

Midwest Bits and Pieces

February 1, 1992

CHARLES GREGG WRITES

"A historical note of small consequence. Today was faculty retreat day at HCHS and I retreated the 92 miles to Beach Oak Ridge (Montgomery) Indiana. Today is the 150th anniversary of the first Holy Cross settlement there. I arrived in time for Mass and introduced myself to the pastor, Fr. Lowell Will, after Mass. He was most cordial and is a shirt tail relative of Lawrence Miller. As I said, this has no global significance, but it meant a lot to me and I thought others might like to know that one of us 'returned to the scene' on the actual anniversary."



DONALD BECKER - FROM BANGLADESH

"Our year in Bangladesh got off to a good start with the crops being good and no major calamities. Our project with its 23 trade schools and 8 mobile units was also going well and almost becoming routine. We were especially pleased with the results we were getting with our mobile units which provided trade training for boys and handicraft training for women. Since we have a staff of ten people to look after this work, I have a relatively easy job of just checking up on their work and even had an administrator who was virtually running the project.

"Then on April 29th, a cyclone hit the South East coast of Bangladesh with 150 MPH winds and a surge of water of about ten feet and on top of that surge waves up to 15 feet. The calculated death toll was 140,000 along with a tremendous loss to crops and



property. It was encouraging to see the response of the many relief and development agencies to the plight of the people and especially the response of the ordinary people in Bangladesh for their fellow man. This time, the American Navy, returning from the Gulf War, stopped off to lend their assistance, especially by providing helicopter and hover crafts for moving supplies. They did a lot to help erase the bad name of the States in Bangladesh due to their part in the Gulf War, as the Bangladesh Moslems were saying that they were killing their Moslem Brothers there. But still this war has set our work of developing friendly relations with the Bangladeshis back about one generation.

"I do not like relief work because it is difficult to do without spoiling the people. So I did not go to the affected area until June first. Our project got involved in the housing program for the affected people who lost their homes. We took the people who were out of work and employed them for rebuilding homes for the storm affected people. We selected three centers with 60 men at each center and fabricated 27,000 concrete pillars and 4,500 pit latrines on a mass production and piece work basis. We arranged the work so that each man took part in each phase of the work in turn and we also ran theory classes each day so that the men could go into the mason trade if they wanted when the work was completed. Due to the weather conditions, transportation problems and local politics, it was one of the most difficult jobs that we had ever taken on, but it also turned out to be one of the most rewarding ones.

"Just prior to returning to the States, I was riding on one of the back roads in that area and noticed a gentleman pass me in a rickshaw who looked familiar to me. The man turned the rickshaw around and followed me to our work site. He turned out to be one of the men who had participated in the program and now, due to this work, had become prosperous. He was now the owner of the ricksahw he was riding in and which would help bring in a steady income to his impoverished family. Each of the workers, due to their hard work, earned on the piece work basis about three times what a daily labourer would earn in that area. We had held back half of their money until the work had been completed so that they would get a lump sum. They have invested this money in buying rickshaws, cows, and leasing farm land. Many came to share their good news with me that day and I can tell you that it was a great pleasure to see that their condition in life had been improved, and especially by them, rather than from donations from us.

"So in this way, I celebrated Christmas a little early and I was grateful to God that we had the opportunity to be involved in this work. I think that all of us find that we are happier when we can do something for someone else rather than for ourselves, which is the true spirit of Christmas and, of course, we will eventually benefit because we can not outdo God in generosity."

TOM MADDIX KEEPS BUSY

We recently received two brochures of programs in which Tom Maddix participated. The first was held September 24 and 25 in Vancouver, British Columbia and was sponsored by the Catholic Health Association of British Columbia. The theme of the workshop was **Ethics and Leadership in the 90's**. Tom gave the keynote address for the workshop. His emphasis was **Lay Leadership Shaping A Tomorrow**. He later gave a talk: **Why A Catholic Health Alternative?** On October 22 and 23 Tom gave a workshop sponsored by the Catholic Health Association of Alberta and Misericordia Hospital. The emphasis of this workshop was: **Living the Dilemma: Integrating Ethics and Spirituality in Health Care**. The workshop was held in Edmonton.

