

Brothers

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

Brothers of Holy Cross

Serving the United States Since 1841

Jubilee 2002!

Provincial Message



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

No newsletter can contain the combined wealth of personality, talent and corporate impact made by the men highlighted in this issue of BROTHERS. A mere summary of what they have been and where they have served for 25, 40, 50, and 60 years in Holy Cross staggers the imagination. The influence these men have exerted in the Church and society over the years is incalculable. It asks us, the readers, simply to acknowledge God's goodness in calling these men to Holy Cross and enabling them to respond to his *summons to give over our lives in a more explicit way... to serve all people, believers and unbelievers alike.* (Constitutions of the

Congregation of Holy Cross). We thank God for being their strength and life through good times and bad and for empowering them to accomplish much in their ministry to others.

Many readers who are former students or colleagues of the Brothers featured in this issue will read these brief biographical sketches. They may hope to answer the persistent question, "I wonder whatever became of Brother...?" Perhaps the answer is here.

Each jubilarian has tried throughout his life as a religious of Holy Cross to determine what it means to be a Brother to others and

to live this out in his daily life. Taken together, the efforts and successes are notable, even incredible. It sometimes happens that, in his intense and persistent efforts to be and remain a prophetic witness to others of God's presence and concern, a Brother must read his own biographical sketch to realize the impact he has made on both the community and those he has directly served.

What counts is that he comes to realize how much he is appreciated and valued for who he is, even more than what he has done.

This summer a special Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame,

Indiana, to recognize the lifelong commitment these Brothers have made to God and to their fellow men and women. The celebrant will be Father Hugh Cleary, C.S.C., superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross. I ask you to join your prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God with ours. I ask also that you add your prayers to ours as we beseech Him to send generous men to Holy Cross who will enable us to continue living the mission of Jesus. Congratulations to the Jubilarians of 2002!

...God's goodness in calling these men to Holy Cross and enabling them to respond to his summons to give over our lives in a more explicit way...

60 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Barry Lambour, C.S.C.

This highly skilled product of Altoona, Pennsylvania, has given Holy Cross and his students many years as supervisor or school administrator.



An engineer by training, his keen mind has been and remains a gift to students in both secondary and college classrooms. His tireless devotion to the principles of Fr. Basil Moreau's *Christian Pedagogy* has added to his reputation as an exemplar of both education and community administration. A prayerful, perceptive gentleman and exacting scholar, he has been a valuable ambassador for Holy Cross in diocesan roles, vocation promotion, and the coordination of lay associate activities. He continues to tutor students in mathematics. Br. Barry says, "I like to think of myself as having spent 50 years in the classroom or in administration. My life has been involved in teaching and related activities of service to others." Indeed,

whatever the activity, the service component has always been of the essence.

Brother Ronan Koenigsknecht, C.S.C.

From Fowler, Michigan, Br. Ronan joined Holy Cross in early 1941. A man of many talents, his assignments have been largely in helping to maintain equipment, houses and institutions of the brothers, primarily at St. Joseph Farm in Granger, Indiana, for 11 years, and at Columba Hall, Notre Dame, for 38



years before he retired to Schubert Villa. Despite a long-standing arthritic condition, this gifted, quiet, deeply prayerful confrere has contributed faithfully and significantly to the well being of all those whom he has served.

Brother Eduardo Michalik, C.S.C.

Out of DeLancey, a rugged coal mining town in western

Pennsylvania, came an equally rugged pioneering figure in Br. Eduardo. Adventurous, a ready taker of risks, generous, and a concerned care-giver, he has traveled extensively and was among the three brothers who opened the mission in Ghana in 1957. He has been a prefect of discipline in several schools



at home and abroad; a Licensed Practical Nurse at Dujarie House; and staff member of Mater Ecclesiae Center in Tiberias, Israel; he has also served cheerfully in many locations over the years, making himself readily available to the community, particularly as a driver. His assessment of his 60 years is that, "As a Brother of Holy Cross, I have found life to be a source of amazing grace, full of challenges, excitement, enrichment and fulfillment, not unlike a long-distance swim that eventually gets you to your hoped-for destination."

50 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother Jerome Quella, C.S.C.

