

What do I live for?

IF IT IS FOR OTHERS, CONSIDER . . .

the life of a HOLY CROSS BROTHER.

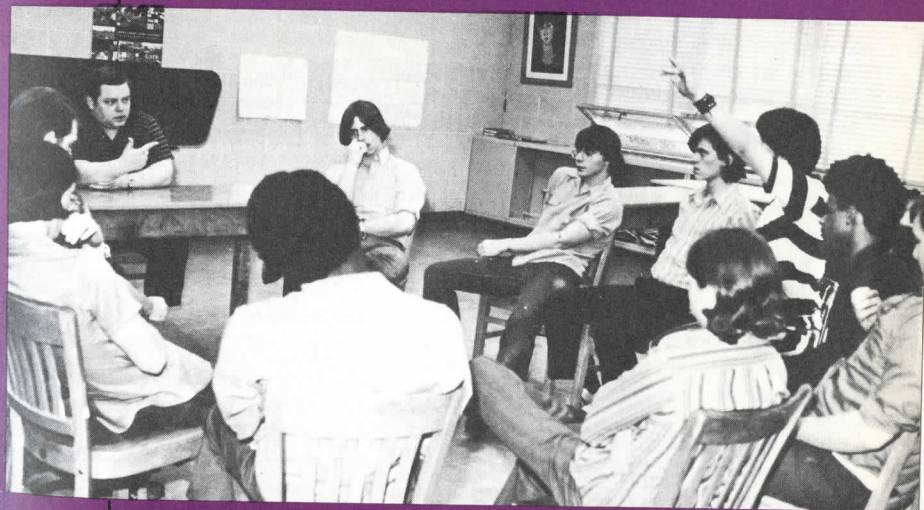
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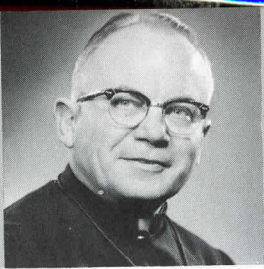
Brother Robert Fillmore, C.S.C.
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Fall, 1972

VS-4

HOLY CROSS BROTHERS





Feature Comment

BROTHER EYMARD, C.S.C.

SANCTION TO CARE

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."

In addition to his general advice to love your neighbors, Christ also gave very specific advice embodied in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It is not enough to will good for another, but often it is necessary to take concrete action in helping the other achieve what he needs for life and happiness.

Consequently, social welfare programs have always been a priority for the Church and her members. Whether a medieval saint giving his cloak to a beggar or resources provided by the Bishops' Campaign for Human Development for distribution in Appalachia—it makes no difference. The needs of a neighbor are served in both instances.

Another application of Christ's principle is illustrated in the pages of this magazine. At Boysville of Michigan, a group of concerned Brothers of Holy Cross and their lay co-workers are engaged in trying to improve the quality of life for juvenile delinquents. This effort is simply another dimension of Christian charity.

Boysville exists as an institution to make Christian principles operational to those whom it tries to serve. This service is provided particularly through a program that has been specifically designed for use with delinquent adolescents.

This program, "Positive Peer Culture," is a vehicle used to give recognition to

this principle: it is alright to care for other human beings, it is the thing to do, the "in-thing," the "with it" thing to be concerned about another human being. Furthermore, young people are just as eager to practice this concern as anyone else.

Precisely in caring change begins to take place. When a youngster starts to think and behave positively, he will not have time for negative thinking and behavior. When he learns to really care about another human being, he himself will become a helping person, a giving person.

Boysville, in short, is trying to create an atmosphere that will give sanction to care. Boys will learn that concern is the guideline for human conduct, and by their active participation in the process they will come to know and to incorporate in their lives the reality of Christ's words:

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."

Boysville of Michigan, a residential child care center, is located near Clinton, Michigan in rural Lenawee County. The school was founded in 1948 under the auspices of the late Edward Cardinal Mooney of the Archdiocese of Detroit. From the beginning of its operation Boysville has been a coordinated effort on the part of the Brothers of Holy Cross, the Michigan State jurisdiction Knights of Columbus, and the Bishops of the Michigan province.

HOLY CROSS BROTHERS

notre dame, indiana

Fall, 1972

Volume 8

Number 4



HOLY CROSS BROTHERS is published in winter, spring, summer and fall by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Midwest Province, Notre Dame, Indiana. This magazine is supported by the goodwill offerings of our friends. Second class postage paid at Notre Dame, Indiana 46556, and at Fostoria, Ohio 44830.

