

Brothers

Newsletter of the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross
First Quarter, 2002



Educators in the Faith Archbishop Hoban High School Stresses Christian Service and Outreach

Holy Cross Brothers call themselves Educators in the Faith, and Christian service in Holy Cross schools is integral to that mission. Students at Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio, provide a vivid example. Each of them completes a Christian service project as a part of the curriculum requirements.

Brother Kenneth Haders, C.S.C., school president, explained the philosophical basis for the service expectation made of all students. “It is scripturally based,” he said. “It conforms to the call to justice found in Matthew’s gospel, and it is central to the mission of Holy Cross. The two mission priorities of the congregation are education in the Faith and a prophetic option for the poor. We are called to direct service to the vulnerable and oppressed.”

By “direct service” Brother Kenneth was referring to the fact that Hoban students must come in face-to-face contact with the people being served— at nursing homes,

at battered women’s shelters, at soup kitchens, at agencies providing services for the handicapped — wherever people are in need. Service projects are not approved unless this direct personal contact is made.

As a junior, Tod Coudriet tutored Bosnian and Mexican middle school students. “I worked with Oscar, Roberto,

Juan and Sergio,” he wrote in his essay. “We would talk, and I helped them with their speaking skills as well as their ‘people skills.’ I believe I was a visible sign of God’s love through my service.”

Hoban’s mission statement spells out the call to reach out in service and to accept community responsibility. “Christian service is not just volunteering,” Brother Kenneth said. “The call to Christianity is a call to action. The reason service projects are required on all grade levels at Hoban is because we hope it will become part of

the student’s life — not just something you do when you are a senior.”

Mary Cafarelli, who worked with preschool children with disabilities when she was a junior, believes service is part of her Christian call. “Matthew 25 and John 13 are gospel passages about not being foolish



Brother Kenneth Haders, C.S.C.,
President, Archbishop
Hoban High School



Hoban’s golden dome provides a visible link to
Notre Dame and Holy Cross Heritage.

Living The Mission of Jesus



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

We live in an age that longs for the presence of God. Our hearts search endlessly for meaning and purpose; they are never at rest until God's grace enables us to answer His call.

In Holy Cross, we commit ourselves to this endless search for purpose and meaning. *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 human society* (Constitution 1, Article 7).

For over one hundred and sixty years the Brothers of Holy Cross in the United States have been involved primarily in the ministry of Catholic education. Our ministry of education does not end with the last ring of the bell; it extends beyond the school itself to every local community in which our students live whether they are in Ghana, West Africa, or in Akron, Ohio.

In this edition of BROTHERS, I invite you to read the story about students at Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio. They are bringing Jesus' message of hope and presence to people in need. Witness is the very essence of Christian discipleship. We teach by word and example what we are called to do by our baptism. Together, we make a difference; together, we live the mission of Jesus!

God bless you, and please remember to pray daily to our heavenly Father for more men and women to serve as religious of Holy Cross.

Sankofa

Respect the Past – Build the Future



Brother Paul Mensah, C.S.C.

On December 31 it was 13 degrees Fahrenheit and there was snow on the ground when four Ghanaian Brothers arrived at Columba Hall from West Africa. What a jolt! None of these men had experienced a temperature below 70 degrees before arriving in the United States. The first order of business for them on New Year's Day was a trip to the mall to find winter coats, sweaters, hats and gloves.

These men are in the United States to further their education. Brother Paul Mensah will spend one year in the South Bend area upgrading his computer skills and taking several courses in theology. Brother Paul received his bachelor's degree from St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, in 1991. Prior to leaving Ghana he was steward for the district of West Africa, managing director and accountant for the Catholic Mission Press of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast and executive secretary for the Council of Major Superiors of Religious Men in Ghana. He will be taking classes at Holy Cross College and Ivy Tech.



Brother John Affum-Badu, C.S.C.

Brothers Patrick Osei-Bonsu, John Kwesi Asiedu and John Affum-Badu will also begin their studies at Holy Cross College. Brother Patrick completed studies at Fosu Teacher



Brother John K. Asiedu, C.S.C.

