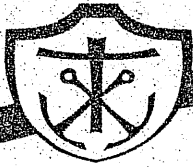


# Brothers

Congregation of Holy Cross



MIDWEST PROVINCE • NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

No. 5 • SPRING 1997

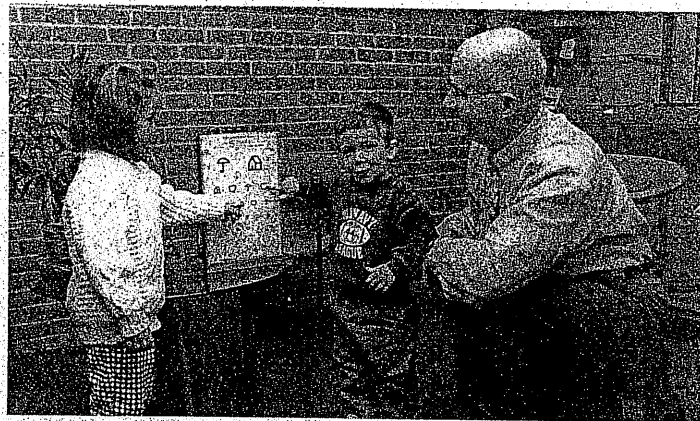
## All Life Deserves Respect, Loyalty, Love

A renowned religious writer once said, "Life is the first sacrament." This means that every person born into this world is graced with this sacred, sacramental gift. There are absolutely no exceptions. Birth is the beginning of an inviolable, imperishable person set forth on a sacred, everlasting journey. Without the gift of life no other sacrament has any meaning or value, nor does any other religious, social or political endeavor. No wonder birthdays have been such milestones of joyous, memorable celebration throughout the world, throughout time.

This unique life's journey, so full of beauty, joy, love and hope, comes to an end *in time* when life departs. Sickness, age and death can be damaging, hurtful and distressful, but they need not be diminishing. The core of our being remains unscathed. The life we were born with remains intact. We are the same graced person throughout and deserve the same loyalty, love and respect throughout.

Everyone associated with helping to sustain and prolong this journey and contribute to making it a happy, fulfilled one is

These are care givers—be they doctors, nurses, therapists, hospital staff, our nourishing parents, relatives, or friends. These are the people who care for us, the people who care about us.



*Br. Dan Kane, health services manager at Gilmour Academy, provides vision screening to pre-school students Alice and Patrick O'Neill. Alice and Patrick are second generation Gilmour students. Their father, Patrick O'Neill '80, was a Gilmour student.*

This passage through life is sadly beset by mishaps, disappointments, indifferences and sometimes even deadly sins. As with parents and teachers whom we never fully understand nor appreciate until we ourselves years later become parents and educators to others, we never fully understand nor appreciate our care givers until we ourselves begin to value and profoundly experience the passing and ending of our own life. It is a pity and a sin that so many sick and elderly

are abandoned by even their own children and relatives who have conveniently forgotten who they really are. And this results in the desperate cry of the helpless rejected by a depersonalized society.

Happily, our Holy Cross community has never neglected its sick and aging brothers. On the contrary, it has done everything possible to minister to their needs, often heroically. And it has been blessed over and over again for this commitment to Jesus' gospel message of love for one another, the sacrament of life.

In this issue we acknowledge with gratitude and debt all those who dedicate their lives to prolonging the lives of others

in aiding them to live fuller, healthier, peaceful and free lives to the very end. We have asked some of our members to share their thoughts about their caring ministry and about the care receivers indebted to them for their selfless, sacramental, healing presence.

Br. Chris Dreyer, CSC: (Social Worker; Holy Cross Counseling Group; South Bend, Ind.)  
"My first career as a Holy Cross Brother was teaching high school students. As I began to know them better, I learned that many of them led very troubled lives. I was eventually drawn more to helping them deal with their fragmented lives than teaching  
*continued on page 2*

*In this issue we acknowledge with gratitude and debt all those who dedicate their lives to prolonging the lives of others in aiding them to live fuller, healthier, peaceful and free*

them how to identify and correct sentence fragments.

"After working as a high school guidance counselor, I entered the field of mental health care as a social worker at Holy Cross Counseling Group. Persons requesting counseling are seeking an understanding of their problems within a trusting environment. They want the guidance of a professional to help them clarify their thoughts and feelings usually at a time of crisis or transition. Counseling can provide support and resources while clients make life-changing decisions.

"Being a social worker at Holy Cross Counseling Group enables me to fulfill my vocation—to be the person whom God uniquely created and to enable others to do the same. One such person I could help is 'Mary,' who talked about her 'deep, dark childhood secrets.' Mary, a woman in her late 40s, had never told anyone about the sexual and physical abuse that her stepfather perpetrated on her and her sister when they were little.

"As part of her therapy, I encouraged Mary to write a letter to her stepfather even if she would never send it to him. She wrote to her stepfather: 'I wish I was able to remember anything but the pain, confusion, hurt, humility and disgust I felt with myself. I would pray to die. I used to be very upset that I never did die. I thought God was punishing me by making me live. You had me believing that I was such a bad girl. You violated many of God's children, helpless little girls.' Mary mentioned that if she had known how painful discussing

the abuse would be, she might not have ever started; it was as if her soul 'ached.'

When Mary finished her therapy, she wrote: 'I am aware that I've started a new chapter in the book of my life. I'm beginning to believe in myself, which for me is very strange. Thank you from the deepest part of my soul.'