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COVER STORY: Cooperative counseling is the method used in the program at Boysville of Michigan. Most important the members of each group discuss their own problems among themselves. At each meeting a counselor attends, but takes no active part. Only at the end of the meeting does he answer the various questions of the group.



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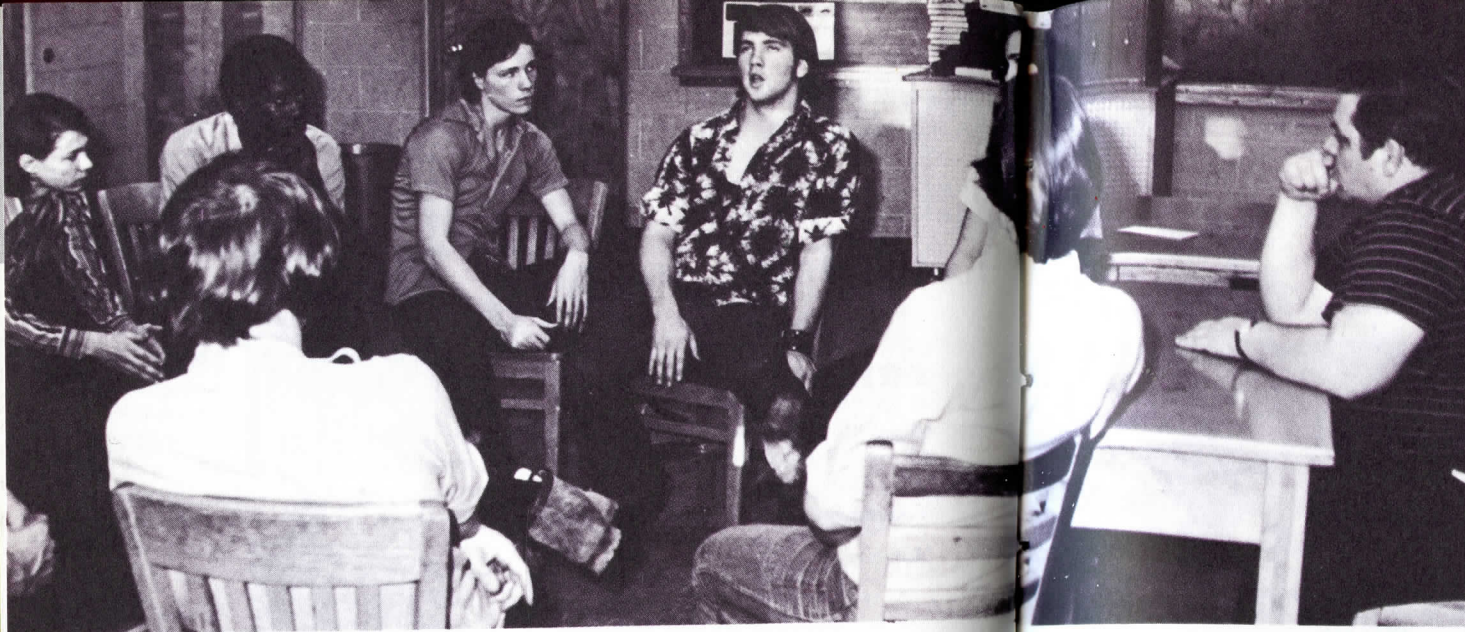
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"Trial" by peers.

It does mean that there is a greater challenge to the Brothers and staff to develop the youngsters into effective, law abiding citizens. And, the odd part about it is, the students themselves are their own best teachers.

The new approach which Boysville now uses is called Positive Peer Culture (PPC). But, by listening closely to how it functions it doesn't take long to determine that it also could be called Christian Peer Culture, for it adopts many of the principles of the Christian religion.

The changes at Boysville started about five years ago when the Boysville Board of Directors met to find out why the Bishops and their representatives from Catholic Charities were not referring more boys to Boysville.