Training College and taught for six years prior to joining Holy Cross. Brothers John Asiedu and John Affum-Badu entered the congregation upon completion of their secondary education at St. Augustine's College, Cape Coast, and St. John's Secondary School, Sekondi, respectively. These days there are so many applicants to the universities in Ghana that even those who qualify for entry might have to wait two to three years for admission. And even with the wait, they might not gain admission.

Holy Cross has men studying at Cape Coast University, Ghana, but we cannot afford to wait for all of our men to gain entry into the university. Several Ghanaian Holy Cross Brothers have received their education in the United States and are now back in Ghana teaching.

Brother Robert Fillmore, assistant provincial and vicar, spent two weeks in Ghana in December giving workshops to Holy Cross men in the novitiate, in temporary vows and in pre-novitiate training. This first trip to Ghana gave Brother Robert an opportunity to experience first hand life in the District of West Africa and to make a fine contribution to our formation program in the country.



Brother Patrick Osei-Bonsu, C.S.C.

Educators in the Faith

continued from cover.

or lazy when it comes to serving the Lord,” she said. “Too many people are so self-involved that they don’t have time in their lives to stop and listen to God. When you serve others, you are also serving God and He will reward you.” Hoban’s commitment to the

community extends beyond service projects; it is a commitment to the neighborhood and to the Akron community. Hoban’s board of trustees made a conscious decision in the 1990s to stay in the school’s inner-city neighborhood and to commit to its long-range improvement. Brother

Kenneth and various members of the Hoban board have worked with the East Akron Community House to help plan the revitalization of the neighborhood and get rid of drug houses. Hoban has hosted the JAM 2000 and JAM 2001 summer ministries, in which high school students work, study and pray in a four-day, round-the-clock program in service to the poorer neighborhoods of Akron.

Over the years, Hoban students have devised a variety of activities to raise consciousness of the gospel call to service.

Perhaps the oldest such activity is the holiday canned food drive, in which students collect nonperishable foods for the needy. Another tradition that dates way back is the annual trek to Nazareth Farm in rural Appalachia. Selected seniors spend a week working and praying at this Catholic-sponsored ministry to the poor in West Virginia. There

they paint houses, construct outbuildings, repair roofs — whatever services are required. Back at the farm they form community by prayer, common meals and household chores.

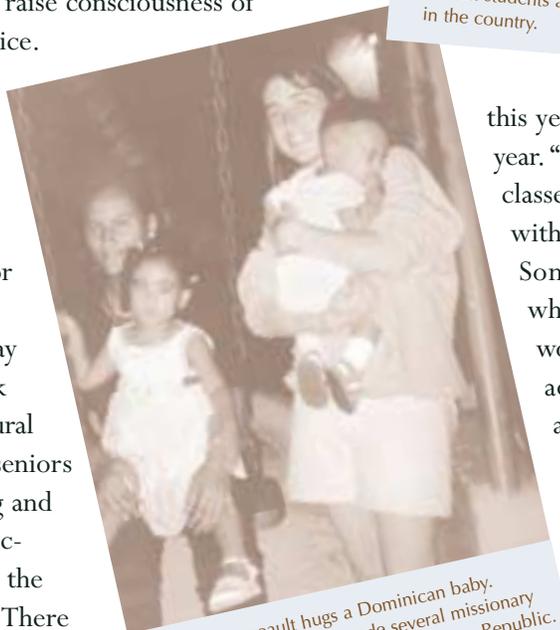
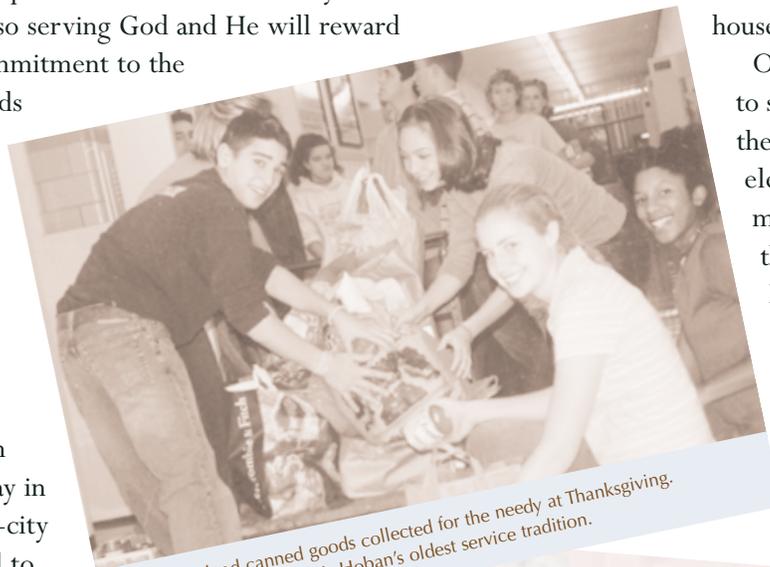
Other projects include: a mitten drive to supply scarves and hats to poor kids in the winter; a partnership with a nearby elementary school for tutoring and mentoring; a winter clothing drive for the Catholic Worker; and Operation Rice Bowl for Catholic Relief Services. Last year the foreign language clubs and the Knights of Unity, Hoban’s multicultural club, made a multicultural presentation at elementary schools. Students have sponsored dances and talent shows

