



Brothers

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross

*message from...*  
the Provincial

***Our Faith and Rich History Give Us Hope for the Future***

How can we explain how some people, including ourselves at times, keep hoping against all hope? As you read this issue you may think the Brothers are just kidding themselves as they work on programs and future plans for vocations and ministries while the signs around them tell them there is little to be hopeful for.

Part of the explanation can be based on the fact that the Brothers are optimistic. While there is an element of truth to this explanation, this is only a partial explanation. It is important to remember that what we see is not always what really is. When seeking answers to the “Why” questions, we must go to the deeper reasons.

With the questions of vocations and future plans there is the added dynamic of faith. Faith is not an assurance that things will remain the same nor that what needs to happen will happen in ways our limited imagination perceives, but rather, that God is working through the circumstances and that good will prevail—possibly looking very different than we had envisioned. The Brothers’ rich history and the good we have accomplished remind us that God has worked through us when we trusted and when we were faithful to our calling. It is with this faith that we continue to believe that God continues to work through us when we but trust and plan in faith. To deny that God is working in the circumstances of today as He has in the past is to turn our backs on our faith-filled history.



Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C.  
Provincial Superior

As you read this issue, I ask you to consider the faith perspective which is the basis for our hope in the future. May your generous hearts be open to supporting us in our plans.

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# Brother Christopher Torrijas Makes Final Vows

Brother Christopher Torrijas, C.S.C., 41, made his final profession on Friday, January 9 in St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame, Indiana. A final religious profession these days is an event to be celebrated. It is indeed a sign that the Midwest Province and Congregation of Holy Cross continues to grow during these difficult times in obtaining vocations to carry on the mission of Holy Cross.

Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C., Provincial of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross accepted Brother Christopher's vows. A dinner for over 100 was held in the Great Room of Andre Place of Holy Cross Village following the Mass celebrated by Rev. Thomas F. Lemos, C.S.C., Director of Novices for the Congregation of Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colorado. Brother Thomas Moser, C.S.C., Assistant Superior at the Cascade novitiate also was a participant in the ceremonies.

Brother Christopher was born and raised in Michigan City, Indiana. He is the seventh of eight children

and was taught by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. After graduating from Indiana University with a degree in Elementary Education, he taught fourth grade for a year at a public elementary school. Christopher then accepted a position as a prefect and teacher at LeMans Academy in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, which was a boarding school for boys in grades 5-9 run by the brothers. He worked there for 12 years and during that time was a prefect, religion teacher, Athletic Director, Activities Director, Assistant Residential Director and Director of Discipline.

Upon reflecting Brother Christopher said he always had a calling to serve, and help others. In college he volunteered at homeless shelters, and various other institutions, but it wasn't until after he graduated and began teaching and living alongside the Brothers at LeMans Academy that he felt the initial stirrings of being called to religious life as a Brother. Working and living alongside the Brothers allowed him the unique opportunity to be a part of their lives in a much more intimate and authentic

way. He was able to not only see ministry in action, but how the brothers interacted with each other on a personal level. The way the brothers acted in good times and difficult times, and through it all were able to serve and love the Church and each other was most inspiring for Chris.

His initial formation was at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas for a year before entering the Holy Cross Novitiate in Cascade, Colorado. Christopher began his Novitiate period on August 15, 2004 and made his first vows on July 30, 2005.

Brother is the Director of Residence Life at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana. He can honestly say there's no such thing as a typical day dealing with college age students. Each day brings him new challenges and opportunities. As director, he's responsible for overseeing the implementation of all the school's policies and regulations as they pertain to student life, and making sure the Residence Life staff has the necessary training and support in carrying out those policies.



Provincial Brother Robert Fillmore and Brother Christopher during the presentation of the Medal of St. Joseph and Wooden Cross.



At the end of the ceremony Brother Christopher embraces his mother Carol.



Brother Christopher prostrates himself before the altar during the singing of the Litany of the Saints as Brother Robert Fillmore looks on.



Brother Christopher helps himself at the buffet held in his honor at Andre Place as his family members are in the background.