BOYSVILLE: A COMMITMENT TO TROUBLED YOUTH

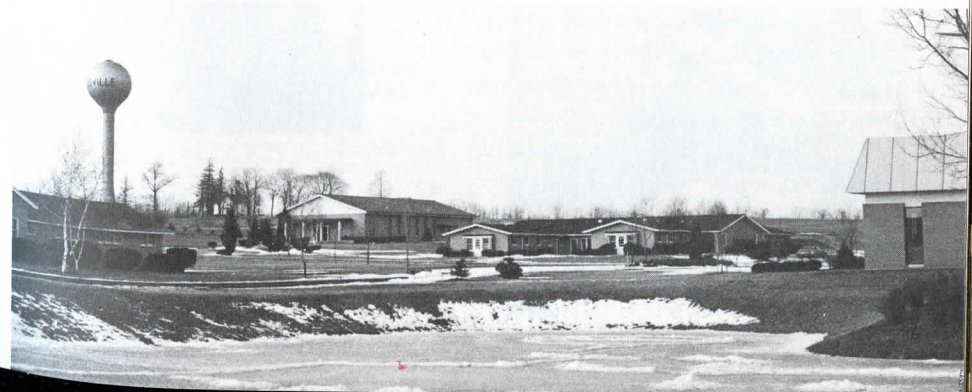
Time was when Boysville was a school for boys with family problems. Good kids who were orphaned, came from broken or one-parent homes, or from a morally contaminated environment, found a Christian environment at Boysville and were molded into upstanding young gentlemen under the guiding hands of the Brothers of Holy Cross.

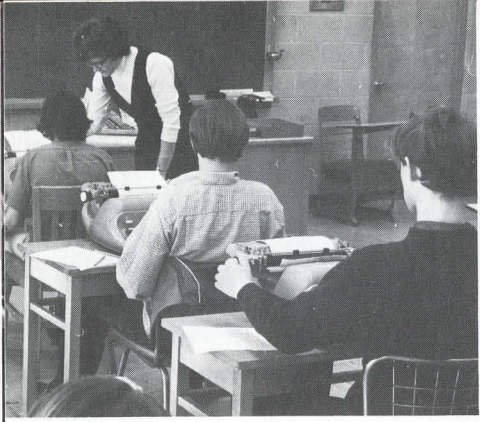
Nowadays the kids are different and the approach to educating and counseling them has vastly changed. Most of the youngsters now are probate court

wards. Many of them are delinquent, some even hard-core delinquent, who have gotten into enough trouble already to last a life time. In some instances the only thing that has kept them from jail is the fact that they are juveniles.

That doesn't mean that a high wire fence has gone around Boysville, an institution which still depends for part of its financial support on the generosity of the Michigan Knights of Columbus, nor does it mean that Christian principles are not being taught.

Boysville, Clinton, Michigan





fasdf - jkl;j

The answer that came back was that the real need was for a Christian-based institution for delinquent boys.

Boysville administrators took the cue and began accepting probate court referrals. Gradually the type of youngster, still between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, changed.

The young men were counselled by members of the staff in an individualized approach until Brother Francis Boylan, Boysville's Program Director, heard a talk in Omaha, Nebraska, on the Positive Peer Culture.

Boysville administrators brought the program founder, Harry Vorrath, to Boysville for two days of informal talks. The program started on a pilot basis June, 1971, but in September, it swung into full operation.

Tough kids now sit down in groups of nine to talk about their problems. They live together, eat together, play together, study together and spend twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week together, working on their problems.

Smile and the world smiles with you.



A well organized desk . . .

. . . and a well organized table.



Love and concern for other human beings is the keystone to the program. Kids are taught to develop a positive attitude about themselves, to raise their self image, and to go back into their own communities as leaders instead of followers and to accept the imperfections of those about them while offering to help change their surroundings.

"Every man has two basic needs," Mr. Vorrath believes, "a need to be loved and a need to love. Man wants to be important to another human being."

Mr. Vorrath, once a Lutheran seminarian, said the entire philosophical background of the Positive Peer approach is the Christian concept of man's need for man. He said Christian principles, although not so identified, "are used 150 times a day" through PPC.



Praise the Lord in song . . .

Students become teachers in the program because, in order to work, the approach requires that the participants must feel that the program is their own, something for which they are responsible.

While living together around the clock the groups of nine young men meet five times a week for 90 minutes with a group leader where they openly, and often vociferously, discuss their problems.

"We consider a problem to be that which causes concern to a person," Mr. Vorrath said, "it either makes him hurt himself or others, feel sorry for himself, or do something that will lower his self concept, and thus he grants himself a license to 'mess over' someone."

The group leader listens to the discussions, comments here and there to keep the conversation on the proper topic, identifies and points out failings that caused problems, and summarizes the day's discussion before the meeting ends after 90 minutes.

Every month each member of the group is rated by other members in his group. The evaluation, along with other information supplied by the group leader, is sent to the Probate Judge who committed the boy.

The process goes on until the group feels that the person is ready to be returned to his home community. If the group leader agrees, the youngster is released.

"We find that the boys are harder on other members of their group than we are," said Brother Francis. "They also know that if one of their group members 'messes up,' it hurts the chances of release for the whole group."

. . . then back to work.

