

Midwest Bits and Pieces

February 19, 1990

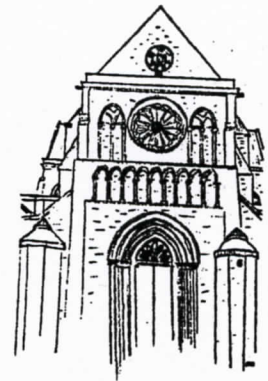
Bangladesh



Among the women sitting on the ground below is my Ayesha...one of the most dignified, lovely and honourable Muslim ladies I have. She breaks red bricks into chips and gets paid by the contractor for the daily quota she breaks. As I go from church to coffee in the morning, her son, BILLAL, comes to grab my hands, gets five taka for biscuits and fruit while his Mom breaks the bricks. At once, the kids of other ladies doing the same job join in on the chance to get some money for food, too. Billal is my grandson, for he calls me Dadda. Ayesha is my daughter or mother, for she calls me Baba...because the baby says Baba as his first word he is nicknamed Baba. But he calls his father BABA also. Being a Muslim, Billal would use the biblical Abba. So you see how mixed up we get over here. But who cares? Other non-Christians...kids that is...call me Mamu...the brother of their mother. The older middle aged non-Christians call me Chachal...so you see, all the names shouted at you when you go by. But who cares...I just answer...HI. (Taken from letter from Brother Hobart Pieper, CSC).

