

Midwest Bits and Pieces

SESQUICENTENNIAL

January 10, 1991



JUBILATE DEO
Shout joyfully to God,
all the earth, sing a psalm
to the glory of his name
ALLELUIA

School at Vincennes, Indiana

Brother Garnier, in his book, From France to Notre Dame, quotes a letter from Brother Vincent to Father Moreau describing the Vincennes School. "When I took charge, there were twenty-five or thirty young people. Thanks to God, the number has doubled and I know that everyone is content and that all speak highly of it. I am not surprised at that. Never has a school been more properly conducted, and when one sees the youngsters going, two by two, to church on Sunday and coming back to school each day the same way without noise and disorder, it moves the heart rather than affecting the eyes.

I have not seen them fighting or swearing for well over a month. They pray to God and assist at services with as much, and I can say more, tranquility than the young people of the schools of France. They could be imitated on one good point -- they study a catechism lesson although as yet they read badly. I made a modest distribution of crosses and medals. Next day they returned wearing their crosses and medals suspended from the neck without my telling them to do so. Something I have not as yet been able to obtain from them is complete silence during classes. I hope that the good Lord, who has already accorded so many graces to these children, will put the finishing stroke there. "

The good teacher is one who persuades with reason and confirms by example what he teaches. He does not teach anything without a suitable explanation. His whole purpose in teaching, defending, and ruling is to seek out and gain souls for Christ. -- Albert the Great



Annual

Andre

Award

Through the Catholic Social Service and the office of Brother Thomas Shaughnessy, the Mid West Province sponsored the 1990 Brother Andre Award. The Andre Award memorializes Brother Andre Bessette (1854-1937), who spent much of his religious life ministering to the sick and elderly in Montreal. He worked with the aged up to the time of his death. There is documented evidence of miraculous cures. Beatification of Brother Andre took place in Rome May 2, 1982.

The recipient of the 1990 Andre Award is Miss Virginia Schrantz, a native of Ft. Wayne. She graduated from St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1928. Miss Virginia, as she is known to all, pursued her career as a registered nurse until 1951. In 1951 she began providing free nursing service to all who required care through donated space in private homes. Miss Virginia helped with a child development program at the Holy Family Center and worked diligently to promote the growth and development of retarded children.

Following the closing of the Holy Family Center in the early 1960's, she established a mission to help disadvantaged people. Since 1966, Miss Virginia's Mission, located on Hanna Street, has provided food, clothing, shelter, advice and compassion to anyone who needs assistance.

Miss Virginia expresses the purpose of her life in quite simple terms -- she helps people share what they have with those in need.

Council of the Congregation

The Council of the Congregation met in Bangalore, India, from December 5th to December 12th. Topics considered were centered around vocations, formation and preparation for the General Chapter of 1992. The Vice-Provincials from Bangladesh, Father Tom Zimmerman and Brother John Rozario, were held in Bangladesh by political unrest and were unable to attend.

One high light of this year's meeting occurred when a band of monkeys ran off with the laundry of the provincials and district superiors. This was discovered when one of the monkeys passed the meeting room window wearing Father Paul Grenier's T Shirt. The meeting was held up while people ran out to recover their laundry.

On a more serious note, it was heart warming to be present for the final professions of five brothers from the Indian District and two seminarians from the Indian Province. The Profession Mass took place at St. Patrick's Church in Bangalore on Saturday, December 8th. Father Claude Grou received the vows, as Father Abraham Mattakotlil and Brother Raymond Lamontague witnessed the occasion.

Each newly professed member potted an evergreen tree which was then watered by his provincial. This symbolism suggested that their commitment should be a source of growth for the spiritual life.

A ring ceremony followed, using the blessings we use for the Cross and the St. Joseph medal. These simple C.S.C. rings were then distributed by the Superior General as a sign of fidelity to the vows.