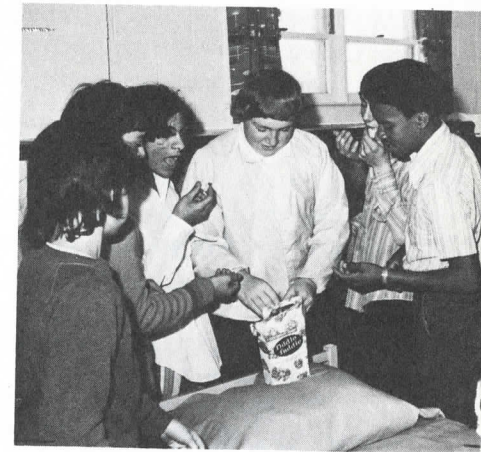


Group meetings, which are held at night so the entire day can be discussed, are secret. This leads to a confessional atmosphere as the boys explain their problems to the rest of the group. This confidentiality is extremely important and is respected by all of the staff and by other boys in the group. It is important particularly because if the boys are to engage in the group process a basic trust level must be built and maintained.

Under PPC problems are welcomed.

"I want problems to come out," Mr. Vorrath said. "Most institutions don't want problems; they turn them off so when the kids go back out the same thing happens all over again."

A rap session.



Some "fiddle faddle" in the dorm.

"We're saying to the young people that they are staff, they can give of themselves to help other people with their problems."

Brother Francis commented that the program has been "extremely successful."

"We are pleased with it," he said, "it teaches kids to be responsible for their own actions and to care about others."

He said about thirty-five boys had been released by mid-May and were doing satisfactorily in their community environments.

Fifty percent of the 130 boys at Boysville are from the Detroit area. Others come from various parts of Michigan.

The forty-three year old Vorrath has high praise for the job being done by the Brothers and Sisters at Boysville.

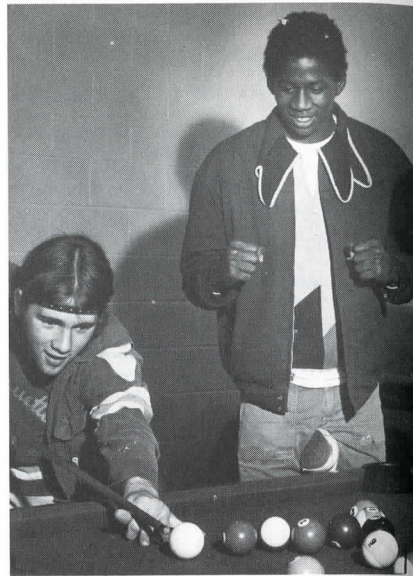
"Their entire value system and desire to be of service to man makes them good teachers," Mr. Vorrath said. He views Boysville, a prototype for Michigan, as very successful.

Mr. Vorrath got the idea for Positive Peer Culture while working at the Highfield's residential treatment center at Hopewell, New Jersey, in 1961. The former home of Charles Lindberg utilized the same PPC approach but held a threat over the boy's head that if he didn't make it at Highfield's he would be sent to a reformatory.

At Boysville there is no such threat. Kids hang together until they solve their problems separately and individually.

The PPC program gained national recognition in 1969 when it was put into operation at the Minnesota School for Boys at Red Wing, Minnesota. It was tried after open rebellion broke out in 1968 at the reformatory where 45 boys succeeded in running away.

It proved so successful that the reformatory became a national model, the subject of a two hours film prepared for presentation at a White House Con-



"Don't miss it this time."

ference on youth, and the topic for newspaper and network television news stories.

Anyone who has read Howard James' now famous book, "Children in Trouble: A National Scandal" knows that the author successfully documented the sad state of affairs concerning juvenile correctional institutions in the United States today. The studies that have been done subsequent to Mr. James' work only serve to confirm his findings.

Boysville has made a determined effort to change that picture. Beginning at home it has endeavored to set its own house in order and to radically alter the approach towards child treatment.



"Too much pizza?"

From the very beginning the entire staff has supported the concept of Positive Peer Culture. The program dominates all phases of institutional activity. Classroom teachers are just as adept at helping children through this model as group leaders.

As a result the environment of the institution has also radically changed. Staff do not find themselves in as many confrontations with youngsters as they did under the old program. The boys themselves are much more happy, easy going and outspoken, nevertheless the program does impose upon them limitations particularly the idea that they must act in a mature way and they must ac-

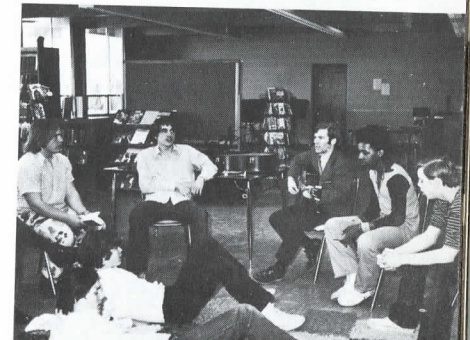
cept the responsibility for all of their own actions.