Born in Appleton, Wisconsin, Br. Jerome came to nearby Watertown to join Holy Cross in the late 1940's. Self-effacing but an energetic, devoted worker, he served for 28



years as a postal clerk at Notre Dame, Indiana; he earlier had contributed a period of his life to the Ave Maria magazine and Dujarie Press. Illness caused his retirement from the post office in 1985 to reside at Columba Hall, and in 1990 at Dujarie House. His service to others, often in small, unnoticed ways that nevertheless made life easier, has always been

enriched by his habitual dedication to prayer.

Brother Raymond Kelly, C.S.C.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Br. Raymond began his



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50 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

novitiate in 1951. His talents were especially strong in the culinary field, in tasteful decorating, and in the middle levels of management of schools, parishes and service institutions. Many remember his expertise in the kitchen while in formation. For several years he served at a parish and at the Senior Friendship Centers in southwest Florida before health suggested his returning to Notre Dame and Schubert Villa, where he continues to look after his frisky Yorkshire Terrier.

Brother Robert Dierker, C.S.C.

Reliability, dedication to duty, and cheerfulness: these are three descriptive terms that eminently fit this native of Columbus, Ohio, who joined Holy Cross in 1951 on the advice of a Dominican priest teacher: "Bob, if you want to be a priest, join the Dominicans; if a brother, join a community of brothers." He knows Holy Cross was the right choice. Br. Robert fought

off the effects of polio while a college student, and took up work with the Ave Maria Press,



where he labored for 19 years. He spent a year as assistant in the library at St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio, but then came to St. Joseph's High School in South Bend to work in the administrative office. He has been there ever since, 29 years and counting, "a wonderful experience

and a service to the Church and community," he adds.

Brother Bernard Klim, C.S.C.

It would be impossible merely by studying the man's face to realize he is a renowned sculptor in Italy and an acknowledged expert in Zen, yet these have been considerable influences on Br. Bernard's life, though not immediately after his arrival



at the postulate as a young farmer from Emmet, Michigan. After his novitiate year, Br. Bernard began doing maintenance work in Wisconsin and later at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills, Ohio. His talents were requested by the Holy Cross Generalate in Rome, Italy, in 1959, where he remained until 1974. He then moved to Notre Dame International School in the same city, continuing his marvels of maintenance and gardening until the school closed in 1992. Since July 1992 he has been on the staff of St. Joseph Technical School in Fort Portal, Uganda, though his services are available to and frequently called upon by the entire Holy Cross District of East Africa. His conversation and letters are riddled with Zen koans, yet the heart of gold that beats underneath is soft, deferentially outgoing and filled with the God for whom Br. Bernard has searched assiduously all his life. Br. Bernard recalls being informed by the novice

master of his being approved to take vows. His response then and today was, "What little I have, I give it all." With typical folk wisdom he adds, "Whether you are pulling weeds or preaching great sermons, it all comes down to one thing: your inner life."

Brother Bernard Donahoe, C.S.C.

Joining Holy Cross from Madison, Wisconsin, Br. Bernard exercised his considerable intellectual skills attending the University of Notre Dame, then taught half a dozen years in secondary schools of the Midwest Province before being asked to pursue doctoral studies, from which he emerged in 1964 with a degree in American history. Immediately he was asked to assume the role of director of novices, a



position he held for four years. Following that, he took on teaching assignments at Saint Mary's College, Notre

Dame, and Holy Cross College, remaining in posts including departmental chair at one or more of these institutions continuously into the present. He served as superior of the brothers at Columba Hall on the Notre Dame campus from 1971-77. Br. Bernard says of his time in Holy Cross, "Living and working for fifty years with some of the finest men God ever put on the earth has been a privilege and a delight. Whether I accomplished anything worthwhile during that time, only God knows."

50 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

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...And a few of his novices, confreres and students as well, no doubt.