to raise funds for the Holy Cross missions in Ghana, West Africa.

Brother Robert Fillmore directs the campus ministry office at Hoban, assisted by Brother Edward Fox. Brother Robert launched

this year’s Christian service program early in the school year. “I visited all the freshman and sophomore religion classes to explain the requirement and provided students with a list of agencies where they might apply,” he said. Some students resist the idea initially, wondering why they have to do what many consider volunteer work. “I explain that service is not optional for the adult Christian,” Brother Robert said. “Catholics are expected to do service; it should be part of their identity.”

Hoban’s service requirement increases each year. Freshmen are expected to perform ten hours, sophomores fifteen, juniors twenty and seniors thirty hours of service. Even some of those who



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resist initially find that they enjoy their service so much they go far beyond the minimum expectation. “We find many continue their service well beyond the requirement,” Brother Robert said, “especially at the nursing homes, where they bond with some of the clients.”

Dan O’Brien performed his Christian service at the Village of St. Edward, a retirement community. “During my visits, I grew especially fond of one man named Joe, who is 90,” he said. “His mind is good, and he can carry on a meaningful conversation. As I spent more time with Joe, we began to learn more about each other. He taught me a great deal from his life experiences and his stories of World War II. I shared my stories about today’s society, for he rarely went outside the walls of the nursing home. The close, personal time I shared with the residents is what made my time there so rewarding.”

Father Basil Moreau, founder of Holy Cross, once said, “True education consists of forming the hearts of young people. Knowledge and scholarship have meaning only when placed in a context of values.”

The Christian service programs at Hoban and other Holy Cross schools aim at the formation of hearts. They make concrete what the Constitutions of the Congregation demand: *For the kingdom to come in this world, disciples must have the competence to see and the courage to act,* (Constitution 2, Article 14) which is a call to do as Jesus did, working for justice through loving service to the poor.

Brother Joseph LeBon, C.S.C.



Two Hoban seniors walk with an Alzheimer’s patient at a nursing home. Their service projects bring them in direct contact with the people being served.



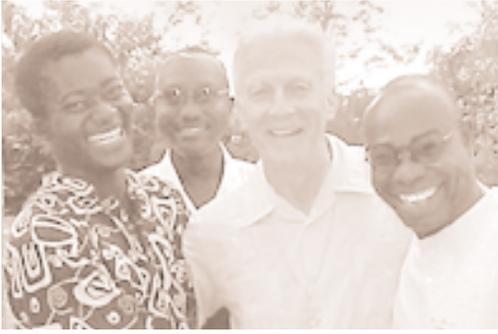
Hoban girls paint a fire escape as part of the JAM 2000 ministry to inner-city Akron.



Matthew Gorbach does dry-wall work in refurbishing a house during JAM 2001, a summer service retreat for high school students.



Brother Edward Fox, C.S.C. helps Kerry McFarland transport canned goods. Brother Edward works in Hoban’s campus ministry office.



Sankofa

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Brother Joseph Annan, Headmaster at St. John's School, Sekondi, has announced the beginning of the Golden Jubilee year for St. John's. The school was started by the parish priest in Sekondi in 1952. At the request of the Archbishop of Cape Coast, the Brothers assumed the administration of the school in 1957. I will write more on the jubilee celebration in a coming issue of Brothers.

