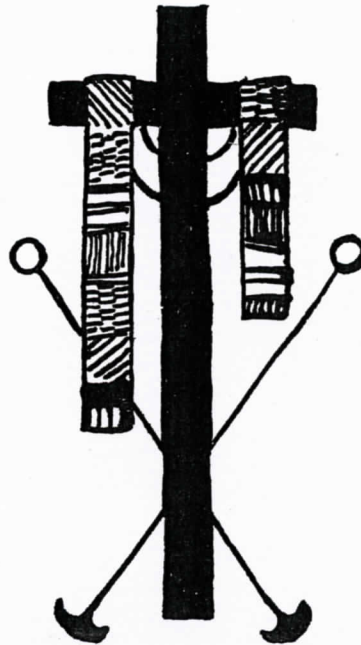


Midwest Bits and Pieces

January 1, 1993



TOM DILLMAN WRITES FROM LIBERIA

We recently received a letter from Tom Dillman dated October 25. He is well and continues his ministry as he is able. He writes: "I am sure that Liberia has at least some greater news coverage stateside than before with the present attack on the capital city by the NPFL. This morning I heard some new very powerful rocket-launching from the Freeport area not far from here. I counted several times on different launchings to have an idea as to distance of the target and it seemed as though it might be seven or eight miles away." He writes that the attack on Monrovia seems to have been repulsed, but adds: "But the NPFL are plenty as Taylor has sent more than a few thousand...how many is anybody's guess... but the attrition rate must be a sickening figure indeed. And so many of these are kids just big enough to hold a gun. From a vantage point one Senegalese soldier spotted fighters of all sizes, as though males of all ages above 12 seem to have been called up to build up the NPFL strength." Tom writes that he is able to continue serving the people: "While my own situation is not one presenting much in the way of danger, there is a new demand on our small Christian Community here to do what we can to help those who come here in their need for food...Fortunately we had gotten both our School Lunch Program allotment and our Outreach Program's food supply just before all this action, so we are in some fair position to help. Since school is not open and we do not have to serve a noon lunch, we are making available the dry rice to whomever comes around asking for it. From our Outreach Program, in which we take care of only elderly persons, a new policy permits us to take some of these rations to abate the hunger of the displaced persons. On Friday we had a few more than 150 to whom we could not give much, but at least something to abate the hunger that had been with them maybe for as much as two days in some cases where they had to walk in from a far distance." Writing about support he receives from the small Christian Community of Monrovia, Tom says: "I do continue to get support from our small Christian community here. Mr. Goodline, our vice president, moved in last evening so as to make his small apartment down the road available to relatives who have now been

displaced. Father Harry has been saying Mass at our chapel each morning at 8:15 a.m. A few people have come up to join us in the latter part of the week. All also get together each evening during this month to say the rosary in the chapel. Things get tense now and again, it goes without saying, but hopefully I will not try to do what is impossible, but continue to be Christ's instrument of peace and joy in whatever way I am able. In some cases a rather quick discernment as to what course to follow in this or that has to be made, so I make a brief prayer in that regard and do what seems best." Tom seems to be doing well, but there is constant danger to him under the present conditions. Please keep him and his ministry in your prayers.

U. S. MISSION PERSONNEL SERVING OVERSEAS

The Annual Report on U.S. Catholic Overseas Mission personnel for 1992-1993 was published recently by the U. S. Catholic Mission Association. The report indicates the number of U. S. Priests, Brothers and Sisters serving in missions overseas. It also ranks the various major mission sending societies and dioceses who send 25 or more personnel to overseas posts. Finally, it lists the number of religious from each sending group in the mission countries.

For religious priests and brothers Holy Cross has overseas, Holy Cross ranked eighth with a total of 97 U.S. priests and brothers in eleven mission countries. The Jesuits had the greatest number with 477.

The Sisters of the Holy Cross, with 47 sisters in mission areas, ranked fourth among religious sisters groups sending 25 or more to mission areas. These were distributed in eleven mission areas.

Holy Cross serves in fourteen mission areas. The countries served and the distribution of personnel is as follows:

Alaska:	2 Brothers 1 Marianite Sister
Bangladesh:	24 Priests and Brothers 10 Sisters (9 Sisters of the Holy Cross; 1 Marianite)
Brazil:	14 Priests and Brothers 16 Sisters of the Holy Cross
Chile:	19 Holy Cross Priests and Brothers 9 Lay Missionaries sponsored by Indiana Province
Ghana:	7 Holy Cross Brothers 2 Sisters of the Holy Cross
Haiti:	3 Marianite Sisters
Israel	2 Holy Cross Brothers 6 Sisters of the Holy Cross
Kenya:	9 Holy Cross Priests and Brothers 5 Lay Missionaries sponsored by Indiana Province
Mali:	3 Marianite Sisters
Mexico:	2 Holy Cross Priests 1 Sister of the Holy Cross 1 Marianite Sister

Panama: 1 Holy Cross Archbishop

Peru: 7 Holy Cross Priests and Brothers
3 Sisters of the Holy Cross
2 Marianite Sisters

Rwanda: 1 Marianite Sister

Uganda: 13 Holy Cross Priests and Brothers
10 Sisters of the Holy Cross



NEW FORMATION DIRECTOR APPOINTED

The Provincial Council is happy to announce that Brother Philip Armstrong will fill the role of formation director for the province. His appointment to this office is to assist in the development of a new program for older candidates, act as liaison between formation and vocation personnel with the provincial and his council. He will represent the province at national and international formation meetings.

BROTHER GODFREY AND HIS BROTHERS

Brother Donald Stabrowski, C.S.C.