Since the program began no students have been removed from the Institution by administrative decision. There are very few institutions that can say they don't throw kids out as a matter of policy. Boysville no longer throws anyone out. Each boy must earn his release and he must have a recommendation from his group before the staff will even consider the release.

The instance of runaways is also down. Children under stress, of course, often use running away as a means of avoiding the unpleasantness of having to face their problems. Now, other youngsters in the group will help a boy who has a problem with running away. They will sit up with him, they will watch him, they will try to keep him actively engaged in projects that take his mind off of running.

Since implementing the Positive Peer Culture program Boysville has changed a great deal. Many of the staff feel that the institution is providing a much more meaningful and a much more Christian service than ever before.

A time for singing

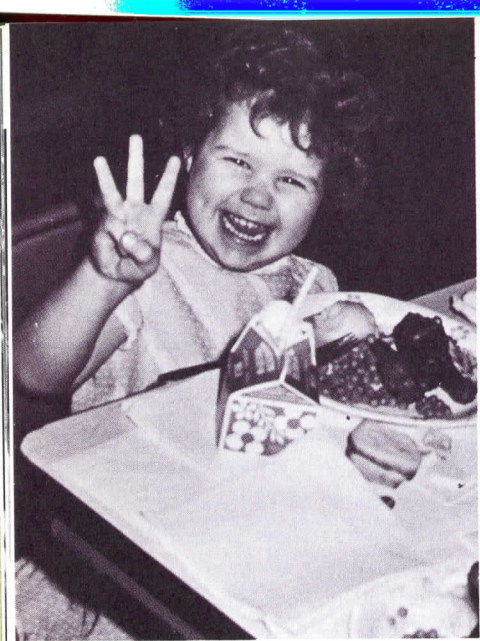


"Will you never fill up?"



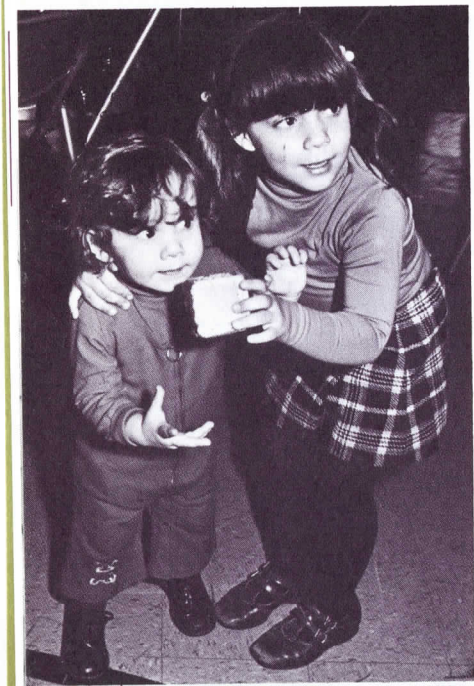
ST. JOSEPH DINNER

Associates—River Grove, Illinois



"My third helping."

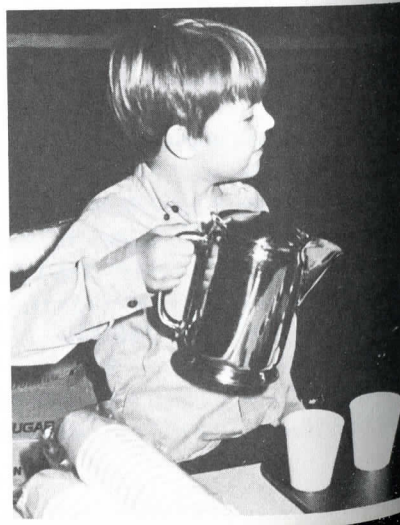
"Quick, nobody's looking."



Time for dessert.

Annually the Saint Joseph Dinner sponsored by the Associates of the River Grove Chapter provides an atmosphere of friendship and good food. Families enjoy the company of one another as well as the excellent cuisine. Fifty ladies

"Seconds, anyone?"



Empty again!

prepare all types of Italian delicacies. Calorie charts are forgotten for the day. Surprise packages offered by Brother Gonzaga help round-off the day's excitement.

The world's shortest pickpocket.