Symbol

Here in Bangalore, India, the Church of the Infant Jesus draws crowds of the poor each day. The court yard has a large composite statue of many human and animal figures, much like the Hindu shrines you find on the street corners in Indian cities. The main feature is the Infant Jesus, standing atop the world which is supported by the four evangelists, surrounded by their respective symbols of the ox, lion, man and eagle.

I was told by a native that the Infant Jesus is associated with one of the Hindu gods. Here you can see the effect of a fused symbol which has power to appeal to the masses. A daily Mass may draw as many as four thousand people, during which time both Hindu and Christian practices may take place.

On the way into India, through the Bombay Airport, I saw a mural of places to be visited around the world. I was surprised by the fact that one of the places featured was St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal. This, too, is a symbol that has great drawing power.

In St. Joseph we have a masculine symbol of protector, provider, builder and healer. Brother Andre tapped into that symbol and recognized the power of St. Joseph to be an intercessor in healing. Do we as Brothers of Holy Cross live so close to that symbol of St. Joseph that we may lose sight of it's power? This powerful symbol played a part in the foundation of Holy Cross in the United States.

A few centuries earlier, the place we call home in the United States had been named by the Jesuits. Here, in this wilderness of Indiana, the community set about building Holy Cross, guided by the inspiration of the feminine symbol of Notre Dame. With the fusion of the masculine and feminine symbols, the new foundation came to be.

One hundred and fifty years later, seated here in India, where there are few distractions of home and one is surrounded by many symbols that seem to be so much a part of this place, one begins to wonder about our own symbol of St. Joseph, as protector, provider, builder and healer and how it will move the Brothers of Holy Cross (formerly known as the Brothers of St. Joseph) into the twenty-first century.

1842 - McGann Funeral Home

With the involvement of the previous owners, The University of Notre Dame, the business dates back to 1842. Known as the Notre Dame Undertaking Parlor, it was located on campus where the Morris Inn is today. According to the University Archives it was started by Brother Francis Xavier, CSC in 1842.

Brother Francis came over from France in the original group of missionaries with Father Edward Sorin, CSC a member of the Holy Cross Order of Priests and Brothers and founder of the University. A Cabinet Maker by trade Brother Francis was assigned the task of caring for the dead. Later, he became licensed by the state of Indiana. It was reported by the South Bend Times Newspaper after the sale of the Notre Dame Undertaking Parlor to the McGann Family that it was the oldest funeral business in the state of Indiana and had served over 10,000 people.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

- Bro. Robert Dailey & Bro. Donald Kuchenmeister: Hogar Santa Cruz: (011 562) 227 - 8485
Brother Robert Dailey's phone at University: (011 562) 689 - 2736
Bro. John Federowicz: (612) 644 - 7749
Brother Arthur Gohl, Columba Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. (219) 239-6284
Brother George Klawitter, 612 S. 7th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601. (608) 782 - 6588
Brother James Kozak, 3000 N. 80th Avenue, River Grove, IL 60171. (708) 452-5535
Brother Jerome Kroetsch, CSC, LeMans Academy, 5901 N. 500 East, Rolling Prairie, IN 46371. (219) 778-4411.
Brother Thomas Minta, Goodwill Industries of Chicago, 601 W. Polk Street, Chicago, IL 60607. (312) 939-0040.
Brother Just Paczesny, Columba Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. (219) 239 - 6284. Director of Admissions, Holy Cross College, P. O. Box 308, Notre Dame, IN 46556. (219) 233 - 6813.
Brother Eligius Ruscik, Columba Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. (219) 239-6284
Brother Thomas Scheurer. (809) 446 - 3121
Brother James Sullivan, 2440 W. 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60655. (312) 239-1556
Brother Joseph Tsiquaye, P. O. Box 178, Fort Portal, Uganda, EAst Africa

Bishop McNamara High School, Forestville, Maryland.

Brother Ferrer writes: "Beginning December 11, 1990, the new telephone number for the Brothers' Residence will be (301) 735 - 1585 / 1586. School phone numbers remain the same.