"The soul that had once ached, was now experiencing hope and healing."

Br. Richard Gilson, CSC: (Staff Nurse; St. Joseph's Medical Center; South Bend, Ind.) "After two years of study at St. Edward's University, I requested to return to Notre Dame to work at Holy Cross House, the community infirmary. I worked as a nursing assistant there for a year and



Br. Tom Maddix (left, facing camera) conducts a workshop for the Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation in Edmonton, Alberta.

then joined the first staff at the brothers' new health facility, Dujarie House, as a nursing assistant. I enjoyed my work with the older community members and eventually requested to study nursing. I was the first male student at Holy Cross School of Nursing in South Bend. After I received my R.N., I returned to Dujarie House as a staff nurse and was also director for six years. In 1979, I returned to the acute hospital setting, initially as a staff nurse in orthopedics and

then as assistant clinical director in the unit. After 11 years of orthopedics I moved to an intermediate intensive care unit, where I remain as a staff nurse today.

"I have experienced and continue to experience many changes in the nursing profession. Nurses are more than just care givers. We are perpetual students, educators, counselors and patient advocates. We work with a wide variety of personalities. We see individuals both at their best and at their worst. Our most challenging calling is to be good listeners. To find time in our hectic work environments to listen to our patients and their significant others is a real challenge."

Br. Daniel Kane, CSC: (Health Services; Gilmour Academy; Gates Mills, Oh.; Home Health Care; Benjamin Rose Institute; Cleveland, Oh.) "Operating school health services at Gilmour Academy in Cleveland for 750 co-ed (pre-K through grade 12) students, faculty and staff is both challenging and rewarding. This is especially true when providing assistance to those who become ill or injured supplies helpful comfort for them and when oppor-

tunities arise for educating youngsters (and oldsters) with healthful tips for wellness.

"A more recent dimension of my ministry is home health care with the Benjamin Rose Institute, a local foundation that provides a cluster of services to the elderly, many of whom live alone and are on Medicare. Often I find myself not only the skilled-nursing provider, but one of the limited social contacts for many of my clients. Being a source of help, support and encouragement for them is a touching experience.

"Directing a mixed-voice high school choral group and being music director, pianist and organist for the school's new 500-seat chapel provide countless opportunities to touch both the young and old through music and liturgy. Composing and arranging music, both choral and instrumental, is a new venture for me in the last several years. I've had good success with works published, and for me, it's another way to reach out and touch someone—with music."

Br. Thomas Maddix, CSC: (Director of Mission Services; Alberta Catholic Hospitals Foundation; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) "The Irish have a word in Gaelic, 'grieshog,' which is the process of burying warm coals in the night in order to preserve the fire for the cold morning to come. The process is extremely important, for if the coals go out, a new fire must be built, which is a time-consuming process.

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"My work in Christian health care can best be described as attending to the 'coals' and 'fire' of Christian faith-based health care organizations and making sure that the heart of it does not die. Whether it be through workshops, board retreats, strategic planning, leadership programs, editing a magazine or planning conferences for faith-based health care organizations in Alberta and other parts of Canada, attending to the 'fire' of Christian health care and its voice and mission constitute the focus of my ministry today.

"The ministry has provided me with a unique sense of how God works through intuitions, impulses and the invitation and empowerment of others. It has also allowed me to see growth, transformation and a deepening of what it means to be Christian/faith-based organizations in a society driven more by the bottom line than service and compassion."

**Br. Donald McIntyre, CSC:** (Transportation Coordinator; Grand Court Homes; Pompano Beach, Fla.) "The facility where I minister is not a large retirement home but has 100 residents in Grand Court I. Our sister facility, Grand Court II, has about 65 Alzheimer's disease patients. I work in both of these facilities, taking residents to doctors and dentists in our area and taking

them shopping. The residents are very appreciative of any help they receive. I also work closely with the activities directors. We plan lunches out and once a month we go to a movie in one of the malls. Plenty of bingo takes place, sometimes twice a day. It is wonderful to see the residents respond to a bus trip down to Ft. Lauderdale beach to see the people, boats and ocean. Currently I also live with and provide help to a 66-year-old gentleman with Parkinson's disease. I drive for him and am a general companion. This is an extension of my work at the retirement facility."

**Br. Joe McTaggart, CSC:** (Pastoral Care Chaplain; Providence Holy Cross Medical Center; Mission Hills, Cal.) "I never thought I'd be doing this work. My teaching career had a kind of logic to it: English major—teaching English; religious education—teaching teenagers



*Br. Joe McTaggart (background), pastoral care chaplain at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills, Cal., conducts a support group for chemotherapy patients.*

about values and priorities; campus minister—relating with students as they struggled with career options, life's problems and their own choices. That progression seemed to flow one from the other. It all centered around values and mentoring others with a certain ability to interpret and communicate well. But being a hospital chaplain came out of the blue.

"After a time away from my teaching career and some interim study at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, I longed to be back in touch with people in a significant way. I wanted another ministry working closely with people, so I took a chance on an inner hunch and went on for some more schooling, a year's residency at Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center in Clinical Pastoral Education, the requisite training to be a hospital chaplain.

"Soon after that training and for the past twelve years I've found myself working with cancer patients as a chaplain on an oncology unit, conducting support groups for patients, and ministering in the home with families who elect to use hospice during the dying process. What still amazes me about all this is that years ago I wouldn't go near pain of any kind. Work-

ing with all that threat and tension was the last thing in the world I considered myself capable of. I was a chicken, one who felt woefully inadequate in dealing with the sick and dying.