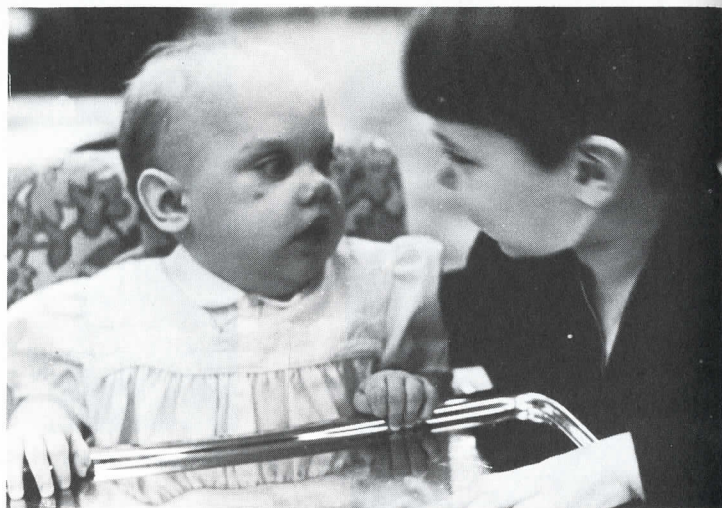
"I'm tired, take me home."

"All good things must come to an end."



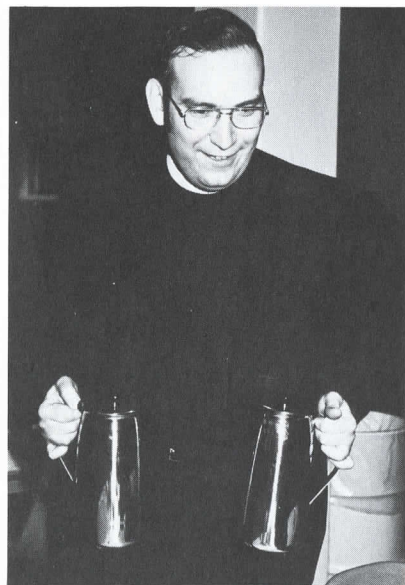
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DINNER PARTY



"What's holding up my dinner?"

"Coffee, tea . . ."



Finger lickin' good



"Who took the cups?"

The Associates of the Chicago Chapter put on a real dinner treat for their friends this year in the cafe at Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, Illinois. As the food was excellent and the companionship jovial and interesting, everyone had a good time. The youngsters too had their fun exploring the place as well as looking for free cookies and candy.



"Another winner."

"You want one too?"



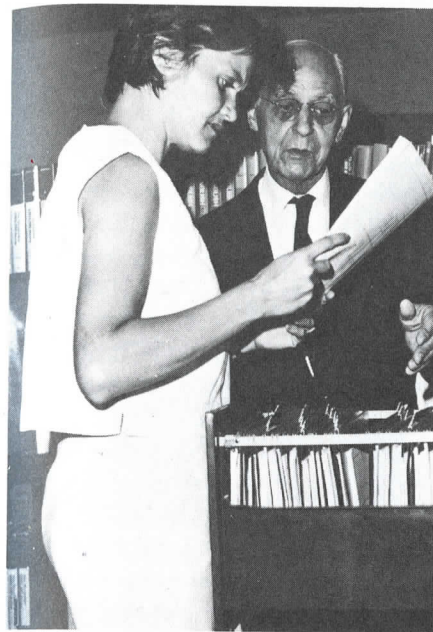
"It's been a great time."





Doing research

AN ACTIVE RETIREMENT



"It must be here somewhere."

Brother Leon Gnewuch, CSC

When a man retires from teaching high school English, does he head for the local trout stream with *The Compleat Angler* tucked under his arm? Some English teachers do, if they manage to survive the modern classroom. But Brother Leon Gnewuch did not. He refuses to see retirement as a cessation of his apostolic commitment and today maintains a pace for which many younger men envy him.

How did he begin his new jobs with Senior Citizens, Community Services, and retarded children? "That's an interesting thing," he says. "I joined the Senior Citizens of Indianapolis about one month before I retired from teaching. I joined their Men's Luncheon Group and their Insight Group. Soon I was put on the Council.

"But I wanted more than socializing

and I found too many of the activities were simply that. So I was referred to the Volunteer Bureau of the Indianapolis Community Services. They gave me several leads: the Community Service Library, Sister Jane's GED program, and the retarded children school."

Tuesday is one of Brother Leon's busiest days. He leaves Cathedral High School about 8:45 and goes to Noble Center by bus where he works in the Intermediate Department with four retarded children. He spends about 35 minutes with each one giving special tutoring in basic counting, assembling, and distinguishing objects.