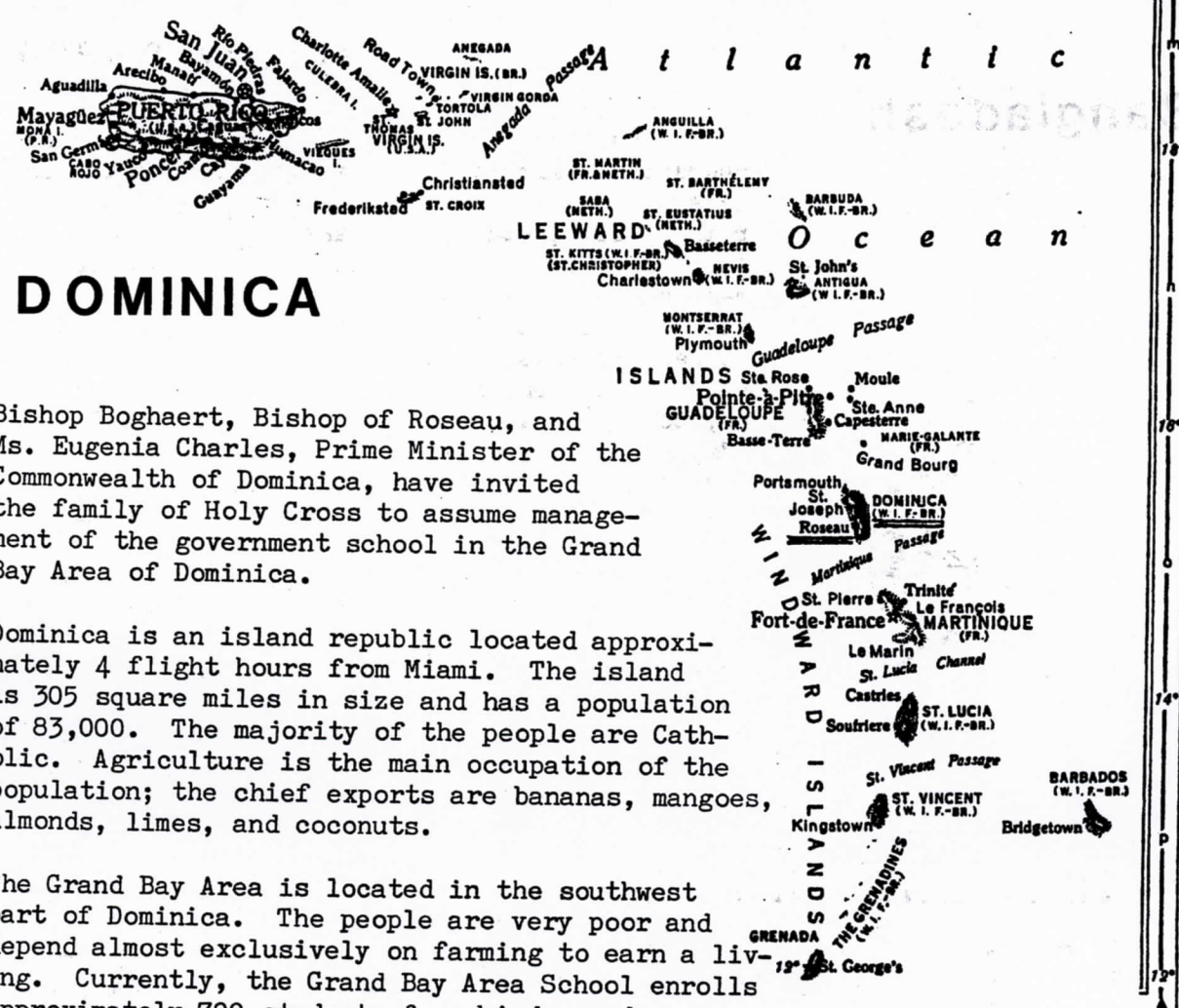
Mother Church in Le Mans

At the meeting of the Council of the Congregation, held in Cape Coast, Ghana, last December, it was agreed that the provinces would fund the repair of Our Lady of Holy Cross, the mother church of the Congregation of Holy Cross, in Le Mans, France. Total cost for the work is estimated to be \$133,134.00. The cost will be allocated according to province membership. The Midwest Province's share will be \$28,533.48, which is 16.1% of the total cost. Work is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 1990.



Wisconsin

Viterbo College has awarded Brother George Klawitter a sabbatical for the '90 fall semester with full pay. George wants to do research in Renaissance poetry at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. He has applied for other grants so that his Wisconsin salary will stretch to cover California's cost of living and to support research this summer. With five months, he believes he can get his second book together.



DOMINICA

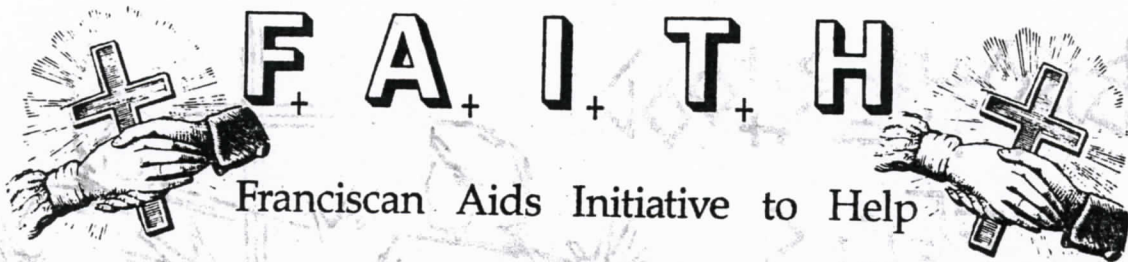
Bishop Boghaert, Bishop of Roseau, and Ms. Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, have invited the family of Holy Cross to assume management of the government school in the Grand Bay Area of Dominica.

Dominica is an island republic located approximately 4 flight hours from Miami. The island is 305 square miles in size and has a population of 83,000. The majority of the people are Catholic. Agriculture is the main occupation of the population; the chief exports are bananas, mangoes, almonds, limes, and coconuts.

The Grand Bay Area is located in the southwest part of Dominica. The people are very poor and depend almost exclusively on farming to earn a living. Currently, the Grand Bay Area School enrolls approximately 700 students from kindergarden through ninth grade. The ninth grade opened in September, 1988, with 32 students. A complete 4-year high school program will be phased in by 1991. Students are assigned to a particular school by the government, and the government is financially responsible for the school.

Both Bishop Boghaert and Ms. Charles recognize that a solid education program is the key to the development of the people and the area. Because of the lack of experienced, indigeneous educators and because of the importance of quality education to help these people overcome spiritual and material poverty, Holy Cross has been asked to share its acknowledged expertise in education with the people of the Grand Bay Area by assuming responsibility for their school. In addition to providing for quality education in Grand Bay, the presence of Holy Cross in the area will serve as a model of Christian community living for the people and, hopefully, as a catalyst for the long range social development of the whole region.

We and the Marianite Sisters continue to work on a plan to help bring Holy Cross expertise in education to the school. More information is available from Brother Paul Kelly.