"Yet somehow with the grace of God, some very good teachers and mentors, a couple of singularly significant learning experiences and seminars, I now not

only work among those in pain but am drawn to those who face their last moments on this earth.

"In the final analysis I never left the field of education. It was the classroom that shifted.

Nouns and verbs, literature and theology were replaced by trauma and surgery, hospital room and hospice bed. The interaction remained the same. Relationships remain central. In fact, in a very real way, it's the patient who's the teacher and I am the learner. This is a role reversal, indeed, but the human encounter remains one of grace and profound learning, that same interaction experienced between teacher and student in the formal classroom, that same rush a teacher gets when a student in difficulty catches on. It's one of the delights of our profession. It keeps us going.

"So, I'm still an 'educator in the faith' as the Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross call us, and I have found again that our symbols of the cross and anchors remain quite significant and hopeful for me in this work. Those with life threatening illnesses teach me how they walk through that time. The dying remind me quite vividly and profoundly to be about what really matters in the life I have remaining. And anyone who gives me the privilege of knowing their suffering gives me also the opportunity to present myself back to them in my own vulnerability and authenticity. It is the miracle of a grace filled *quid pro quo*. Once again, it is the poor and marginalized who bring to me, and to this work as well, profound lessons which carry the grace of God to the depths of our souls if we will only get



*Br. Donald McIntyre, transportation coordinator at Grand Court I and II, with a couple of co-workers.*

beyond our own pain in order to meet them. This work is but one more way we are privileged to be brothers to others. So who's the teacher and who's the learner, anyway?"



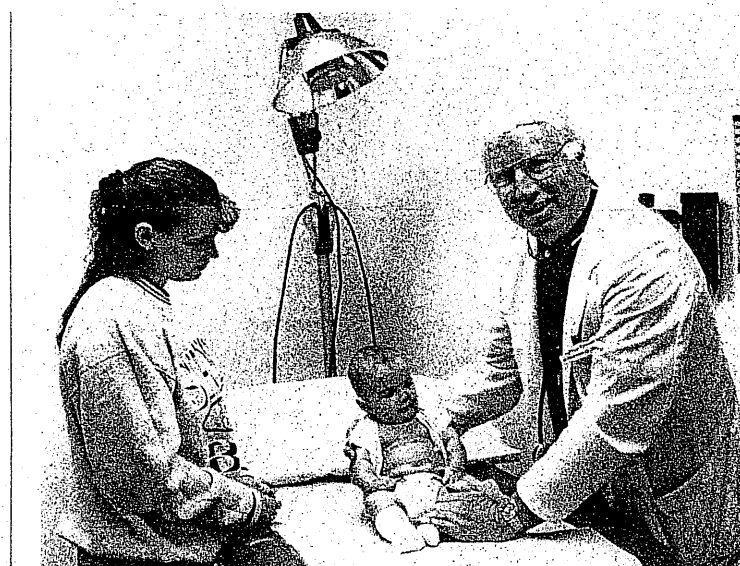
*Br. Carroll Posey (center) with some of his residents at St. Joseph Health Care-West.*

**Br. Carroll Posey, CSC:** (Care Giver; St. Joseph Care Center-West; South Bend, Ind.) "My ministry as a Holy Cross health care giver gives me great satisfaction in knowing that my presence to these people brings sunshine and hope to them. Most of them are able to communicate their feelings to me when engaged in conversation.

"I work at St. Joseph Care Center-West and one wing—Trinity Living Center—is strictly Alzheimer's disease patients. It is there that I can bring some sort of cheer and hope to their lives. I joke with them, pray with them, and play games with them. Many are limited in what they can do but they always try and they appreciate the time spent with them. I have always enjoyed elderly people and it is a very rewarding experience for me to be working with the Holy Cross Care Services."

**Br. Frederick Raehsler, CSC:** (Physician Assistant; Blanchard Care Clinic; Blanchard, Mich.) "I view my ministry as a Holy Cross Brother in the health care field as being in the 'front

line' of medical service. I deliver health care in a rural health clinic in Blanchard, Michigan, as a physician assistant. Blanchard is a medically underserved area which is located approximately 45 miles northeast of Grand Rapids.



*Br. Frederick Raehsler (right) examines patient Katey Whaley while Katey's mother Roxann Whaley looks on.*

At one time this small, sleepy village was a thriving center of activity in the lumbering industry. Today, potatoes, beans and corn are the main crops and this area is known as the 'Potato Capital' of the country and celebrates this national fame on an annual basis.

"As a physician assistant at the Blanchard Care Clinic I serve the medical needs of the people of the area. The functions of a physician assistant include performing diagnostic, therapeutic, preventive and health maintenance services in any setting in which the physician renders care. Physician assistants, although under the direction of physicians, are nonetheless accountable for their own actions. Physician assistants are educated in those areas of basic medical science and clinical disciplines which prepare them to function as generalists.

"In addition to my work at the Blanchard Care Clinic, I am also the health care provider at the Montcalm County Jail, which is located 20 miles south of Blanchard at Stanton, Michigan. This ministry to the inmates can certainly be chal-

lenging at times but also rewarding in that one is able to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in this life. In care of the sick and injured in my health care ministry, I feel that I receive much more from the patients than I give them."

