



# BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

*Living the mission of Jesus.*

November, 2010

Dear Friend,

Last year I wrote you to explain the conditions at Columba Hall, the home of the Brothers of Holy Cross on the University of Notre Dame campus. Today, I am pleased to inform you, that since that letter, many things have changed. Thanks to friends like you, donations poured in and I have been deeply moved.

Columba Hall, where **brothers have lived in community for over 100 years**, is finally being refurbished.



Brother Walter Gluhm, superior of Columba Hall, and Brother Roy Smith, province development director, show a plaque to Ms. Ruth A. Miller, sister of the late Brother Lawrence Miller. The plaque will be on the door of the renovated room that honors Brother Lawrence.

Throughout the spring and summer we watched as Columba Hall slowly improved. During prayer, we could hear the pleasant sound of hammers and saws. Enter the hallway and carpenters were carrying ladders. The elevator would open to workers carrying buckets of debris. The sweet smells of drying plaster and fresh paint were like incense permeating the chapel.

Because Columba Hall is managed by the Brothers of Holy Cross (not the university), it was **one of the only buildings on campus that had not been upgraded for many years**. As religious men, who live according to the vow of poverty, our pooled salaries simply were not enough to make necessary repairs. It had come to the point that our ability to stay in our sacred community home, Columba Hall, was seriously threatened.

## Here Is What the Phase I Donations Have Already Accomplished:

1. Maintenance to the building's fire safety equipment was completed to meet all local fire codes.
2. Fourteen single rooms were converted to seven larger ones, each with a private bathroom.
3. Three other sleeping rooms were expanded to include existing adjacent bathrooms.
4. The walk-in freezer/refrigerator in our dining hall has been repaired. It had been dangerous and wasteful because of leaks, moisture and mold problems due to old and insufficient insulation.

After my last letter, friends like you rallied to help. To my surprise and relief, our campaign to save Columba Hall is already halfway to completion. All the emergency repairs have been completed and we won't be forced to leave Columba any time soon.

With Phase I completed (see sidebar), we are about to enter Phase II.

Now we are trying to create accommodations for several more of our older brothers. We hope they can remain at Columba so we can save the high costs associated with assisted living facilities. For the most part, we can take care of our own if they have a handicapped accessible room with individual bathrooms.

To make this possible, we need to continue the renovation efforts until we have added **restrooms and showers to six more rooms**. In addition, we always reserve extra rooms for visiting brothers and priests who come to the university for meetings, conferences, teaching and other religious purposes of the Congregation of Holy Cross. These **three guest rooms are in need of similar renovations**. Lastly, the harsh winters of northern Indiana have taken a toll on the asphalt roadways at Columba Hall, and they are in very poor condition. Phase II renovations must also attend to the need for the **driveway and parking areas to be repaired and resurfaced**.

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## St. André Bessette, C.S.C.

The brothers have always demonstrated their love for God by doing his work simply and humbly. This year, we are proud to announce that one of our own, Brother André Bessette, C.S.C., of Montreal, has been canonized as the first Saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Like all of us, St. André lived a simple life, followed his vows, as he performed the tasks given him by the Congregation.

His life's work was to be the doorkeeper for Notre Dame College in Quebec. He performed this work with such devotion and grace that people began to come to the college just to visit Brother André. He would greet them with friendship and anoint them with oil from the chapel lamp, which

always burned before St. Joseph's statue. Then he would pray that St. Joseph would intercede for his visitors.



As time went on, many miraculous healings were attributed to the friendly doorkeeper, but Brother André was always clear that the credit be given to St. Joseph.

Now we can pray directly to Saint André, the doorman of Montreal, for he demonstrated through consistent acts of hospitality and constant attention to prayer that sainthood can be found in living out the two greatest commandments: "Love God above all else and love thy neighbor as thyself."

Enclosed with this letter, please find a St. André picture and prayer card. I invite you to pray to St. André of Montreal whenever the need for his intercession presents itself.

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We are doing our best to take good care of Columba Hall, a place where over 40 brothers live in community. The exterior of the building makes a beautiful impression on visitors to the Notre Dame campus. There we have a beautiful statue honoring our patron saint, Joseph the carpenter. The grounds are planted with flowers and stately oak trees as well as many flowering shrubs. Students and alumni who take a stroll from Saint Mary's College to the University of Notre Dame walk past the front of our home after they pass the cemetery on their way to the grotto.



Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.

Father Sorin, the founder of Notre Dame, **requested that this spot be set aside as a home for the brothers** who were so instrumental in the building and running of this great center of learning. Here we are close enough to campus to be near our ministries, but far enough away to provide a quiet place for prayer and reflection.

You surprised us last year with your generous giving during some of the worst economic conditions in decades. We pray that you can help support Phase II of our reconstruction so that more of our Brothers can live here at the sacred community of Columba Hall.

Thank you and God bless you,

*Brother Chester Freel, CSC*

Brother Chester Freel, C.S.C.  
Provincial Superior



*"Coming to Columba Hall after 22 years in California has been a mind changing experience. It is rewarding to live in a community of brothers after many years of living alone. My work among the Holy Cross Associates & Spiritual Life Ministries will be missed, but I am looking forward to a new adventure in the next stage of my life here at Columba Hall."*

—Brother Carl Sternburg, C.S.C.

## Focus of This Year's Annual Appeal

Our focus for this year's annual appeal is to complete the work we began on Columba Hall last year. We invite you to help us again. There will be opportunities for you to be recognized and to honor family, deceased relatives or brothers who have influenced your lives.

- **Cross & Anchors Member** Gifts up to \$199 will have the donors' names recorded in a memory book in the Columba Hall Chapel.
- **Columba Hall Society Members** Gifts from \$200 to \$4,999 will have their names inscribed on a memorial plaque in the lobby of Columba Hall.
- **Brother Columba O'Neill Club Members** Gifts of \$5,000 and above will be commemorated by placing a plaque, with the donor's name on it, on the door of the renovated room.



*"Fifty years ago I lived in the east annex and taught at St. Joseph High School. Some of the brothers I lived with then and in other houses are here now. Living here now brings back great memories. My new room is near the chapel so I can easily get there for my daily devotions to St. Joseph and St. Andre Bessette."*

*—Brother Robert Kelly, C.S.C.*

Our goal for the Annual Brothers' Appeal is \$200,000. This includes the renovation of nine rooms, plus the resurfacing and repair of the driveway and parking area in the back of Columba Hall.

On the enclosed envelope suggested levels of giving are listed, along with how your gift may be used in our efforts to remodel Columba Hall. We are asking you to give to make a difference in the lives of brothers who have made a difference in your lives or the lives of others.

Though you may not know the brothers introduced in our letter, they are members of "a great band of men...who walked side by side in their following of the Lord."

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your most welcome gift, or contact me:

Brother Roy Smith, Director of Development  
P.O. Box 460, Notre Dame, IN 46556  
(574) 631-2928; or [rsmith@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:rsmith@brothersofholycross.com)

May we, as the Most Rev. Bishop Robert F. Morneau, auxiliary of the Green Bay Diocese, says, "receive God's gifts gratefully, nurture them responsibly, share them generously and return them to the Lord."

On behalf of all the Brothers of Holy Cross, thank you for being so generous.



*“Forty years ago when I lived here and worked at Ave Maria Press there were 80 brothers living in smaller rooms. Columba Hall is such a wonderful renovated facility. The rooms are very adequate, especially for me with my physical challenges and hip problems the past few years.”*

*—Brother Robert Dierker, C.S.C.*



***Men  
with  
Hope  
to  
bring***

***“With eyes of  
faith, consider the  
greatness of your  
mission and the  
wonderful amount  
of good which you  
can accomplish.”***

*—Blessed Basil Moreau*



*“Sixty-four years ago I was teaching at Catholic Central here in South Bend and lived at Columba Hall. The room was half the size I have now, and the bathroom was down the hall for everyone on the floor. My new room is a blessing.”*

*—Brother Fulgence Dougherty,  
C.S.C.*



*“Thanks to the generosity of men and women from our past and present I am grateful that we as a community are able to live in a location that has served Holy Cross brothers, priests and sisters for 168 years.”*

*—Brother Thomas Moser,  
C.S.C.*

***St.  
André,  
Pray  
for us.***