Then he returns for a quick lunch at Cathedral after which he leaves for the Community Service Library in the downtown area. Community Service is a social service referral and resource

Checking the schedule





Correcting her paper

is used by local university students and caseworkers. Brother Leon works in the stacks or clips newspaper articles for the files until 4:15. This work he does twice a week.

Four mornings a week he rides to St. Patrick's Parish on the South side to work with Sister Jane in a General Education Development program funded by the Federal Government and administered through the State Department of Education. GED is designed to help high school dropouts earn a diploma without taking formal classes. Brother's students range from 17 to 70 years old and he finds them "highly motivated because they study willingly. Of course they are easily discouraged because they have failed before."

In addition to his teaching duties there, Brother Leon takes his expertise elsewhere. "Working out of St. Patrick's Adult Learning Center, I extend my services to the Senior Citizens' Center

downtown. Altogether I guess I spend ten to twelve hours a week in Sister Jane's program."

From his work with Senior Citizens sprang Brother Leon's involvement with the bus coalition. "About a year ago the Men's Luncheon Group joined with other groups to form CAT (Citizens for Adequate Transportation) whose goal is more bus coverage at a fairer price. We carried our case to the Public Service Commission. They offered the Senior Citizens half-fares during non-rush hours but of course we refused when we saw the implications. Brother Leon's involvement with this social action group has led him to testifying before the Commission and planning a protest meeting.

There seems to be no end to the avenues for his energies. In fact activities sometimes vie for his attention. He has had to suspend helping with the Senior Citizens' monthly newsletter for this reason.

Setting up a recording



"Would you take care of that, Brother?"

What was in Brother's mind last spring? He was thinking beyond Indianapolis to the possibilities of needs elsewhere. "I wrote to Milwaukee about their program with the Wisconsin Literacy Organization. They are working to improve the reading and writing of any adult in basic education. I'm interested in their Laubach method ('Each One Teach One'). I would like to work up there in the summers."

And so it goes for Brother Leon whose 73 years do not slow him down. Occasionally he is recognized for his charity; for example last winter he was one of eighty the Marion County Association for Retarded Children awarded a certificate for serving over 100 hours in Noble School. In spite of an occasional disappointment Brother is happy knowing that some people are still benefiting from the skills and knowledge he has spent so many years accumulating.

Coffee break





Bro. Norbert Ackon and Bro. Francis Hattoh with Bro. John Driscoll

Ghanaian Brothers in the United States

In the sacristy



Recently the SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE listed the names of local residents who achieved Dean's list status at the Holy Cross Junior College. Included were two Brothers, Norbert Ackon and Francis Hattoh. In the interests of journalistic accuracy, the following has to be stated. Brother Norbert and Brother Francis have been in our country living at the Brothers' Center since September, 1971. Prior to that their residence was St. Joseph Hall, Sekondi, Ghana, West Africa.

Brothers Norbert and Francis are here as a part of their religious formation program as scholastics in Holy Cross. To further develop themselves in the academic area, they are taking classes at the Junior College. Their goal is to earn a degree. This summer both are engaged in special apostolic work, another essential part of their formation and development as religious. Brother Norbert is participating in a volunteer program as a tutor at St. Patrick School, South Bend. Brother Francis is spending his summer with the Holy Cross com-

At the lectern



At the organ

munity at Boyssville of Michigan, participating in their special apostolate (discussed further in another article in this issue).

During the past years their lives have been a study in contrasts and constants. In contrast, considering the climate: they have moved from a temperature variation of twenty degrees annually (from about 70° to 90°) to the typical variations in the mid-West so familiar to the reader (if you don't like it, wait a minute). Considering education programs: the country of Ghana has been under the English, Cambridge system. This includes a series of comprehensive national exams which are required periodically for continuation in the school system. Other contrasts in menu and cultural differences were among the adjustments necessary for these religious.

There were some constants too. Their view of life with the Holy Cross Community in Africa was with Brothers from the United States. The ways of life in our country were introduced by their teachers and other community members with whom they studied and worked at St. John's Secondary School in Sekondi. Stories and incidents which the Brothers related concerning life here became a reality for them this past year.

One project which took some of their time and which developed during the year was to present an accurate view of Africa to others. Slide-lectures were

African harmony



Keeping in shape



presented about Africa as a special self-appointed apostolate. Brother Lawrence Stewart, a member of the mid-West province who had served in Ghana shared the platform with them. Their fellow-religious at the Center shared in an "authentic" African menu as another part of this educational apostolate. This was later repeated at St. Mary's convent. Freshman history students at Messmer High School in Milwaukee also shared this experience when Brother Francis spent a day there.