**Br. Douglas Roach, CSC:** (Mental Health Specialist; Morgan County Regional Correctional Facility; Wartburg, Tenn.) "My experience as a mental health care giver in a Tennessee state prison has been a humbling one. The vast majority of the incarcerated men were brought up in dysfunctional homes where emotional abandonment and abuse were very common. Rather than being in touch with their intrinsic worth and value, most inmates grew up feeling insecure and inadequate.

"Establishing trust between the inmate and myself is the first priority. Invariably, as soon as this takes place, the inmate begins to feel safe enough to begin his disclosure of what life has been for him. He begins to tell his story, most of which has been surrounded by divorce of his parents, his own use of drugs, his physical or sexual abuse and most often his emotional abuse. All of the various life stories have a commonality of pain, shame, guilt and rejection. As a mental health counselor, I try to focus on the real self of the individual rather than the self with whom the inmate identifies.

"This entire listening and challenging experience is a humbling one for me because in a very real sense I am listening to the whole life confession of an individual human being who was previously a total stranger to me. For most inmates this is the first time they have ever revealed that kind of depth of their own life story.

"After hearing the inmate's life story I assist him with the very difficult task of identifying those issues in his life that prevent him from becoming the person he was created to be.

"As a Holy Cross mental health care giver, I view my ministry complementary to Constitution 1.7: 'Our commitment is an invitation for our fellow Christians to fulfill their vocation, and for ourselves it is a concrete way of working with them for the spread of the gospel and with all for the development of a more just and human society.'"



# Assisted Living Program at Columba Hall

Columba Hall, which is located between the lakes on the campus at Notre Dame, has been home to the Brothers of Holy Cross since it was built in 1900. Some parts of the building are even older than the Main Building at the university. Originally called the Community House, the building housed priests and brothers working on the Notre Dame campus. With the formation of separate provinces of priests and brothers in 1946, the brothers leased the property and, in 1954, changed the name of the residence to honor the saintly Br. Columba O'Neill, who served as the community cobbler for many years.

In the '50s and '60s Columba Hall was a residence for as many as 80 brothers involved in various ministries in the Notre Dame-South Bend area



*Br. Giles Martin, 88, answers the phone and delivers messages to residents at Columba Hall.*

and also served as a retirement home for some brothers. With the building of the Holy Cross Brothers Center and other changes, more space became available at Columba Hall. Remodeling and renovation of parts of the building provided greater accessibility and



*Br. Just Paczesny (left) assists and drives Br. Thomas Corcoran to his volunteer tutoring sessions with English as a second language students.*

opened the door to further adaptations. The 1988 chapter of the Midwest Province looked into an assisted living program for the province.

The idea behind this was to provide brothers with some additional personal care in a regular community setting. These brothers were ambulatory but did not need the more extensive care that the brothers



*Br. Lawrence Miller, 83, chronicles Columba Hall events and keeps an ongoing list of community obituaries.*

in Dujarie House needed. By the 1991 chapter, assisted living at Columba Hall was begun.

Brothers enter the flexible program for several reasons and several levels of service are provided. Housekeeping and laundry help may be one of the reasons. A staff provides these services for about ten of the brothers. Supervision of medication is provided ten hours per day by two members of the Dujarie House staff—Peggy Parker and Sandy Moreland. Transportation to doctors and other appointments is provided by a group of brothers organized by Br. Just Paczesny. The man responsible for seeing that it all clicks is Br. James Newberry, the superior. He sees his role as that of the traditional pastoral superior, affirming, encouraging and enabling.

Br. Lawrence Miller is a prime example of a brother in the program. Br. Lawrence has led a very active life. He was the province's first certified social worker; he served as superior at Columba Hall in the early '60s, and as assistant provincial in the mid-'60s. After that he went to work at Evansville State Hospital, leaving that job at the manda-

tory age of 70. Did he retire? No! He worked in the province archives for several years. When poor health put a limit on what he could do physically, he became one of the first brothers in the program at Columba Hall. Br. Lawrence brings a wealth of experience to his participation in the program. At 83, he remains active. Daily, he chronicles the activities of Columba Hall and keeps clippings about community activities. He has these organized and indexed in notebooks and file boxes. He also has a special project—the community obituaries. This project involves collecting clippings, pictures and memories of the brothers who have died. Each year on the anniversary of their deaths, they are commemorated in a special way and thus stay very much alive and very real for the rest of us.

Assisted living is retirement? No way. It is with reassurance and hope that the Brothers of Holy Cross can look forward to the later years with their confreres.

—Br. Charles Gregg, CSC

# Dujarie House: Loving Concern for Life and Health

## A Positive Environment

"I love what I do! That's why I stay here." This simple rationale sums up head nurse Becky Futa's nineteen years at Dujarie House. Named in 1991 by the director, Br. Thomas Shaughnessy, as assistant director of the skilled care facility, Becky represents the professional competence, stability and dedication that have marked care givers, brothers and laity alike, engaged over the years in ministry at Dujarie House. An R.N., Becky experiences and



*Br. Thomas Shaughnessy, director of Dujarie House.*

appreciates the family relationship that exists within the Holy Cross community, both the givers and receivers of care, and prefers the more stable residential situation found there to the rapidly changing reality experienced in most hospitals and nursing facilities.

Br. Thomas acknowledges that a "welcoming atmosphere" permeates the facility, both toward the residents, who are quick to affirm the quality of the enviable attention given to them, and toward the many who visit or assist them. He

describes his work as "the most satisfying ministry I have had in Holy Cross," and feels from community administrators and members tremendous support for the role of director and the purpose of the facility.