NEW BUILDING DEDICATED AT ST. CHARLES

On November 18, Brother Kenneth Haders, a member of the St. Charles Board, and Brother Arthur Gohl, a staff member for many years, attended the dedication ceremonies for a new dormitory which was dedicated to the Brothers of Holy Cross. The new building was dedicated by Archbishop Weakland, who gave high praise to the Brothers who staffed St. Charles over the years, emphasizing their influence and insight on child care and the impact on the community at large. The Attorney General spoke of the important role St. Charles has played in the fostering of child care in the state and country in rehabilitating children. In his remarks, Brother Kenneth Haders noted that the first Brother assigned to St. Charles was Brother Lewis Leimeister and the last Brother who was on the staff at St. Charles was Brother Arthur Gohl.



BROTHER DOUGLAS APPOINTED TO KNOXVILLE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

Bishop O'Connell, Bishop of Knoxville, has recently appointed Brother Douglas Roach to serve as a member of the Strategic Pastoral Planning Council for the diocese. There are eleven members on the council, whose primary task will be to establish a diocesan mission statement as well as to set goals and objectives for the diocese.

1993 GATHERING OF BROTHERS

The Futures Committee is planning a gathering of present and former Brothers in 1993. It is hoped that a large number of men who were members of the congregation at one time could be invited to participate in the gathering. In order to contact these men, it would be appreciated if any members having names and addresses of former members would send them to Brother Joseph Fox as soon as possible.

THE PRICE OF A CHAMPIONSHIP: A 22 YEAR OLD BEARD

In August, Brother Robert Livernois, Principal of St. Mary Catholic Central High School at Monroe, told the football team that if they won the state championship, he would have his beard shaved off. The team won the state championship and Brother Robert fulfilled his part of the bargain the next day by having his beard, one he had nurtured for 22 years, shaved off before a large and enthusiastic audience at the school.

BROTHER ANDRE'S FEAST CELEBRATED IN CLEVELAND AREA

On Sunday, January 5, Brothers from Akron-Hoban and Lakewood-St. Edward joined their Brothers at Gilmour to celebrate the feast of Brother Andre. Thirty-two were present for the occasion. Father John Blazek, Chaplain at Gilmour, presided at the liturgy, assisted by Father Frank Zagorc, Chaplain at St. Edward's. A social and an excellent dinner, prepared under the direction of Brother Richard Keller, in charge of food services at Gilmour, followed the liturgy.

OUR ILL BROTHERS

Brother Leonard Leary continues his recovery from a stroke at a rehabilitation center in Phoenix where he continues to undergo therapy. He remains in serious condition, but is progressing slowly.

Brother Chester Freel remains in critical condition following his accident at Christmas time while playing basketball at Boysville. Delay in diagnosing the seriousness of the injury received resulted in peritonitis. At present he is improved, and being weaned from various life support systems.

Brother Warren Shea had surgery recently to remove a growth from his colon. At the time of the surgery, it was discovered that the growth was malignant and that the malignancy had spread to other areas. Warren is doing well from the surgery. He is presently undergoing chemotherapy.

Brother James Moroney has been waiting for some months for a kidney transplant. On Friday, January 10, he was informed that a kidney was available, and Brother Charles Smith took him to Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis where the transplant was done. The kidney is functioning and Brother James is doing well.

THANK YOU

Brother Thomas Moser wishes to extend his sincere thanks to all of the province members who have sent sympathy cards or in other ways made known to him their concern and support.

OUR BROTHERS IN GEORGIA

The Valdosta Daily Times edition of January 4, 1992, carried the following article concerning our newest ministry.

Four Holy Cross Brothers Minister in Valdosta Area

In an effort to reach out to Catholics and others in the community, four Holy Cross Brothers have come to the area to assist.

Brother Robert Andreasen said the four have set out to meet the needs of the community. They came on the request of the Savannah Diocese Bishop Raymond Lessard and will remain in the area for at least three years. They arrived in August.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church is the only Catholic church in a seven-county area. Presently, it is also being served by two priests and six nuns.



percentage of 70,000 in Lowndes County along with the college students and migrants can add up, he said.

In addition, the land area that is ministered to is vast, Andreasen added.