To develop the indigenous vocations in Africa is one of the major goals for the Holy Cross Brothers' Society. Brother Raymond Papenfuss, the district superior expressed this concern during his recent visit to our country. Brother Norbert Ackon and Brother Francis Hattoh are helping to make this a reality. They have accepted a share in the responsibility for the development of the Church in Africa.



John C. O'Connor

A CATHOLIC LEADER

As a senior at Cathedral High School, Indianapolis, John C. O'Connor was vice-president of the Class of 1934 and was graduated that year as valedictorian. After graduation he went to the University of Notre Dame which his four older brothers had attended. Today they are: an attorney, a doctor of chemistry, an accountant and a wholesale grocer.

For four years after graduating from the Notre Dame law school, John worked with the FBI and there served as a naval officer on a destroyer in the South Pacific. Since the war, he has been with the law firm of Ruckleshaus, Bobbitt and O'Connor.

As an Indianapolis Catholic, John has served in many capacities. A Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, he was the first president of St. Joan of Arc's Parish Council and first president of the Cathedral High School Advisory Board. His ties to Notre Dame brought him to presidency of its National Alumni Association. To see him at work chairing a meeting is to see efficiency. His ability to synthesize discussion and facilitate protocol remind one of Newman's remark on acumen: a razor-sharp mind that cuts through tedium.

John and his wife Elizabeth have seven children. Two have finished undergraduate studies at Notre Dame and St. Mary's and have gone on to graduate work: John (Jr.) at the University of Michigan law school, Becky at the University of Chicago. A third (Kevin) spent his Junior year with Notre Dame's Foreign Studies program in Europe, while Nancy is a Sophomore at Boston College. Gerry is a Cathedral Latin School Senior while Kathleen and Caroline are at Ladywood-St. Agnes Academy.

Since tennis is one of his favorite hobbies, it is no wonder that John O'Connor enjoys the out-of-doors. In fact at the O'Connor cottage on Lake Michigan, he swims at 6:00 in the morning!

Holy Cross is proud of this alumnus who continues to demonstrate such vitality—a vitality that marks specially his concern for the Church and its work in education.

*Happy are those who dream dreams
and are ready to pay the price
to make them come true.*

The Brothers of Holy Cross

are already making these dreams come true.

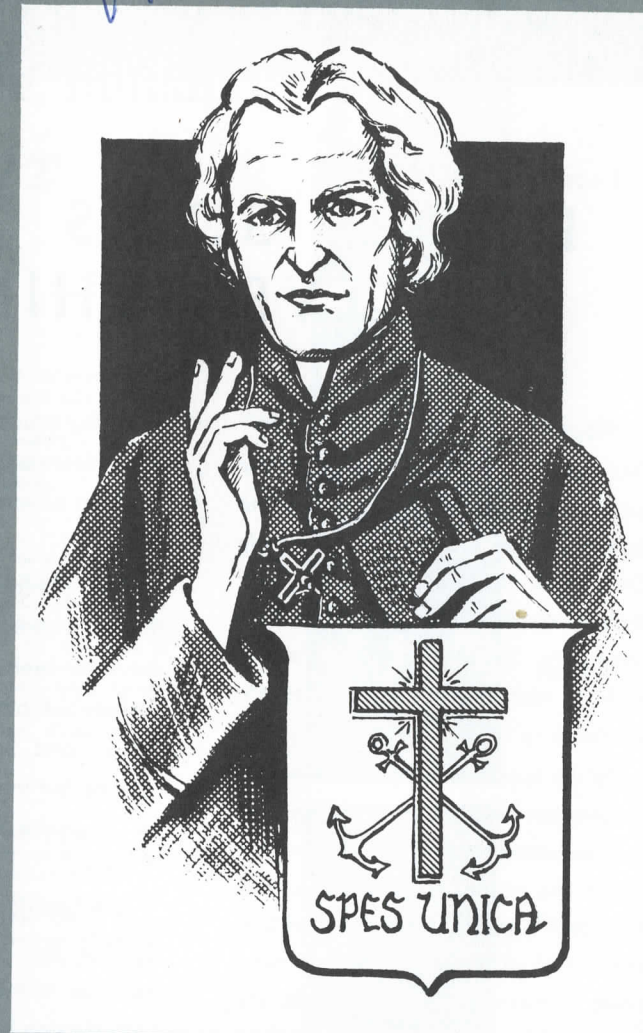
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Winter, 1972

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BROTHERS