Bessette House on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

## Bessette House Intentional Christian Community

The Bessette House Intentional Christian Community is a new mission of the Brothers of Holy Cross Midwest Province this school year. Bessette House, an intentional Christian community is home to nine young men taking classes at Holy Cross College, Indiana University at South Bend and/or Notre Dame. Its purpose is to offer a small-group living experience for single men, between the ages of 20 – 45, who are seeking a shared community life of prayer and worship in an environment of spiritual, personal, and intellectual development.

Bessette House is located in east annex of Columba Hall and is the second oldest building on the University of Notre Dame campus and named after Holy Cross Brother **Blessed Andre Bessette**, “The Miracle Worker of Mt. Royal,” Montreal, Canada.

These young men at Bessette House are not candidates, nor are they aspirants for religious life. Their reason for living in Bessette House is primarily for the experience of living in an intentional Christian Community. Authors writing on the future of the church speculate young people will be drawn to church-communities that are faith filled, prayerful, Gospel-focused, and where members exchange mutual support and encouragement. This shared Christian life is the purpose of the Bessette House community.

Vocational studies support that what draws young people to religious life today is a desire for community, meaningful ministry, and a pursuit of a spiritual journey with a strong prayer life. While vocation recruitment/promotion is not the intent of the Bessette Christian Community, there is considerable overlap between the goals of an intentional community and what candidates are seeking when considering religious life today. Presently at Bessette there is one brother candidate for the Midwest Province.

Living in residence with these young men are **Brothers Chester Freel**, Director of Vocations for the Midwest Province; **William Mewes**, a retired volunteer; and **Bob Sylvester**, Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. Together these three brothers direct and give a Holy Cross presence to the program of Bessette House. Residents are from Ghana, Peru, Iraq, Washington, D.C., Maine, Florida, Massachusetts and Indiana.

Some of the residents of Bessette may decide to return during the next Fall semester. Some will have graduated from college. Some may decide to become a candidate for the Holy Cross Brothers.

Residents of the community pay room and board which is lower than the going rate at local colleges and universities. Some of the residents have part-time jobs besides their classes and participation in the intentional Christian community program.

*Brothers*

# Community Night at Bessette House

## The goals of the Bessette Christian Community are:

- To provide an intentional residential community that lives in Christian brotherhood;
- To offer a faith-sharing environment which deepens its members' personal and communal prayer;
- To present an opportunity to live in community with Brothers of Holy Cross, "Men with Hope to Bring."

## In light of these goals, some of the intended benefits of the Bessette Christian Community are:

- A faith-sharing experience where members can engage in the daily expression of their faith;
- An opportunity to live with others who follow the Gospel in word and action;
- Live in an environment where members can develop and deepen their prayer life;
- Participation in communal volunteer service projects;

- Availability of mentoring and spiritual direction;
- On-going feedback, and semi-annual evaluation, of one's aptitude for living in community; and,
- Complementing the Bessette community experience, members enjoy weekly prayer, meals, and fellowship with the brothers of Columba Hall.

For further information on how to become a Brother of Holy Cross or Bessette House Intentional Christian Community contact:

Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

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574-631-2703 or 574-631-9964



A part of the weekly community night includes faith sharing. Here Brother Robert Sylvester leads the group in discussion.



Joe, Gulliver, Paul and Matt at our community Mass with Fr. Tom McNally, C.S.C..





The Bessette House together at supper during a community night.

Matt and Paul take their turn in making supper for the house.



Jay Dunn's room at Bessette House is like most college dorm rooms.



Chris Friar working on a school project in his room.



The committee chairpersons with the provincial and director of planning for the province met January 31 to plan for the upcoming chapter in June. Pictured from left are Brothers Robert Fillmore, Thomas Minta, Roy Smith, Thomas Shaughnessy, John May and Chester Freel.

## Brothers to Elect Provincial and Hold Provincial Chapter

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Every three years the Midwest Province engages in what is called a provincial chapter. A chapter is a legislative body made up of province members who meet to analyze the state of the province, its common life and mission, and determine the major policies and priorities for the future. While the chapter itself may last only five days, considerable consultation, discussion, and opportunities for input precede the chapter meetings.

In August of 2008 Br. Robert Fillmore, provincial, convoked the June 2009 chapter. Province membership had the opportunity to indicate their willingness to participate in the chapter meetings either by self-selection as a voting delegate or as an observer. Sixty-five members committed to be voting delegates and 30 chose to be observers at the June meetings.

