubilees are a time for thanksgiving and praise to God as we acknowledge the many gifts and favors we have all received. Even though the great Jubilee Year of Grace is “officially” closed, the spirit of jubilee continues in the Church and in our lives because God’s spirit is alive and is a powerful motivating force that continually calls us to respond with boldness to live out our baptismal commitment.

This year we celebrate the jubilees of religious profession of 22 members of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross. Two brothers are members of the District of West Africa and live in Ghana. Many of these brothers have played a significant role in your formation and have touched your life in a special way. Jubilee is a time to thank them for their years of dedication to God in the apostolic religious life. We applaud their commitment and their generosity in responding to a *summons to give over our lives in a more explicit way...a call to serve all people, believers and unbelievers alike...a call that came from without, but also one that rose up within us, as from His Spirit* (Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross).

This call is still being given today. I firmly believe God is calling men to serve

Him in the apostolic religious life and as Brothers of Holy Cross. This is why I have made vocation awareness one of the major priorities of my administration as provincial superior of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross. You will read in this issue about the bold new project the brothers are undertaking to encourage and

...the spirit of jubilee continues in the Church and in our lives because God’s spirit is alive and is a powerful motivating force...

promote vocations to the religious life. However, we cannot do it alone; we need your help. There is something very important that you and you alone can do to help us. I ask that you speak openly about

vocations and encourage others to consider God’s call to the religious life. Share the experiences you had with the brothers and how the brothers have formed you and touched your life. Do not hesitate to nurture the seed of a vocation by asking a son or a daughter, a nephew or a niece to consider dedicating themselves to God as a priest, a brother or a sister. At the same time, I ask you to unite your prayers with ours asking God to send more vocations to the Brothers of Holy Cross.

This summer a special Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at Notre

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Vocation Promotion

In its commitment to rejuvenate the promotion of the brothers' way of life, the Midwest Province Vocation Office has undergone significant restructuring over the past year. Key to any restructuring is personnel and the province is blessed with the appointment of two dynamic and dedicated brothers who will bring a combination of well-suited talents to the vocation office: Brother Robert Fillmore (assistant provincial) has been named coordinator of

vocation awareness and Brother Carlos Parrilla will become director of vocations in July. In addition to the full support of the province, Brothers Carlos and Robert will be assisted by the recently-established vocations advisory council: Brothers Edward Fox, Robert Livernois, Thomas Minta, Jerome Meyer, Philip Smith, Roy Smith and James Van Dyke.

Excerpts from an Interview with Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C.

The restructuring seems promising, more inclusive, but how will your approach to vocation promotion change?

Religious life—the life of a brother—needs to be presented as a challenge, a life dedicated to living out the message of Jesus, a valid way of making a difference.

Is vowed brotherhood a valid way of living out the message of Jesus in the 21st Century?

Most definitely. I think the brother's vocation is needed more today than at any other time. In a society more inclined to put technology and status above relationship, there is a desperate need for men whose faith allows them to value others as brothers and sisters. I believe that if we are to reverse the impersonal trends so much in evidence today, it is essential that we call others to our way of life, a life of community and service.

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Do you think there are young men who see things the way you do? Are there some who are ready to answer that call?

Oh, yes. In talking with young people it is clear they are looking for spirituality and for community. However, for them to consider a religious commitment, it is important they be in relationship with brothers, sisters and priests who are authentic and free to share their faith and how our faith and commitment free us to do what we are doing. There is a changing attitude on the part of young people and religious commitment; just a few years ago you wouldn't find many young people open to the desire and possibility of looking at religious life during their college years. I think that will change. It's already changing. In an effort to encourage young men interested in the religious life, the province is initiating a collegiate program on the Notre Dame campus.