Brother Richard Shea, C.S.C. Says this native of Chicago, "In my working and teaching with young and elderly, I was the one who benefited from the experiences. From the young, I saw the enthusiasm of youth; from the elderly I learned how to grow older



with dignity." Br. Richard taught for 27 years at high schools in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, where he directed

school musicals. He headed the English department at one school in addition to supervising teachers and student teachers. Then for 13 years he was Director of Social Services at the Berwyn Cicero [Illinois] Council on Aging, which provided care for the elderly. After he retired, he worked for the Leyden Senior Assistance Center in that Chicago suburb. Learning Spanish, he assisted people in the Hispanic community. He escorted people to doctors, shopping and to luncheons. He also read to the legally blind. Clearly Br. Richard is an example of using one's talents to the fullest in the service of others as a true brother.

Brother Joseph Berg, C.S.C.

At the age of 21, hailing from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Br. Joseph came to Holy Cross to share his enthusiasm, energy, humor and

talents with the community and the people with whom he served. After his university studies, he taught in community high schools for five years, before serving as principal of the academic program at St. Charles Boys' Home in Milwaukee. He was promoted to Assistant Director and then Director during his 10-year tour at the boys' home. In 1970 he joined the National Conference of Catholic Charities as a staff member; he remains there today. He has filled several positions ranging from staff person to Assistant Secretary, Asst. Executive Director, Associate Director for Special Programs, and most recently Senior Program Director for Leadership and Mission.

A serious accident while swimming off the East coast required lengthy and patient recuperation time, but

Br. Joseph faced the challenge with the same determination he has shown in every role he has played for Holy Cross and Catholic Charities.

Brother Raymond Harrington, C.S.C.

states, "I am grateful to God for my vocation in Holy Cross, and for all of those who have touched my life. To spend my life doing what matters is the greatest of all achievements. I firmly believe that teaching matters!" And so do his thousands of students, who remember Brother as a consistent, firm, yet

considerate teacher with a reputation for nearly infallible success with his students, presuming the requisite



attention to the course and the exertion of effort. Many a professional has publicly thanked Br. Raymond for his patient

guidance through the intricacies of English expression. He will be ranked among the giants of the teaching profession in Holy Cross. And it is exclusively as teacher that Br. Raymond has served these 50 years, first in various high schools of the province, and then for nearly 30 years at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. His idea of summer relaxation is teaching English to younger high school students at Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, Brother's home town.

"We pronounce our vows in a moment, but living them for the sake of the kingdom is the work of a lifetime."

- Constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross

40 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross



Brother Jerome Kroetsch, C.S.C., “As I look back through my years as a Holy Cross Brother,

I know I would not have been as contented and happy in any other walk of life. In all of my assignments I have found challenges, very interesting experiences, and deep satisfaction with the religious life.” This is the way Br. Jerome, a Snover, Michigan, native, assesses his 40 years in Holy Cross. A true student and practitioner of maintenance skills, he has been invaluable in several widespread locations, among them Archbishop Hoban H.S. in Akron, Ohio; St. Joseph School of Industrial Trades in Dhaka, Bangladesh; St. Joseph High School, Saint Croix, Virgin Islands; Our Lady Queen of the Fields in Dominica, West Indies; Le Mans Academy, Rolling Prairie, Indiana; and the Basic Skills Program, Sekondi, Ghana, West Africa. Br. Jerome's amiable temperament conspires with his organizational and technical skills to make him an eminently dedicated leader and teacher of others even as he labors on the practical level for their material welfare.

Brother Peter Graham, C.S.C.

Hailing from Akron, Ohio, Br. Peter taught briefly in Texas, then became a valuable fixture in child-care work. He served in Fr. Gibault School in Terre Haute, Indiana, and St. Charles

Boys' Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he became Residential Director. He was then appointed headmaster of Le Mans Academy in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, a post he held for 14 years. After a year at Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, Ohio, he became Director of Admissions at Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio, remaining from 1991 until 2001, when he was named President of St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio. Br. Peter has shown considerable strength and success in administrative, public relations and development roles through the years.



Brother Anthony Jorae, C.S.C.