When he arrived on The Bluff in the fall of 1929, there were 300 students at the school and its name was still Columbia University. When he died in the fall of 1974, there were some 2,000 students enrolled at the University of Portland. No other man in University history spanned such change, and very possibly no man was as popular, effective, and colorful during that span as the man known to one and all as B.G.: Brother Godfrey Vassallo, C.S.C.

Bro. Godfrey is only one of the many dozens of Holy Cross Brothers who have devoted many years of their lives to the University since its inception. Even an informal list of notable brothers over the years would include men like former University president Raphael Wilson; David Martin, University librarian and archivist; Ferdinand Moser, mathematician, engineer and gardener; Malcolm O'Neill, head of the financial aid office; reference librarian Frank Drury; and Fulgence Dougherty, who just retired after 14 years as director of foreign students. The list could go on: University postmaster Austin, sacristan, Pius Leising, bookstore managers Meinrad and Paul Loos, veterans' Liaison Andrew Corsini Fowler, and Brothers Joseph, Ulrich, Urban, Vital, Charles Charding, Christopher Bauer, Louis Leimeister, and Wilfred who worked on the University farm and in the steam plant in years long past.

What such a litany suggests is that Brother Godfrey and his brotherly compatriots have made innumerable contributions to the unique Holy Cross tenor of the University. With the hundreds of Holy Cross priests who have worked on The Bluff since 1902, the brothers have shared a common apostolic work that has become the particular hallmark of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The Congregation's founder, the Rev. Basil Moreau, C.S.C., originally envisioned a religious congregation of three societies: one of priests, the second of laymen religious, and a third of women religious. All three, he thought, would work in close collaboration, on equal footing, and in common apostolates. Each group was to have a separate government. However, Pope Pius IX refused to approve the women as part of the same congregation, a decision which forced them to establish a separate Congregation of Holy Cross Sisters.

Throughout most of this century – especially after 1909, when the brothers opened their first modern high school in Fort Wayne, Indiana – their major work in the United States was in secondary education. Between 1909 and 1964, the brothers opened 23 high schools. In 1946 they took over the administration of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, and in 1966 they opened Holy Cross College at Notre Dame.

Despite the pressing need for brothers to serve in these schools, they continued to work in the numerous parishes and colleges administered by Holy Cross priests. As Moreau had intended, a spirit of collaboration developed over the years. "Worthy of praise is this institute made up of priests and laymen so joined together in friendly alliance that, while the nature of each society is preserved neither prevails over the other, but both cooperate in the best possible way in realizing their respective ends," wrote Thomas Barrosse, the Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross in his report on the congregation to the 31st meeting of the Union of Superiors General in 1985.

In many ways the story of the Holy Cross Brothers on The Bluff is epitomized by Brother Godfrey, who taught classes, coached sports, counseled students, repaired equipment, and served as both University photographer and liaison to parents during his 45-year career at the University. His first love was mathematics, the field in which he'd earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, in 1921, but he was also an eager physicist, and he'd earned a master's degree in the discipline from Notre Dame in 1927. When he arrived at the University in 1929 he was assigned to teach all of the University's mathematics and physics classes. Within a few years he was head of the physics department. Discinclined to pursue his doctorate (he claimed he never had the time to study, and that "everybody knows everything today except the Ph.Ds") he got one anyway when the University presented him with an honorary Doctor of Science degree on the fiftieth anniversary of his religious profession in 1963.

As a scholar, B.G. was a respected authority in atomic and nuclear physics and in radioactive medicine. In 1947 he was invited to the federal atomic laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to study the possible applications of radioactive isotopes to medicine, a project which led him to start teaching an annual course in the physics of radiation to Portland physicians, to offer similar courses and workshops to physicians and nurses on the East Coast every summer, and to co-found the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 1954.

But it was B.G.'s reputation as a teacher that made him a legend. Careful, generous, and respectful of his charges, he took time to know his students, never embarrassing them in class because of their lack of preparation or inattention--although he siezed every opportunity to admonish students in private. He believed students came to the University to be challanged and encouraged, and didn't expect them to have "too much background" when they came into his classes.

Occasionally he found it necessary to fund students on the verge of dropping out of school because they couldn't find money to pay their tuitiohn. He always managed to find someone who could support these causes, and eventually he gained the reputation of being able to help when students had nowhere else to turn. He was fortunate to live long enough to see the establishment of a memorial to himself to carry on this work: John C. Beckman '42, today a University regent, instituted the Brother Godfrey Vassallo Student Aid Fund in 1970 to honor his former teacher.

He coached football, and hockey in his younger years, umpired baseball games, skated beautifully (he'd learned the art as a boy in Nova Scotia), took photographs for the BEACON , the LOG, and the campus directory, rigged sound systems, repaired students radios, directed the Parents' Club, and served as University Marshal for many years. How he did it all no one knows. He seemed to have the time and ability to accomplish anything that would make life on campus more tolerable. He tried retirement several times but it didn't take, and in his last years he taught a class or two every year and took up stamp and rock collecting. He never did really retire from campus life until September 12, 1974, the day he died.

He was "a sincere lover of people, personal friend to countless students and alumni, helpful and sympathetic in their setbacks, proud in their successes, a man who appreciates his fellow faculty members, and who is enjoyed and much respected by them in return," read the citation he received in 1963 from the University's Faculty Association. Perhaps the pithiest praise of B.G., however, came from Fr. James Anderson, the eulogist at Brother Godfrey's funeral Mass. "He WAS the University," said Fr. Anderson simply. "To think of the University was to think of him." (Taken from the Autumn issue of the University of Portland magazine.)