Each brother will work in an area to provide spiritual and social needs. The other brothers include James Albright, Richard Critz and Walter Gluhm.

Andreasen said he will be working with the Newman Center near Valdosta State College. The center, located in a home on Baytree Road, provides fellowship, religious education and worship to the Catholic college students.

Albright is looking into the needs of the homeless and other poor in the area. Andreasen said Albright hopes to work with other churches on the matter.

Albright has much experience in working with the homeless. He ran the Shalom House and the organization So Others Might Eat (SOME) in Washington, D.C.

Critz is ministering to the needs of area migrants. Andreasen said about 3,000 migrants pass through South Georgia in a year. Most are Catholic.

Critz is best qualified for the job because he speaks Spanish fluently and was reared in the Southwest. He is not only helping them spiritually but also assisting in social needs.

Gluhm is working at St. John's School. He is teaching religious education at the school, which has classes from grades K through 8. He is also teaching physical education in grades K through 8 and religion to adults in two mission areas.

Although the church is in Valdosta, the group lives in a small parish house in Adel. Albright said the community has been very helpful in the past few months.

While they have begun their tasks, Andreasen said they "are still in the process of discovery."

DOUG ROACH IS AN L.C.S.W.

Doug Roach wrote recently to inform us that as of November he was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and able to use the initials behind his name. This allows Doug to do private practice if he wishes. He is hoping to do so after the first of the year. Chet Caster has offered him an office in his clinic.

GONZAGA SPEAKS TO SERRA CLUB

Brother Gonzaga addressed the Serra Club of the Knoxville Diocese on December 12. He spoke about the vocation of a Brother, and in particular, the vocation of the Holy Cross Brothers.

ROBERT SIEGEL MAKES VISIT TO WEST AFRICA

Brother Robert Siegel returned recently from a two week provincial visit to the District of West Africa. Brother Vincent Gross met him when he arrived in Accra and whisked him through customs, and then to Cape Coast, where he was greeted by Joseph Annan and Nee Wayoe at the Holy Cross District Center. Two immediate impressions Robert experienced were the "Akwabba" (welcome) he heard wherever he went and the 90 degree temperatures which left him dripping most of the time.

After a day of rest, Robert began his visits. His first was to St. Augustine's where Brothers Frederick McGlynn and Michael Amakyi are teaching. Perhaps his best remembered experience from St. Augustine's was the view of the Gulf of Guinea from the porch of the Brothers' quarters.

After a few days, Robert left for Sunyani. The trip introduced Robert to the roads in Ghana, something anyone experiencing them never forgets. Brothers Joseph Tsiquaye, Michael Quadoo-Blay, and James Sange-Donkor met Robert and showed him around Sunyani. In Sunyani, Robert experienced the Harmattan, a strong wind blowing from the desert which fills the air with fine sand and reduces the humidity to low levels. It is usually a bit cooler at this time. He also met Bishop Owusu who spoke highly of the work of the Brothers in his diocese.

When he returned from Sunyani, Robert attended the dedication of the Continuing Formation Center, which will serve all young Ghanaian religious, men and women, by providing a one year program.

Robert next visited Sekondi, where Brothers William, Richard, Sylvester and Father Bob Gilmour minister at St. John's School. Jerome Kroetsch supervises the Basic Skills Project and Brother Daniel is completing his studies at Takoradi Technical School. He also visited the Sisters of the Holy Cross who have a residence near St. John's. He returned to Cape Coast in time to celebrate Christmas with the community there.

In evaluating his experiences in Ghana, Robert wrote: "What do I remember? Besides the above, I viewed people who were living a very simple life style. Things important to me in our society did not exist, because of cost or lack of need. Relationships of people are more important and supported because there is a lack of distraction caused in our society by material things. In some cases, it is basic survival that takes priority...I do think that continued improvements in education and living standards are necessary without dumping on them all our modern ways and real or imagined needs.

"The CSC commitment which continued to the creation of the District of West Africa has been paying dividends. There are a significant number of native vocations; these men have an interest in their religious commitment, which includes service to the Church in their country. They have a vision and plan for the future towards which all are looking. As they continue to expand in numbers and apostolic commitments they will be a powerful source of power and growth for the people of that country. May they continue to be blessed."