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Living the Mission of Jesus continued from cover

Dame and our brother jubilarians will be asked to renew once more the vows they made 75, 70, 60, 50, 40 or 25 years ago. The example these brothers give by the public renewal of their vows is a reminder of the call we have received from God and of

our baptismal commitment to live the mission of Jesus. It is through this baptismal commitment that we stand alongside our brothers in mission to *serve all people, believers and unbelievers alike...out of our own faith that the Lord loves us; that He died and rose for us and*

offers us a share in His life, a life more powerful and enduring than any sin or death (Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross).

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

JUBILEES 2001

75 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross



Brother Bernard Mosier entered the novitiate on February 1, 1925, from Kersey, Pa., and was professed

on February 2, 1926. In his 75 years in the religious life, he has never stepped back from challenging

assignments. He served 27 years as teacher and prefect at Gibault School for Boys, 10 years in Bengal, six years in the formation of young religious, six years as a high school teacher at Cathedral High School, Holy Trinity High School, Notre Dame High School and two years in higher education. He entered semi-retirement in 1980 at the Brothers

Center, but that wasn't the right mix for Brother Bernard. At the age of 74, he took on a new apostolate as Director of Maria House, the Erie Diocese's lodge in Spartansburg, Pa. A stroke a few years ago slowed him only slightly. He now uses a walker. At 93, he still runs the place and is much loved by those with whom he works.

70 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Celebrating 70 years of profession is **Brother Thaddeus Gottemoller**, a native of Indianapolis and a 1929 graduate of Cathedral High School. The enthusiastic and energetic Brother Thaddeus spent 48 years as an active teacher and administrator at Holy Cross schools in Evansville, New Orleans, Albany and Valatie, Taunton, Lakewood,

South Bend, Chicago and River Grove. He has happy memories of every place he served, including a one-year stint as band director at Taunton. Twenty-one of these years were spent at Holy Trinity High



School teaching science and math classes. In 1983, he moved from the classroom to the office and service positions at Holy Cross High School in River Grove. Brother Thaddeus just turned 90 in May and he continues to inspire all by his cheerful disposition and boundless energy. He has obviously lived the good life.

60 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Evan Schmid of Oshkosh, Wis., a talented pianist and teacher of English, is also an efficient and productive administrator. The province

has often used his writing talents. In fact, since 1955, he has served as administrative assistant in the Provincial Office, editor of the Associates of Saint Joseph Magazine and, for the last

twenty years, as secretary to the Headmaster at Gilmour Academy.



60 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Leonardo Bebetu, a native of Erie, Pa., is a witty and creative man. Forty-four years in high school classrooms and offices have never tired him. As a teacher of English and speech, he was in a strong position to influence young men and women and did this effectively through his

constant belief that people can do well if they are only encouraged to do so. Brother Leonardo has an anecdote for every occasion and tells it beautifully with a twinkle in his eye and a love for story telling. He is grateful for the brothers who preceded him in Holy Cross and he has repaid them by con-

stantly being a source of encouragement for younger religious following him. Since 1988, he has been on the staff at Gilmour Academy and continues to spread his charm there.



50 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Albert Rimlinger from Pittsburgh, has lived at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus for all of



his 50 years. Early in his religious life, he worked as a clerk at the Ave Maria Press, but his ministry turned to full-time community service as housekeeper and guest master at Columba Hall.

Entering the community after a stint in the Navy, Milwaukee native **Brother John Dobrogowski's** teaching mission has taken him to Austin, Indianapolis, Louisville, River Grove and Sherman Oaks, where he has spent the past 32 years. He first learned of the Brothers of Holy Cross by reading an advertisement in *Our Sunday Visitor*. For six years



while serving as a faculty member, he became the superior and director of Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute,

Ind. He is an avid reader and an ever-loyal fan of the Milwaukee Brewers and the Green Bay Packers. Currently, he is the assistant librarian at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Brother Robert Ludwig of Paynesville, Minn., has used his maintenance skills in several places including: St. Joseph's Novitiate, St. Charles Boys' Home, Sacred Heart Juniorate, St. Joseph Farm, Notre Dame International School, Rome, Italy and at the Brothers' Center at Notre Dame.