## Pastoral Care

Fr. Kenneth Grabner, CSC, chaplain at both the Brothers Center and Dujarie House, enthusiastically concurs with the judgment that exceptional care-giving is the norm at the infirmary. Within an atmosphere that is peaceful but purposeful, relaxed but efficient, residents enjoy respect for personal wishes regarding their care. The sacraments are readily available to them as well as spiritual direction and accompanied prayer.

Br. Thomas brought Fr. Grabner



*Becky Futa, R.N., assistant director of Dujarie House, talks with 101-year-old Br. Lewis Leimeister.*

aboard two years ago as official chaplain to enhance the pastoral program already in place through regular visiting chaplains.

## A Clear Definition and Program

Built at the time the Holy Cross Brothers Center was

constructed in 1966, Dujarie House has always served not only the Midwest province but the East and South-West provinces as well. As Br. Thomas describes it, "We are a religious house. We do intensive nursing assistance here, but are not a nursing home as such." Staffed around the clock by registered nurses like Becky Futa and Maureen Clemmons, plus licensed practical nurses and other assistants, Dujarie does not have a resident doctor, though Dr. James Reidy—twenty years at Dujarie—and his predecessors, Drs. Caster and Rigaux, have held clinic hours at the facility at least monthly, and have been on call or available in their office for urgent appointments.

Securely settled on a philosophical and spiritual foundation of loving concern for life and health, Dujarie House orients its staff and residents accordingly. Needed improvements have been made possible in the physical plant through benefactors and the brothers' provinces themselves, the most recent being the addition of a large new wing with ten residential rooms, a nurses' station, a lounge and storage space, and the renovation of six of the

smaller old rooms into four that now match the spacious accommodations found in the new section. Prior renovations significantly enlarged the kitchen and dining space, added a "three-season" room onto the scenic river side of the living room, and designed a garden area overlooking the river, complete with wheelchair accessible walks and a gazebo. Thanks to the generosity of other benefactors, the chapel also underwent a complete renovation last year.

Compared with similar facilities anywhere, Dujarie House is acknowledged as ranking among the most beautiful, comfortable, appropriately appointed and effectively administered and staffed skilled care centers in operation.

## The Director

Br. Thomas is in his sixth year as the sixth director of Dujarie House. He continues the tradition of excellent and dedicated administration begun by Br. Frederick Raehsler and carried on by Brs. Richard Gilson, Ralph Kuder, Pedro Haering and James Martin. Coming from a background of extensive experience in social service that included the directorship

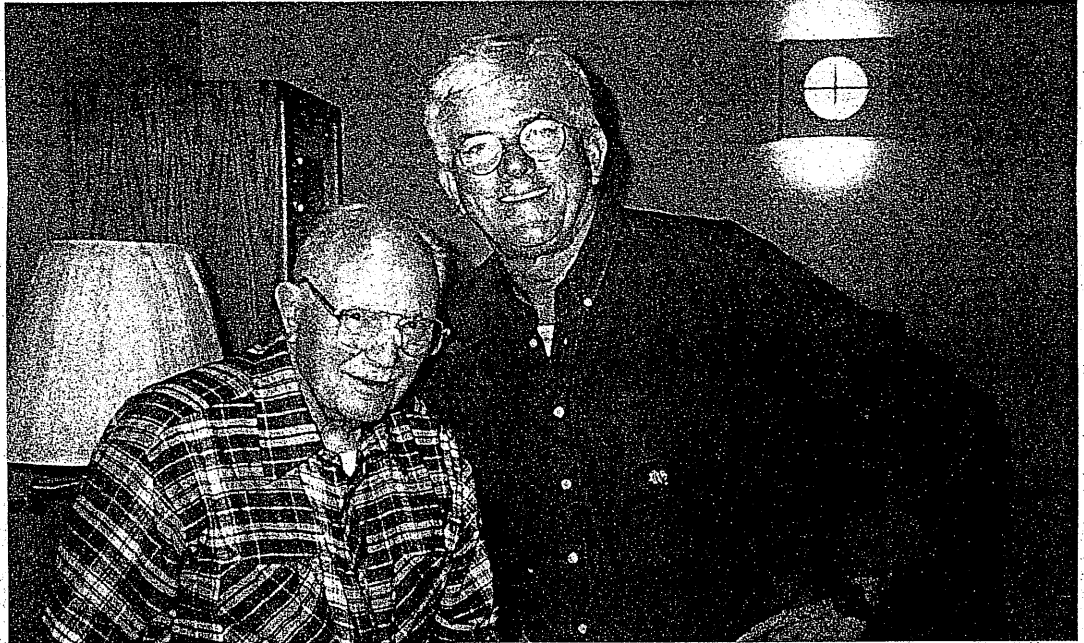


*Br. Melchior Polowy gets some assistance from a Dujarie staff member in buttoning his warm flannel shirt.*

of Gibault Home for Boys in Terre Haute, Indiana, Catholic Charities in Bellingham, Washington, and in South Bend, Indiana, and the Family and Children's Center, also in South Bend, Br. Thomas has brought exceptional leadership to the facility. These skills, coupled with his long-standing practical concern for and dedication to confreres suffering, recuperating or in other ways needing assistance, made him a logical choice for the director's position as an astute, creative, hands-on individual. He views himself as something of a coordinator among the residents, all of whom, he reminds everyone, are, as members of the congregation "part owners of Dujarie House." He asks, "How many people own the facility in which they receive nursing care? That fact influences both their expectations of life in the house and their participation in the care program."