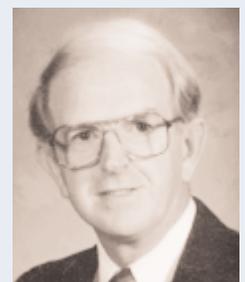
From St. Johns, Michigan, Br. Anthony sports one of the briefest resumés in the province. After formal studies at St. Edward's University in Texas were completed in 1964, he was appointed to the still young Holy Cross High School in River Grove, Illinois. He has remained there, a master teacher and a giant among the science faculty. Quiet, retiring, exceptionally capable as a teacher, he has enriched both community members and students by his presence at “the Grove.” Few brothers remain long enough in one school to have the



privilege of teaching more than one generation of students, but Br. Anthony has instructed many sons of former students in the same scientific intricacies as he ingrained in the memories of their fathers.

Brother Carroll Posey, C.S.C.

A true Kentuckian from the small town of Liberty, Br. Carroll has been a teacher, coach and administrator most of his active life. After two years each at St. Joseph's High School, South Bend, Indiana, and Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, Illinois, he began an association with Sacred Heart Military Academy in Watertown, Wisconsin. He was a teacher and administrator from 1966 to 1971 at the institution, which became Le Mans Academy, Rolling Prairie, Indiana. The Kentuckian returned to his home state in 1971 to Bishop David High School, Louisville, where he coached baseball and taught from 1971-87. Following a renewal program in 1989, he acted as assistant director of Dujarie House for three years, then remained on the staff



another two years. He worked at St. Joseph Care Center, West, in South Bend for a time, before becoming a member of the staff at Columba Hall, Notre Dame. Br. Carroll's eternally jovial countenance has brightened many a day and face over the years, and his willingness to be of help whenever needed is legendary.

40 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

Brother William Dygert, C.S.C.

An exceptionally insightful administrator, the Detroit, Michigan, native taught eight years at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, before being asked to undertake administrative work as assistant principal at Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Illinois. He became principal two years later. After four years in that position, he taught three years at Bishop David High School in Louisville, Kentucky, then was principal of St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio, for six years. From 1988-90 he held a faculty post at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, then assumed the role of Superintendent of Schools for the Beaumont and Tyler dioceses in Texas. He began work on a doctorate at the University of Dayton in Ohio and in 1995 became president of Le Mans Academy, Rolling Prairie, Indiana. He has continued to fill that role though working since 1996 as full-time Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Providence in Rhode Island. Provincial steward and a member of the council, Br. William's organizational skills, his devotion to duty and his keen perception contribute to the welfare of the province as well as the institution he serves. Of his being a brother, he says, "Being a religious of Holy Cross has provided me with a variety of opportunities to serve the Church's



ministry of Catholic school education. I am grateful for these opportunities and hope to be able to serve in this way for many more years."

Brother Richard Gilman, C.S.C.

Born in Lakewood, Ohio, and a graduate of St. Edward High School, Br. Richard showed unusual academic potential from his earliest days in Holy Cross, being sent to Harvard University immediately following his undergraduate studies to earn a masters in mathematics. In 1965 he was asked to go to Ghana where he took up advanced teaching duties and eventually administration and the formation of young religious. He began at St. Augustine's Secondary School, Cape Coast, then was transferred to St. John's Secondary School, Sekondi. In 1974 Br. Richard returned to the States and spent several years at Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio, as faculty member and tennis coach, being named principal of the school in 1986 and president in 1991. He earned a doctorate from the University of Dayton during this time and in 1992 was selected as president of Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana, a role he continues to fulfill with ingenuity and creative vision. Br. Richard says, "In the song 'Getting to Know You' from *The King and I*, we are told, "If you become a teacher, by your pupils you'll be taught." As an educator of



minds and hearts for 40 years, I've taken those words seriously, learned valuable lessons, and grown in grace and wisdom while assisting others to do the same."

Brother James Rottenbacher, C.S.C.

A lifelong teacher, Br. James, attended the brothers' Catholic Central High School in his native Monroe, Michigan. He has dedicated his entire career to the teaching of music as well as classroom subjects. His first assignment was a six-year tour at Holy Cross High School, River Grove, Illinois, then sixteen years at his alma mater, staying on after the school merged with St. Mary's Academy to become St. Mary/Catholic Central of Monroe. In 1987 he took up teaching duties at Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview, Michigan, a post he still holds. Br. James has been a long time band director and has traveled often during summers to Europe for concert and educational purposes. He says of his 40 years in Holy Cross, "We have as patrons in Holy Cross the Sacred Heart, the Sorrowful Mother, and St. Joseph. Like them, our lives are marked with both sorrows and joys. We strive with their help to be a holy family."