After a distinguished career of 27 years in Brazil, punctuated by a short time in Tiberias, Israel, he now shares time between Notre Dame, Ind., and Mountain View, Calif. He first



came into contact with the Brothers while serving in the army in Japan. It was in the military that he met the brother of Brother Edward Courtney who encouraged him to pursue a vocation in Holy Cross. He followed Francis Courtney's advice and the rest is history. Brother Robert has brought his cheerful spirit to his work as farmer, mechanic, handyman and most surely as minister to others.

Brother Charles Krupp, whose home was New Lothrop, Mich., worked as a farmer before entering the community. In Holy Cross, he was

assigned to St. Edward High School as a teacher, director of vocations and later as principal. He was also assistant master of novices at St. Joseph's Novitiate for one year. From 1967–1979 he served on the Midwest Provincial Council—11 of those years as Provincial. After his term as provincial, he spent several years in Chicago, first at Holy Trinity High School, then at St. Martin's and St. Benedict's parishes. After five years at LeMans Academy, he took the job he still has at the Senior Friendship Centers in Sarasota, Fla., where he specializes in planning and development. When he was a novice, he was encouraged to select a scriptural



passage to serve as a beacon for his life. He chose, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all else

will be given to you." With this motto serving him well, Brother Charles claims that he has received enormous blessings in his life. He sees his current ministry as a particularly great time in his life, which he summarizes as "blessed beyond hopes and dreams."

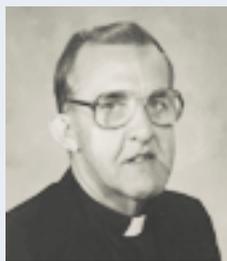
50 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Thomas Dillman, a

graduate of Reitz Memorial High School, taught at Cathedral High School and Archbishop Hoban High School early in his career. After a time working with the Brothers' formation program, he left the United States for Africa. He spent 25 years in Liberia and in Ghana where he taught, worked in religious formation and authored math textbooks. He currently lives in Ghana. His philosophy is summed in something he wrote recently: "I have come to realize that life's meaning and fulfillment in love is based upon faith conjoining hope for a generous, living response to each unfolding moment—not a programmed certainty of goals to be attained."



Brother Rudolph Talaga is from Gary, Ind. He served many community houses as cook for 27 years and has directed domestic services in the diocese of Gary, including the bishop's residence. He worked on pastoral ministry teams in Crown Point and



Chesterton, Ind. For eight years he cooked at Dujarie House. Presently, he is at Mother of the Redeemer Farm in Bloomington, Ind. Brother Rudy has fond memories of every ministry he has been involved in and particularly recalls being one of the first brothers at the Holy Cross Brothers' Center in

1966. His colleagues and brothers particularly admire him for his faithfulness to whatever he has been asked to do.

Brother William Doherty, born in County Donegal, Ireland, was 36 years old when he became a novice, having worked on his father's farm in Ireland before coming to the United States. When he first arrived in the United States, he worked for the Dominican Sisters and later as a clerk for Railway Express. He served in the mid-Pacific in the Army during World War II. At the end of his military service he worked as a postal clerk. After the novitiate, he was a natural for a position at the Notre Dame Post Office, where he stayed for 38 years. He lives at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus.



Missionary, administrator, English teacher and writer, **Brother Philip Armstrong** is a native of South Bend. He worked nine years at Boyssville of Michigan and 13 years in Ghana where he was District Superior before serving a six-year term as Provincial. After a brief sabbatical in Louisville and work at the Holy Cross Mission Center at Notre Dame, he was elected to a six-year term as a member of the general council of the Congregation of Holy Cross in



Rome, Italy. Since returning to the United States in 1992, he has authored two books—one on the history of the Midwest and Indiana provinces with Father James Connelly, C.S.C., and work on one of his predecessors as Provincial, Brother Ephrem O'Dwyer. He was also the province formation director and secretary to Brother William Geenen during the latter's term as provincial. Brother Philip has taken the time during a very busy life to reflect. He believes that every life experience has deepened and enriched his life and he's very open to new experiences and welcomes their challenge.

