

*Their contributions are held in highest esteem by former and present students....*

**It was truly an honor**

*to meet the Brothers at Columba Hall.*

# Brothers

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September 2016

**Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross**

## Giving to the Brothers Who Gave To Me

On August 12, 2016, I was attending a meeting at the University of Notre Dame. Years ago I had promised myself that I would visit there some day and try to connect with some of the Brothers of Holy Cross who had taught me in Bangladesh.

When I made contact with Brother Roy Smith, we decided to meet at twelve noon in front of Sacred Heart Basilica. I had already gone to lunch, but we went to Columba Hall, a residence for Holy Cross Brothers, and visited with them as they ate. At our table were two Brothers who had been in Bangladesh: Brother Ronald Drahozal and Brother Ronald Christensen. Brother Ronald Drahozal is still working there in a program called APON for young men and boys who are dealing with addiction.

We discussed some of the Brothers and priests I knew: Brother Ralph Baird, Brother Nicholas Thielman, Rev. James Banas, and a Brother Ronald who taught me in the lower grades. To my surprise next to me was another Brother named Ronald. He was Brother Ronald Christensen, my teacher in the fourth grade. I said "You've changed Brother." We all had a good laugh. Also I met Brother Fulgence Dougherty, who had spent thirty-one years in Bangladesh.



**Rubens Talukder, PhD., visiting with his fourth grade teacher, Bro. Ronald Christensen, C.SC.**

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Giving

(Continued from page 1)

The Holy Cross Sisters and Brothers have done great work in Bangladesh since the 1940s. They have educated and trained more than 14,000 students over the years. Their contributions are held in highest esteem by former and present students. In Bangladesh I attended Holy Cross School, St. Joseph's High School, and Notre Dame College from 1968 to 1981. Currently I am Senior Solutions Architect at MSC Software, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

It was truly an honor to meet the Brothers at Columba Hall. I got very emotional after meeting Brothers Ronald Christenson, Fulgence Dougherty, and Ronald Drahozal. Thanks to Almighty God that all of you are leading a safe and healthy life. I will definitely stay connected.

*Mr. Rubens Talukder, Ph.D*

*Brothers* newsletter is a publication of the Development Office, Midwest Province.

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# message from... the Provincial



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

Dear Friend of Holy Cross,

*Mercy is the force that reawakens us for new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.*

These are the words Pope Francis spoke to announce the current Holy Year of Mercy. Pope Francis writes that the goal for the Year of Mercy is "to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's actions" (*Misericordiae Vultus*).

During this Holy Year we are each challenged to make a spiritual pilgrimage, to focus deep within ourselves, where we can discover God's mercy and respond to it. To help facilitate such a pilgrimage, as part of this Holy Year, one of the entrances to St. Peter's Basilica, which is known as the Holy Door and normally blocked, is opened so pilgrims can pass through it. In Rome earlier this year I had the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door. I noted that most pilgrims both entered and exited through the Holy Door, a situation which made the traffic flow very chaotic. Wondering about the significance of this activity, I did some research.

Entering through the Holy Door into the Basilica enables us to reflect on the value of mercy and to appreciate all the ways in our life when God has shown us compassion. In experiencing the mercy of God we receive welcome, spiritual nourishment and enhanced energy for providing ministry. However, exiting through the door is equally important. To make this spiritual journey complete and thus fruitful, Pope Francis instructs us to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In response to receiving God's mercy, we are obligated to reach out to others: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit the imprisoned, give comfort to the afflicted, and instruct the ignorant.

We, the Brothers of Holy Cross, are deeply grateful for your prayers and assistance over this last year. Your kindness has enabled us not only to address our own needs but more importantly to minister to others. Our ministries are well represented among the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In union with you, our donors, we are *Men and Women with Hope to Bring*, and for this I am appreciative of your support. Together we are living the words of Pope Francis cited above: "Mercy is the force that reawakens us for new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope."

Thank you to all who have supported us this year with prayers and gifts. Together, let us ensure that participation in the Year of Mercy nourishes our lives and encourages us to reach out to those who are in need of mercy.

May St. Joseph, Patron of the Brothers, and his disciple, St. Andre Bessette, pray for us.

In Holy Cross,

*Brother Chester Freel, CSC*

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

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## Remembering our Deceased Brothers in Your Prayers

**Brother Charles Borromeo (Jerome) Beck, C.S.C.,**  
died June 29, 2016 after 73 years as a vowed religious  
at the age of 93

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

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Their names will be recorded in a memory book in Columba Hall.

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# Gratitude Is Always In Season

A few years ago I came across the phrase “A Season of Gratitude.” Actually, any time is a Season of Gratitude. The reason people give may be different, but gratitude is always in season. The September issue of *BROTHERS* is the Brothers’ effort to publicly show, share and express our gratitude to you for all your generosity.

Our donor list includes all who gave between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. During the past fiscal year 868 individuals made donations totaling \$310,193.40. Please contact me for any omissions on our entire donors list.

Throughout the year I have received notes from donors about what motivates their action to give to the Brothers of Holy Cross. Bill Mullenholz is

a 1969 graduate of Cathedral High School, one of our sponsored high schools. In talking about Brothers William Dygert and Raymond Harrington he said: “Both of these fine men taught me the love of lifelong learning and dedication to vocation.... Seldom does a day go by when I do not draw upon their positive life influences.”

Generosity has a way of coming full circle, returning a blessing originally given in an earlier time and place. Your generous remembrance and support is a great blessing for the Brothers of Holy Cross. Thank You!

Gratefully,

**Brother Roy Smith, CSC**  
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