### Refining the Process

For some years all brothers in need of supervised medical treatment, however minor, resided at Dujarie House as long as necessary. The presence of some who required skilled care and others who needed only occasional assistance demanded a two-tiered level of staffing. The establishment at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus of an assisted living program for men requiring minimal medical aid simplified and streamlined the purpose and program of Dujarie House and enabled it to function even more efficiently. A new and fully equipped assisted living facility is presently under construction adjacent to Dujarie House. Both units will retain their separate identities but share services and staff where economically feasible and prudent.



*Dujarie resident, Br. Paul Schwoyer, receives a visit from one of his former band members at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Oh., former talk show host Phil Donahue. Phil was in the first graduating class at St. Ed's.*

### An Evolving Ministry

Br. Thomas feels privileged to work among men who have devoted their lives to Holy Cross, and he often reflects on their years of service to the multiple ministries they represent. His personal openness to all stages of life's journey, whether marked by full health, illness and recuperation or transition beyond this life, enables him to participate intimately in the joys and sorrows experienced by the residents and staff, and the relatives, friends, volunteers and other confreres who comprise the large contingent of visitors at Dujarie House. He believes that given the nature and cost of medical care today, hospital stays will be fewer and shorter. Dujarie House and facilities like it will find themselves providing many of the services previously associated with hospital care. And, he adds, because life expectancy is greater now, debilitating illnesses among older persons such as diabetes and stroke will challenge facilities

such as Dujarie House to set up effective programs to answer the needs.

Whatever is required, he and his staff are ready and willing to continue their outstanding service to those who come to them in need of temporary or permanent skilled care, and to accompany them personally and professionally with enviable skill and unfailingly loving concern.

—Br. Philip Armstrong, CSC

*Compared with similar facilities anywhere, Dujarie House is acknowledged as ranking among the most beautiful, comfortable, appropriately appointed and effectively administered and staffed skilled care centers in operation.*

# Recollections of Community Care Givers

I entered the juniorate program of the Brothers of Holy Cross at Watertown, Wisconsin, when I was 24, and with me were 26 young men, all desiring to become Brothers of Holy Cross. All were about the same age and healthy. At the juniorate was a staff of approximately 30 brothers.

In each of the brothers' houses in those days a brother was assigned as infirmarian. This brother was always patient, kind, could take one's temperature and dispense aspirin or cold remedies. We were young and even the older brothers always seemed well except for the occasional colds or flu. If you were sick, the infirmarian would see that you got your meals and would give advice on your care.

I will never forget Br. Peter Swords, who was our infirmarian at the juniorate in

Watertown. This man could read your mind and figure out if you were faking it in order to get out of an assignment such as collecting eggs from the chicken coop or cleaning out the cow barn. Br. Peter's judgment and the thermometer told you if you needed an aspirin, a rest or whatever.

After the juniorate program I went to the novitiate at Rolling Prairie, Indiana. Here I joined approximately 50 novices, mostly young, and a comparatively young staff. Here, too, was a patient, kind brother infirmarian, Br. Peter Damian. He was also the assistant novice master. It took Br. Peter Damian only a short time to size up the group of fifty young men and their medical needs.

After leaving the novitiate and going to Vincent Hall at St. Edward's University in Austin,

Texas, I came in contact with Br. Andrew Trimble, another infirmarian who possessed all the fine qualities and knowledge and understanding to take care of the needs of the house members.

So, from houses of formation, on to schools in Austin, New Orleans, Cleveland, and Gates Mills, the congregation was always able to find the right brother to be the infirmarian to minister to the house members.

Religious of my age in the Midwest or Indiana Provinces of Holy Cross knew a saintly man by the name of Br. Michael Donovan. Br. Michael was the long-time nurse at the Holy Cross infirmary on the campus at Notre Dame. He was well-known and loved by all community members. Just to know this man or to come into his presence was almost a healing experience.

As a young man desiring to become a brother I was surrounded with youth and never even thought of sickness. Isn't everybody always well? At this time there were very few retirement or nursing homes. Most families took care of their loved ones at home. Who ever heard of Medicare or Medicaid or an HMO at that time? As brothers have lived longer lives and have become infirm or incapacitated, and fewer young men have joined the community, we have become aware of many new terms—nursing homes, assisted living, medical insurance, HMO, PPO, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Even as things become more complicated, we still continue to receive the best of care—the brother who is just ill with a cold or a bout of the flu or the brother who needs long-term care after a stroke or heart bypass surgery. In all of these instances, the concern, care and kindness of our religious family, the Congregation of Holy Cross, continues.

—Br. Robert Kelly, CSC

## Collaborative Health Care/Retirement Council Formed

As reported in January in the *Midwest Province News Items*, Br. William Geenen, provincial, has proposed to the provincials of the six American provinces of Holy Cross that a **Health Care and Retirement Resource Council** be established in order "to promote the congregational goal of collaboration between societies and among provinces, to seek the greatest possible economy in our implementation of health care and retirement policies, and to

exhibit an openness to the concept of restructuring and its potential consequences within the congregation." The provincials have approved the formation of this Council.