Brother Donald Allen, a native of Wilmette, Ill., views his 50 years of religious life a great opportunity to be "of use in further-



ing God's work through helping one's neighbor." He is particularly grateful for the many men and women of Holy Cross with whom he has worked and ministered. And he has done this in many places: Albany, Monroe, Mich., Long Beach, Chicago, Lakewood, River Grove and Ashland, Ky. A long-time missionary, he also taught in East Pakistan (Bangladesh), Ghana, Liberia and Tiberias, Israel. He also served two terms as principal at St. Patrick's High School in Monrovia, Liberia. After finishing a three-year term as superior at Columba Hall in June 2000, Brother Donald moved to River Grove, Ill., where he ministers to the elderly and those in hospitals.

40 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Edward Foken of Norwood, Ohio, first became acquainted with the Holy Cross Brothers through his uncle, Brother Walter Foken. Brother Edward taught at Holy Cross High



School, Catholic Central High School and St. Edward High School. He is currently teaching history

at St. Joseph's High School in South Bend. Liberia was his home for 15 years where he taught and served as principal at St. Patrick's High School and superintendent of Catholic education. He loves to travel and has visited Australia, New Zealand and India, as well as Africa and Europe.

A Lafayette, Ind., native, **Brother Edward Libbers** has been a very popular teacher of chemistry at St. Joseph High School, Holy Cross High School, Holy Cross High School, San Antonio and Archbishop Hoban High School. He is definitely driven by his love of teaching and credits Holy

Cross with being an integral part in his role as an educator. He learned of Holy Cross while a student at



Purdue University and an active member of the Newman Club. Another devotee of travel, he takes annual vacations with fellow jubilarian

Brother Joseph LeBon and with Brother Guy Eckels.

Brother Thomas Balaz has spent his entire religious life at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus. A native of Edenborn, Pa., he worked in Cleveland, where he met the late Brother Theophilus Machalinski, who directed him to Holy Cross. He also served in the Army for two years in the mid-fifties between high school graduation and entry into Holy Cross. Brother Thomas had a full career at the Notre Dame Post Office. In his "retirement" he worked as a docent



at the Snite Museum of Art, the Notre Dame Law School and currently assists in the Indiana Province Archives.

He is particularly grateful for his vocation as a brother, for the blessings and opportunities afforded him and for the wonderful spirit of the men who have assisted him on the way.

Brother Frederick Raehsler of St. Paul, Minn., first discovered the Brothers of Holy Cross while living in Los Angeles after leaving military service. The brothers at Rancho San Antonio in Chatsworth, Calif., were his initial contact. His work as a nurse and later as a physician's assistant has enriched his ministry in that he feels he has received far more from his patients

than he could give them. He has given himself to service of others in medical care at Dujarie House, Family Care of South Bend, King's College and at clinics in Skagway, Alaska, and in Blanchard, Mich. He currently serves his brothers at Dujarie House as a part-time nurse. He feels that his "years have been richly blessed with opportunities for personal spiritual growth and growing closer to God through our community life in Holy Cross."



Brother James Kozak of Grand Rapids, Mich., was motivated to look at Holy Cross by a Dominican Sister at his high school. For over 25 years he served in religious formation, teaching, youth and pastoral ministry and administration in Liberia and



Ghana. Since returning to the United States in 1991, he has worked in Chicago and currently is on the staff of Boysville of Michigan. His prayer life centers on an openness to the Spirit in his life and on a corresponding openness to the needs of others.