Brother Roy Smith, C.S.C. While still a student and an all-state athlete at Cathedral High School in his home

40 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross



town of Indianapolis, Indiana, Br. Roy remembers identifying with his teachers and saying to himself, "I'd like

to be as concerned about students some day as I feel they are concerned about and interested in me." He goes on to reflect, "At times over these 40 years it has seemed the goodness of the Lord is more than one can bear. I have been blessed with a caring family, with fraternity and with many friends. As the song goes, 'God keeps doing great things for me.' My feeling today is one of profound gratitude."

Br. Roy taught two years at St. Joseph's High School, South Bend, Indiana, before engaging in child care studies and work at St. Charles Boys Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he spent 12 years. He had just transferred to Boyssville of Michigan in Macon as local superior and staff member when he was tapped to be the province personnel director, a post he held for six years. He remained in the South Bend area as a

counselor for Catholic Social Services from 1985-1991, and then became director of Catholic Charities for the western sector of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese from 1991-1996. Staying with Catholic Charities as counselor and development director for a year, he then responded to a call to take up the role of School Social Worker at Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, Illinois, where he remains today.

Brother Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.

A graduate of St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio, Br. Lawrence was born in North Olmsted and joined Holy Cross immediately after graduation. His organizational skills and his facility with figures did not go unnoticed. After teaching six years at Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana,

and one year at Bishop David High School, Louisville, Kentucky, Br. Lawrence became the



Administrative Assistant at Southwestern Indiana Mental Health Center, Inc., Evansville. In 1975 he was named Controller for that agency. In 1978 he was summoned to Notre Dame to become provincial steward, an office he held with distinction until 1995. After a sabbatical, he was named Assistant to the General Treasurer for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana, then moved to Anaheim, California, to act as Business Manager for Cornelia Connelly High School there. His most recent position is as controller with the Holy Cross South-West Province's Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California. Br. Lawrence says, "As I begin my 40th year in Holy Cross, I'm thankful for a full life and grateful to a multitude of people who have supported me and allowed me to enter their lives. I believe I have lived a grace-filled life and feel I have been blessed with rich experiences in religious life that I would not have experienced otherwise. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow in Holy Cross and in my ministry."

25 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross



Brother Donald Gibbs, C.S.C., hails from Sidney, Ohio. He remembers wanting for much of his life

to serve God as a religious. He joined Holy Cross where "the daily living of

the vows means a great deal to me. The commitment I made 25 years ago defines my life. It shapes my day; it frames every decision and all my choices. It is who I am." Br. Donald's ministry began in health care positions in the province infirmary, and in 1979 he became Director of Pastoral Care at St. Joseph Community Hospital in Mishawaka, Indiana. He was a

provincial councilor, and engaged in vocation promotion for four years, following which he was named to the staff of the interprovincial novitiate, first in Waterford, New York, then in Cascade, Colorado. From that position he was appointed assistant provincial and vicar under Br. William Geenen, and in early 2000 was elected provincial.

25 Years as a Brother of Holy Cross

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Br. Donald addresses every issue in a true spirit of faith and with honest openness and determination, qualities needed in an era of impending restructuring for both province and congregation.

Brother Dennis Bednarz, C.S.C., was born in Chicago and attended Holy Trinity High School. Following his graduation he joined Holy Cross and was assigned in 1979 to Bishop David High School in Louisville,

Kentucky, then for two years to Le Mans Academy, Rolling Prairie, Indiana; for five to St. Edward High School, Lakewood, Ohio; for one to Holy Cross High School in River



Grove, Illinois; and then in 1992 to Archbishop Hoban High School, Akron, Ohio, where he remains today. Br. Dennis has

been an outstanding teacher and baseball coach his entire career. He says, "A sign in my office states: 'A Brother is like a strong tree to lean against in a storm.' Many co-workers and students instinctively believe that 'Brother' implies partnership as well as understanding." From observable evidence one may conclude that Br. Dennis is one strong tree.

Please note: the area code for the Brothers of Holy Cross has changed from (219) to (574).

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