I am presently working with a family in Jersey City that is really a sad case. Both of the parents have been diagnosed with AIDS and their youngest child is in the early stages of Cerebral Palsy. Fortunately, none of the four children have been found to be positive. Christmas was a very difficult time for this family. I tried to assist them by giving them some money for a tree and some presents for the children. One of the things that they really needed was a refrigerator since theirs had been broken since the last week of October. It is providential how things sometimes work out. A local real estate office collected money to help families that needed help at Christmas. They had already agreed to purchase some presents for four of our families. When they delivered the presents to our agency, the secretary coordinating the presents said that if there was anything else they could ever do for us, let them know. She went on to say that they had a lot of contacts with contractors who have a lot of used refrigerators or other appliances, so I said that I just happen to have a client that needs a refrigerator. When I returned to the office from delivering the first batch of presents, there was a receipt for a refrigerator with a note telling me to call the store and let them know where to deliver it. It was a very rewarding and exciting experience to deliver the presents to the families. One family had six little children who were so excited when I delivered the presents that my whole day was made worthwhile. I cannot accurately describe the joy and excitement that these children felt as they hurried to place the presents under their scrawny little Christmas tree. It was what Christmas is all about. (This has been taken from a recent letter from Brother Thomas Cunningham. You may wish to aid him in his work.)

NEW MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

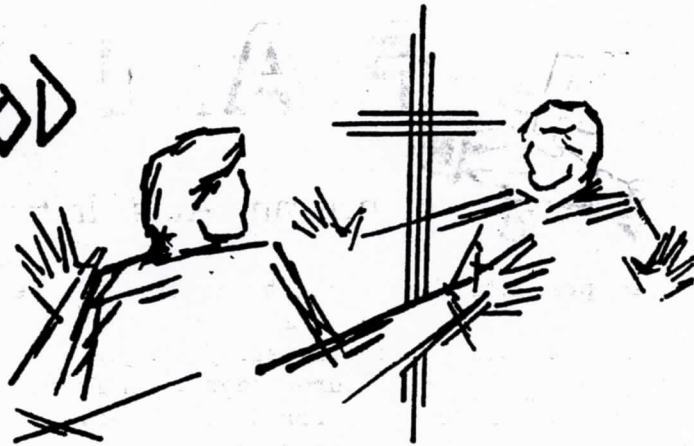
Members of the New Ministries Committee met January 5th in Austin. Responses to our first letter came from all parts of the United States. Thank you. These responses helped us greatly to focus more clearly on the objectives and goals, as well as methods for obtaining them. We are now in the process of contacting some bishops.

CENTER RETREAT

The annual retreat at the Brothers' Center will be held from June 3 to June 7. Father James T. Burtchaell, CSC, will be the retreat master. Fr. Burtchaell was the principal author of our constitutions. The Theme for the retreat will be: OUR CONSTITUTIONS: HOW THEY RELATE TO OUR GROWTH AND HOLINESS. If you are interested in making this retreat, please contact Brother Isaac Jogues Motz for registration and room reservation.



BROTHERHOOD FEELS GOOD



Catholic Theological Union offers a series of three week-end workshops to help Brothers to experience professional and spiritual growth in fellowship with other Brothers. The institute will provide opportunities for theological education and address the integration of the lived experience of what it means to be a Brother in the Church today. A brief description of each workshop and the dates for them follow.

Spiritualities of Brotherhood March 23 - 25, 1990

This workshop will explore the "Spiritual Brotherhood" by focusing on various images of the Brother. It will be directed by Bruce Lescher, CSC.

Transitions in Religious Life April 27 - 29, 1990

Transitions in religious life will be identified, factors that promote and factors that inhibit these transitions and ways of anticipating and preparing for the transition. It will be directed by John Dondero, FSC.

Ten Years and Growing May 18 - 20, 1990

The workshop will provide an opportunity for Brothers new to religious life to reflect together on their experience of vowed life and to vision the refounding of life into the 21st century. It is intended for Brothers in vows ten years or less and/or those in initial formation. John Paige, CSC will direct this workshop.

Costs of the Workshop are

Registration fee	\$ 25.00
Tuition (per workshop)	\$100.00

Tuition includes TWO MEALS, MATERIALS AND SOCIALS.
Each workshop begins on Friday evening at 7 p.m. and concludes at 12:00 noon the following Sunday. For registration or further information, write to: Director of Continuing Education, Catholic Theological Union, 5401 South Cornell, Chicago, IL 60615.