40 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

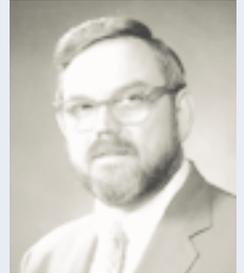
Brother Joseph LeBon was born in Darby, Pa., and grew up in Indianapolis, where he attended Cathedral High School. Of his 40 years in Holy Cross, he has been at Archbishop Hoban High School for 35 years. He taught one year at Holy Cross High School, River Grove in the 1970's. A Renaissance man, he has a curious mind and a keen sense of humor. Brother Joseph has taught Latin, French, mathematics



and journalism. He now deals with computers at Archbishop Hoban High School. Under his sponsorship the *Hoban Visor* has won national awards as an exemplary student newspaper. For Brother Joseph, "Brother is a beautiful word. It suggests love, family and most of all equality—equality with those we serve in ministry." He is happy that in Holy Cross he has been able to be that kind of a brother.

Brother Thomas Sisung graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1960 and two weeks later entered the Brothers of Holy Cross. After graduating from college he taught at

Archbishop Hoban High School and at Holy Cross High School. Health brought about a career change and Brother



Thomas has spent the remaining years as a religious cook at LeMans Academy and in service to the community at St. Edward High School, the Brothers Center and now at Schubert Villa. He particularly enjoys his present ministry. "I get to see and help many of my former principals and teachers."

25 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Christopher Dreyer, a graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, admired the men who taught him in high school and was encouraged by them to consider the religious life as a Brother of Holy Cross. After completing his undergraduate studies at Notre Dame, he was a long-time faculty member at



St. Joseph's High School in South Bend. He taught English and got his feet wet in the field of guidance. This eventually led him to further study in the field of social work. He is now a licensed clinical social worker. For

seven years he served at the Holy Cross Counseling Group and is currently the director of Student Support Services at Holy Cross College. Chris enjoys service to others and is very handy with any kind of tool.

Brother Joseph Annan was born in Gomoa Tarkwa, Ghana, West Africa and is a member of the District of West Africa. He attended St. John's Secondary School, Sekondi. Particularly instrumental in his vocation were Brothers William Gates and Richard Gilman. He has spent most of his life teaching on the secondary school level in Cape Coast and Sekondi. While teaching, he also

assisted in the religious formation of the Ghanaian members of the



congregation. From 1987-1997, Brother Joseph was the District Superior in West Africa.

Recently, he was appointed assistant headmaster of St. John's School. His patron, Saint Joseph, "was a man of few words but full of action," and Brother Joseph has taken him to be his model.



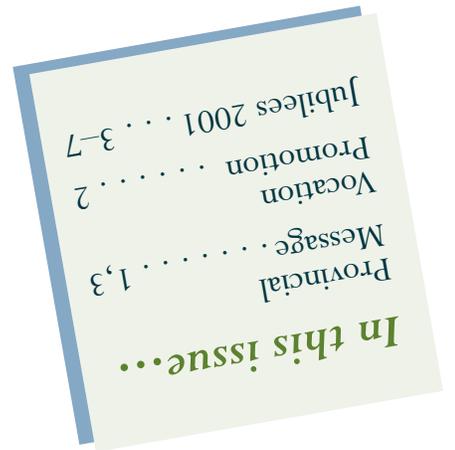
Vocation Promotion

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The program will provide an opportunity for men pursuing their college education to live in community, grow in their prayer life, share their interests and gifts through service projects and benefit from the guidance of mentors experienced in the religious life.

What counsel would you give regarding the decline of vocations over the last several years? How can this be turned around?

I don't think there is one set reason for the decline. Nor, do I think there is an easy solution. There is an area I think we have to look at more closely. Parents continue to play a vital role when it comes to encouraging religious vocations. Smaller families and negative attitudes about religious life are working against the nurturing of vocations today. Efforts need to be made to educate parents about what is happening in religious life.



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