The Council is intended to supersede the former Dujarie House advisory board, whose sphere of influence related only to the skilled care facility used exclusively by the brothers. The expanded Council, comprising

both brothers and priests, will advise the provincials "on matters related to health care and retirement of the membership," and suggest "guidelines applicable to all skilled and assisted care and retirement programs in our provinces in the United States." Its object is to assist the provincial administrations in their effort "to continue to provide quality, affordable faith-centered health care and retirement for Holy Cross religious."

Br. Thomas Shaughnessy, director of Dujarie House at Notre Dame, was named as convener and organizer of the new Council, the membership of which will be composed of one appointed member from each province in the United States.



# Bringing Hope and Rehabilitation

Br. Ronald Drahozal, CSC: (Director; Addiction Rehabilitation Center; Dhaka, Bangladesh) "In the mid-1980s some Holy Cross Brothers involved in our high schools and other youth work in Dhaka became aware of the growing drug addiction problem in Dhaka. Although they were busy with full-time commitments, a couple were counseling some of these teenagers who were getting into difficulties because of their drug addictions. In time these Brothers and others began considering what could be done for these young addicts." (Ed. note: Terms such as "addictions," "addicts," etc., are commonly used in Bangladesh while references to these situations in the United States are generally referred to as "substance abuse" or "abusers.")

"At the time there were one or two private clinics that were beginning to admit addicts for detoxification. This helped only the physical aspects, and only the rich could afford the high cost. In fact, very few people in Bangladesh knew anything about drug addiction. For those families affected it created what seemed to be a hopeless situation.

The Holy Cross group decided that a rehabilitation program to treat the whole person—physical, but more importantly mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects—was needed. With very little experience and funds, but abundant trust in God, the group rented a small house and the new center opened in July 1988. Thus began a completely new approach to treating drug addicts in Bangladesh. We treat a person for two to three months for the cost of 10 days at a detoxification clinic. Our program is a six-month residential self-help type process. Several of the staff are recovering addicts. One person is off drugs for seven-and-a-half years, another two-and-a-half years. Little did we realize the success and affect we would have in this new field of work. Even today, only the two rehabilitation centers we started exist in all of Bangladesh.

"Some of the basic elements of the program are: 1) The 12 Steps program of Narcotics Anonymous (NA); 2) using recovering addicts to conduct the program; 3) counseling and sharing; 4) family involvement (Family Anonymous) and, in time, skill



Br. Ronald Drahozal (center, in striped shirt), meets with a group of young drug addicts.

training and aftercare. We have been especially interested in helping those too poor to find assistance elsewhere, but no one is excluded regardless of social, economic or religious background.

"The program developed in a slow, steady process as we gained experience and funds. At the same time word spread among addicts, their families, and others about the rehabilitation center and for most it was the first time they saw hard core heroin addicts getting off and staying off drugs. The addicts came from all over the country but most were from Dhaka, both rich and poor, all religions joining in to help each other in the recovery process. The religious beliefs of all, Moslem, Christian (both Catholic and Protestant), Hindu and Buddhist, are respected as we all join together

to grow spiritually and trust in our Divine Creator as each of us understands Him.

"In 1994 I opened a separate Halfway House and aftercare program. It soon became obvious that this new center also had to meet the needs of those coming for basic treatment. More often than not these addicts said they had little money to pay for admission and treatment. In the area where these two centers are located I am known to most addicts and anti-social elements. Some addicts know me only as Brother or "amader brathar"—our brother. Some years ago when I was getting a haircut in the market, somebody asked who I was. The young boy cutting my hair quickly but politely responded, "the heroin-chi doctor" ("heroin-chi" is a very derogatory term for heroin addicts).

Over the years a few doctors and others have gotten some training and now understand the disease better. The public in general is still rather ignorant of the problem and the drug problem continues to grow, but many people have a much better understanding of drug addictions/substance abuse and the treatment possibilities as a result of the process that a few Holy Cross religious started in 1988."

*"All of the various life stories have a commonality of pain, shame, guilt and rejection. As a mental health counselor, I try to*

*focus on the real self of the individual rather than the self with whom the inmate identifies."*

—Br. Douglas Roach,  
Mental Health Specialist

# Reflections on a Visit to Ghana

"The measure of our generosity will be the sincerity, the simplicity and the sensitivity of our welcome." (Constitution 4, 40)

Not considering myself to be a traveler, I am always grateful when I get to my destination, this time Ghana in West Africa for the annual provincial visit and the District Chapter. For those who are not familiar with chapters, for us in Holy Cross this meeting occurs every three to six years and sets goals for the district, province or congregation administrators to implement. One of the major decisions taken at this district chapter was to focus attention on vocations and formation. Holy Cross must make every effort to seek and foster vocations if we are to continue to have an effective apostolic presence in West Africa.

Coming from the cold and snow at Notre Dame, I quickly realized what living four degrees north of the equator means. The sun rises and sets at six o'clock every day of the year, and the weather is tropically warm and very humid.

The Holy Cross spirit of welcome and hospitality is very apparent in Ghana. The Brothers could not have been more gracious, even if a visitor arrived at the community house at two o'clock in the morning, as I did. Likewise, visiting the homes of former students or their parents prompted a warm welcome, and the custom of first giving a glass of cold water to the visitor was observed. I was reminded of the gospel story that likens giving a cup of cold water in the name of the

Lord to giving it to Christ. God must smile each time a glass of water is offered in hospitality and welcome to refresh the guest. One of the other striking aspects of visiting with the people was their overwhelming sense of God, or the dominant place of spirituality, from the smiles and ease with which Ghanaians approach day-to-day events to the common and expressive signs visible everywhere praising and thanking God. This experience of hospitality from the religious and people of Ghana made a long trip much more bearable.

