

Midwest Bits and Pieces

APRIL 1, 1994

THE JUBILEE OF 1994

Jubilarians of 1994,
You are a gift of God to us,
Each an ambassador
Of the happiness
That will never end
As you wend your way
Daily through good deeds,
A joy in this untidy world.

You are a gift from God,
freely giving of self,
Freely praying for others,
Freely lessening the stress,
Giving generously, constantly,
Like Joseph-our-brother-keeper
In ancient Egyptland,
Feeding our family
During cruel and unforgiving times.

Remember Vergil's Aeneas?
Apprehensive about entering
The barbarian land,
He was surprised
By wall drawings, and said:
"These men know
The pathos of life,
And mortal things
Touch their hearts."

Jubilarians, gift of God to us,
You, too understand life's sorrows
And mortal things you make immortal
With stone or word or paint or prayers,
Masterpieces for your God divine
Have you produced: sublime!

And for this we honor you:
"Not fare well,
But fare forward,"
T.S. Eliot states.
We only add:
May the clarion call spark
Your every endeavor
As God's graces encase your love forever.

Jubilarians, we thank God
For this his gift to us—you.
accept our prayers,
And fare forward revived, anew.

Brother Remigius Bullinger, C.S.C
Jubilee 1994

EARTHQUAKE IN UGANDA

We received word from Holy Cross Mission Center that there was a serious earthquake in Uganda on February 6. It was rated 6.2 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was only ten miles from Fort Portal. All Holy Cross personnel are safe. Many people were killed but numbers have not yet been ascertained.

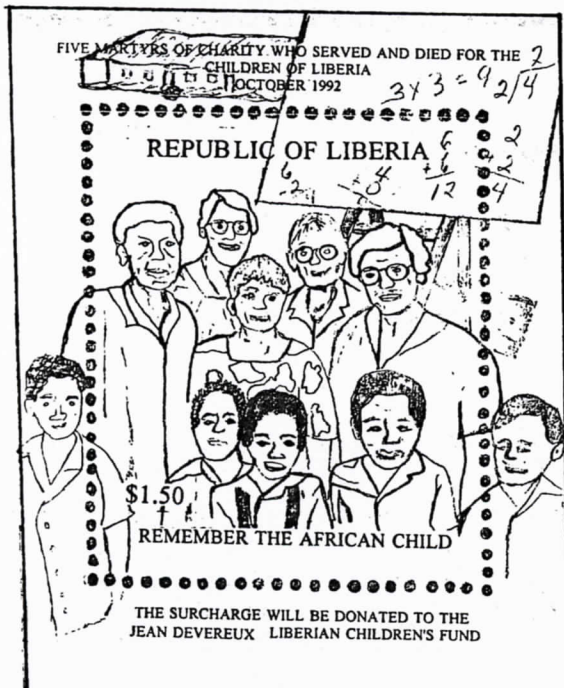
The Church at Yerya was destroyed as well as the novitiate of the Banyatereza Sisters, a local African group. In Fort Portal, the diocesan hospital seems to have been completely destroyed, as well as the bishop's house and several other buildings. Many of the remaining buildings are seriously damaged. The first assessment of the damage indicates that it will take six million dollars to replace the Church's buildings that have been seriously damaged or destroyed. We have been asked to keep the people and Church of Fort Portal in our prayers.

NEWS FROM LIBERIA

Brother Thomas Dillman sends his greetings from Monrovia. He has arrived safely after his holiday in the states. He and four of the teaching staff at St. Patrick's are living in the Brothers' House.

The stamp depicted on the next page is a rough edition of a stamp sent by Tom. The stamp commemorates the five sisters who were murdered during the revolution. One of the

sisters pictured on the stamp is Sister Shirley who was principal of St. Patrick's High School at the time she was killed. The very colorful stamp is about 2 inches by 3 inches.



BROTHER GERALD KRAEGER DIES

Brother Gerald Kraeger (EB) died of a heart attack in Chittagong on February 18, 1994. He was buried in Chittagong on February 20, 1994. Here he joined many of the original colony of religious who came to what was then Bengal, India and died after only a short time. If he had lived until November, he would have spent fifty years ministering to the People of God in Bangladesh.

A native of Constable, New York, Gerald entered the juniorate in 1949 and made final profession on August 16, 1953. He left for what was then Pakistan in November, 1954 and has ministered there since then until his death.

During his years in Bangladesh, Gerald served as teacher, principal and Headmaster at several of the schools in Diocese of Dhaka.. He also served as religious superior of various local communities and as District Superior of the Brothers from 1972 to 1981.

In 1992 Gerald retired from teaching and went to Diang to continue research and work on his agricultural projects. His interest in food production for Bangladesh and development of new techniques in agricultural production was a love of many years which continued until his death.

Measuring a Brothers contribution is most difficult, for many, many things are not seen or known. However, Gerald's contribution to the mission in Bangladesh is one which is recognized by all. He will be missed.

BROTHER BERNARD KLIM WRITES

February 4, 1994
Kampala, Uganda

Dear Bro. Thomas,

...On Saturday, February 6th, we had a light tremor at Fort Portal at 10:32. At 2:40 the earthquake shook the house. I quickly got up, looked out the window and saw the trees moving. The sound was great and any moment the house could have come down. My flash light was not in its usual place. I then fumbled about looking for my pants and grabbed a shirt. I found it hard to locate the door. "With things coming down and junk all over the floor, it was over by the time I got out of the house. We have some major cracks.

The hospital had major damage. The men's ward will have to come down. All around us there has been damage. Most all were evacuated from the hospital to the parish hall. Very few were killed. The first shock wave that came at 10:32 gave the warning!!! It was 6.2. Had it been longer or stronger most everything would be on the ground.

If you would like to make some donation, make it out to Brother Bernard Klim, Earthquake. Send it to Father James Ferguson, CSC, Holy Cross Mission Center, P. O. Box 543, Notre Dame, IN 46556. I will receive this money and see that it will go to help even one family for a tin roof. I won't forget the carpentry. Thank you.
Brother Bernard Klim, CSC