In the fall, input was solicited from all local communities and individuals to share attitudes and positions on a number of topics relevant to the chapter. This input was published for all members of the province and will continue to serve as an important resource in chapter planning.

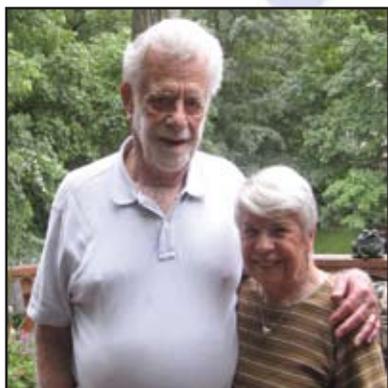
The delegates and observers have been divided into four committees to address chapter topics: Community Life, Finance and Stewardship, Mission and Ministry, and Restructuring and Governance. The committees will meet with their members and, in some cases, seek further input from the total membership. The committees will develop their proposed recommendations and legislation to be brought to the chapter meetings for approval or revision. Once the legislation is refined and approved by the chapter delegates, it will be submitted to the Superior General in Rome for approval before it is promulgated.

At the same time as the chapter preparation is going on, the province is also involved in the election of new province leadership. A new provincial superior will be elected prior to the chapter, probably before the end of March, but he will not assume office until after the chapter is completed. Two members of the province leadership will be elected as a part of the chapter business. The chapter will set priorities for the province but it will be the responsibility of the new provincial leadership to work with the province members and congregational leaders in implementing and accomplishing the direction set by the chapter.

# Planned Giving: The Time Was Right

The day before graduation from Cathedral High School in 1944, Hugh Sullivan found a note on his locker door from the school office. The note said two of his teachers wanted to talk to him. The note was from **Brother Bruno Klusewitz, C.S.C.**, his physics teacher, and **Brother Fidelis Pommier, C.S.C.** his chemistry teacher. To say the least, he was a bit apprehensive. He could not imagine why they wanted to see him now. Brother Fidelis, Hugh said, did most of the talking while Brother Bruno nodded in agreement. Both of these men told him that he had a good mind and aptitude for math and science, suggesting that he consider going to college.

When Hugh revealed his desire to go to college, his father was a little upset. Conversely, his mother was very supportive and encouraged him to pursue his dream.



Hugh and Betty Sullivan.

Hugh attended the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 1948 with a B.S., in organic chemistry. He was hired as a research chemist by Socony Vacuum Oil, later Mobil Oil, in Paulsboro, N.J., from 1948 until 1951. During this time he attended Temple University night school in pursuit of a master's degree in organic chemistry.

Employed in 1951 by Lilly Research Labs as a research chemist, he was encouraged to complete his master's thesis in 1954. His efforts were in the fields of analgesia and antibiotic research. In 1964 he changed fields going into drug metabolism and pharmacokinetic research. He retired in 1988 as a senior research scientist after 37 years.

In 1977 he was president of the Serra Club of Indianapolis and a widower. While attending a Serra retreat at St. Meinrad Abbey he met Betty. They became good friends and married. Recently they celebrated their 11th anniversary. Hugh had five children by his previous marriage and Betty had six children. They are grandparents and great-grandparents.

Hugh wanted to express his gratitude to the brothers and so did by creating a Charitable Remainder Trust for them. Hugh said, "The brothers gave me a good education, a philosophy of life, and a competitive spirit." He has a high regard for the Brothers of Holy Cross, and remembers his teachers **Brothers Damian Daele, C.S.C., Bruno Klusewitz, C.S.C. and Fidelis Pommier, C.S.C..**

**Just as these brothers thought the time was right to suggest that he go to college, he too, thought the time was right for him, in some concrete way, to give back.**

For more information on planned gifts contact:

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## Remembering Our Deceased Brothers in Your Prayers

**Brother Pedro (Harold) Haering, C.S.C., 85**

died October 12, 2008

65 years a vowed religious.

**Brother Thomas Francis O'Malley, C.S.C., 68**

died December 27, 2008

49 years a vowed religious.

**Brother Alexius (Erwin) Adam, C.S.C., 83**

died January 9, 2009

63 years a vowed religious

*In Christ We Will  
Come to Life Again*  
1 Cor: 15:22



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