Only in a spirit of dialogue and collaboration will Holy Cross be able to continue its journey in faith as men of hope seeking to make the vision that forms our heritage from Father

Moreau increasingly present to the people of God in West Africa. The ways of Holy Cross with its charisms and dedication are evident in the places we serve. May God continue the good work begun there!

—Br. Donald Gibbs, CSC



## Brief History of Provinces Published

The seventh in a series of monographs commissioned by the Holy Cross History Association made its appearance in November. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the division in 1946 of the single U. S. priests' and brothers' province into two homogeneous and autonomous provinces, Fr. James Connelly of the Indiana Province and Br. Philip Armstrong of the Midwest Province were asked to produce brief histories of their respective provinces.

The Ave Maria Press at Notre Dame published the 104-page book entitled *The History of the Indiana and Midwest Provinces*. Br. Philip's contribution is subtitled *The Midwest Province: A Short Survey of Its Administrative Development*.

This cursory overview of the past fifty years naturally suffers from the limitations imposed by the brevity required of the monograph format, yet is adequate enough to

present a summary of developments leading up to and accompanying the establishment of the provinces and to highlight the major directions planned and decisions taken by the various provincial administrations holding office during those years. Both Fr. Connelly and Br. Philip strongly suggest that these brief surveys be enlarged upon through further research and writing in the near future.

Inquiries about obtaining copies of the monograph may be directed to Fr. William Blum, CSC; Provincial Archivist; P.O. Box 568; Notre Dame IN 46556. Telephone: (219) 631-5371.



# Person to Person

—A Word from Brother Geenen



Our focus on health care in this issue of **BROTHERS** affords me yet another opportunity to acknowledge that the critical issues facing individuals and families experiencing the gerontological crises of aging and deteriorating health seriously affect us as religious as well.

We brothers, accustomed to serving as providers of health care, now find ourselves joining in increasing numbers the ranks of the consumers of that service.

I have written in this column previously about the needs of the brothers in this area and about the exciting challenge posed to build upon our ongoing commitment to ministries of care in ways that simultaneously mesh with our own growing internal health care requirements. As we search for solutions to our health care problems, we also seek ways of involving others with similar needs in models of mutually advantageous assistance.

We believe that, by reason of our religious heritage in Holy Cross and because of our traditional style of life, we can enter into collaborative experiences of providing and receiving health care. Our confidence arises from a background that presumes as a given our availability as brothers to be of service to others and to provide, through our experience of God, perspectives helpful in answering many of life's questions not

defined in the lexicons of medicine, pharmacology or social service.

You can help us articulate how we as brothers can effectively extend our ministry of health care beyond our own urgent internal needs to you and others equally in need. We feel that there are people we can reach who may be interested in collaborating with us through some form of mutual assistance, a form that may include not only actual service but also financial or other support of a professional nature. Think and pray about it and let us hear from you.

—Brother William Geenen, CSC  
Provincial



## Touched by Holy Cross

### Responding to Call for Care

"Nurses use words like 'nurse' and 'nursing' over in an infirmary or hospital. Shirley Rasmussen responded to this call several hundred times during her 12 years of work as nurse at Dujarie House, the Brothers' skilled care facility. Before beginning work at Dujarie House in 1978, Shirley had been a critical care nurse.

"I received a great deal of support from my directors, Br. Ralph Kuder, Br. Pedro Haering, and Br. James Martin. My nursing staff always seemed to understand the physical and spiritual needs of the brothers. The greatest support of all came from the brothers who were receptive to my being there and would often say, 'I'll pray for you.'

"Nursing is physically very hard and my body will vouch for that, but the emotional high you get from helping someone in any way is most rewarding. It can be the times you helped someone get well enough to go home, or the time you comforted a family member when someone was very ill, or the many times you held someone's hand and prayed with them when they were dying," recalled Shirley. Shirley said the greatest reward in working at Dujarie House was the feeling she had that she was a member of a very big family. Some of her "family" lived at the Brothers Center, some at Columba Hall, and some at the Provincial House. "Those who needed to be at Dujarie showed a great deal of concern and love for



Shirley Rasmussen and Br. Paul Kelly

each other," smiled Shirley. She also said that the "whole family" was very obedient and trusting in their God. "This trust and obedience that was evident to me each day brought about a spiritual awakening in me. This, too, was a reward I received from being at Dujarie House—the acceptance into this family."

"I have so many wonderful memories of the Brothers that if I got started I could write a book. I think we all have fond memories of Br. Francis Assisi Davis, Br. Luke Bauer, Br. Henry O'Rourke, Br. Bill Healy, Br. Omer Bielawski. Remember Br. Paul Mattingly, Br. Matthew Gara, Br. Jerome Steffes, Br. Bonaventure Foley, Br. Hilary Lux, Br. Finbarr Buckley, Br. John Shea? Oh, I can't forget Br. Theophilus Machalinski—see what I mean?"

"It certainly is a wonderful feeling that there are good memories of my being there. The warmth and kindness that is remembered was the warmth and kindness that I always experienced when I was dealing with any of the Brothers. You guys are really a great bunch. It was a privilege to be the 'Mother Superior' for so many years. God bless you all!"

—Br. Carroll Posey, CSC