L-R: Brother Kenneth Goode, C.S.C., novice; Brother Michael Amakyi, C.S.C., district superior; Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C.; Brother Kenneth Kunditani, C.S.C., Holy Cross Skills Center

*Brother Raymond Papenfuss, C.S.C.
Mission Promoter*

Holy Cross Educational Ministries: Educators in the Faith

Father Moreau saw education as a work of resurrection. He saw our educational institutions as places where both minds and hearts were cultivated. And, above all, he saw Holy Cross education as playing a crucial role in making God known, loved and served by all.

July 1, 1999, inaugurated a collaborative ministry between the Midwest Province of Brothers and the Eastern Province of Brothers with the participation of the Indiana Province of Priests: Holy Cross Educational Ministries. HCEM works with a network of Holy Cross sponsored middle and high schools helping them maintain their Catholic character and enhance their Holy Cross identity. At present, fourteen institutions comprise HCEM: Holy Trinity High School of Chicago, IL; Holy Cross High School, River Grove, IL; Le Mans Academy, Rolling Prairie, IN; Holy Cross College, Notre Dame,

IN; Boysville of Michigan, Clinton, MI; St. Edward High School, Lakewood, OH; Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, OH; Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, OH; Notre Dame High School for Boys, Niles, IL; Holy Cross High School, Flushing, NY; Notre Dame High School, West Haven, CT; Holy Cross High School, Waterbury, CT; Saint Edmond's Academy, Wilmington, DE; and Bishop McNamara High School, Forestville, MD.

Brother Thomas A. Dziekan, C.S.C., a member of the Eastern Province of Brothers, serves as Director of Mission Effectiveness. Brother Thomas brings to this position his long experience as a teacher and administrator in Holy Cross schools.

Over the past two years, Brother Thomas has devoted his energies to working with the schools in the Midwest and East, helping them live out the educational vision of Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation

of Holy Cross: to educate minds and hearts. He has developed in-service programs for boards and faculties on the mission and formation of Holy Cross educators and the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In addition, posters, brochures and a resource book, *Educating Minds and Hearts*, have also been developed for use by all Holy Cross educators.

Plans call for a newsletter, more posters and brochures that will enhance the idea of a network of schools, student programs, and faculty formation opportunities.

The signature event of the year for Holy Cross Educational Ministries has become the yearly conference for the Provincials,



*Brother Thomas Dziekan, C.S.C.
Director of Mission Effectiveness*

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Holy Cross Educational Ministries

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Presidents, Headmasters, Principals and Board Chairs of the schools. The conference site alternates between Fatima Retreat Center at Notre Dame and one of the schools in the East.

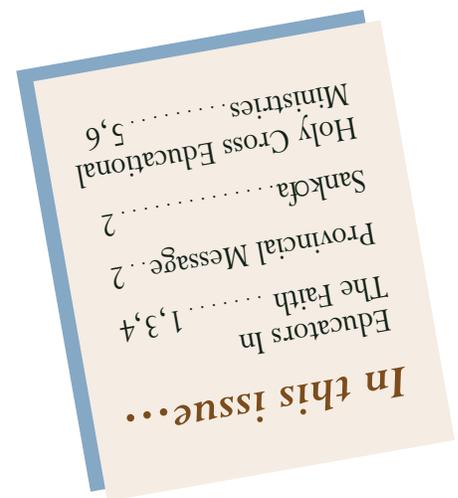
HCEM III took place at Notre Dame in February 2002. Father Thomas O'Hara, C.S.C., President of King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, delivered the Basil Moreau Lecture and spoke on the characteristics of a Holy Cross Educator. Sister Patricia Vandenburg, C.S.C., former CEO of Holy Cross Health Care, delivered the James Dujarié Lecture. Her address focused on sponsorship and the role of Boards.

The conferences provide an opportunity for those most intimately involved in the administration and operation of

Holy Cross schools to reflect together on the common mission of these schools and to exchange ideas and to plan for the future.

The Campus Ministers of Holy Cross Schools met in March 2001. Outcomes of this meeting included: plans for common resources for the celebration of Moreau Day in our schools, common Holy Cross Prayer, and, more long-term, a Holy Cross prayer book for students. Campus ministers will continue to meet regionally besides as a unit of Holy Cross Educational Ministries.

A meeting of development personnel is planned for March 2002.



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