

# Midwest Bits and Pieces

July 1, 1991

From Brother Hobart's Letter from Bangladesh



Thanks for all the information from the Center. Something queer happened from January to March. The time when the Gulf War scared off airplanes and mail evidently piled up. In April I had some lonely Easter Cards come in and some Christmas cards from the Eastern U.S. Evidently a month or so will be needed to get things cleared up.

You have heard of the big hurricane here. Others hit each day or day and a half for a time. Ten in all. Plus a small earthquake. And now floods in the country. The parliament here has not been too appreciative of the aid sent to Bangladesh. Strange. We have all our guys down there, up and back and CORR teams and students from N.D. and now from St. Gregg's...two groups going out in different directions to distribute things for the people.



All are safe. Places are battered and smashed but people we know are OK. Send the word around for prayers, for with this Indian catastrophe, we fear some reactions over here. Or we fear Muslims trying to flee here and this country just can't take it. The Bengalis will hate the new Muslims in a short time, as they hated the ones way back for the establishment of Pakistan. JUST PRAYERS.....and whatever the Lord Wishes.

## Outstanding Teacher

Brother Guy Eckels has been named 1991-92 Outstanding Teacher in the Southern Region of the Cleveland Diocese.

## Death of Brother Mervyn Baptist in Bangladesh

Brother John Rozario writes from Bangladesh: "This morning we got the sad news that Brother Mervyn Baptist had died at about 8:30 a.m. in Chittagong Medical College. As you know, he was having heart trouble for quite a while and already had had two severe attacks. His case was further complicated by blood pressure and sugar. After his operation for Gall Stones in Bangkok, he was doing fine. He had the operation last year. He was born in 1925. He is survived by two sisters who have settled in Canada. Please remember him in your prayers."

## Brother Joseph McTaggart Received Into The College of Chaplains

Joe McTaggart was received into the College of Chaplains as a Fellow and certified chaplain in the Annual Meeting of the College. The organization recently separated from the American Protestant Health Association and is now the only independent, non-denominational, professional certifying organization for chaplains. Previously, Joe held advanced status in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education which is a prerequisite for certification. His work includes the oncology unit of the Medical Center's trauma unit. In addition, he has just completed a year's volunteer work with Aids Project Los Angeles as a co-facilitator for a grief-support group. His other focus continues to be working for certification as a chemical dependency counselor at the California Family Study Center. Joe writes that he especially enjoys his work and study with substance abuse as the school's model is a family system's approach to therapy. "I've learned much about some of my own patterns and now see the wisdom and sheer work of the Spirit in Twelve Step programs. It's underpinned my own spirituality, giving me invaluable experience and love for the conversion and liberation which comes out of the growth work around addictions' recovery. I find the work energizing and very humbling when I see human beings reawakening to their own dignity and essential goodness which has been so violated and darkened by this disease. Recovering people are miracles. They keep me close to my own need for surrender and dependence on God. Whenever I'm

involved in this work, I grow and learn first hand that it's only through God's power and our footwork that real healing takes place. Chaplaincy work has been very demanding, but it has helped me to grow in ways I would probably never have done otherwise. I feel very blessed."

## Results of The Government And Administration Committee Survey

One hundred and thirty-two members of the province returned the survey sent out by the Government and Administration Committee of the 1991 Provincial Chapter. Thirty-two surveys returned contained comments.

To the statement, "I am in favor of a unified administrative structure for the US Brothers' Provinces," 86 Brothers or 76% of those responding to the item answered yes, and 39 or 24% responded no.

Ninety-seven Brothers or 73% of those responding to the second item on the survey favored direct election of the provincial by the membership. Thirty-six or 27% favored election of the provincial by the chapter.

On the survey, five possible methods of electing delegates for the 1994 Provincial Chapter were listed. Twenty-four or 19% of those responding to this item favored at-large election of all delegates. Eighteen or 15% favored electing all chapter delegates by region. Twenty-three or 18% favored electing regional delegates first and then at-large delegates, and 24 or 19% favored having all who are willing to serve appointed as delegates.

The last question on the survey asked an opinion about the number of delegates to be included in the chapter. The current number is 45, of whom 7 are ex officio. The answer to this question presumes that chapter delegates would be elected. Twenty Brothers or 18% of those who responded to the item preferred 14 delegates, a 15% proportion of the province membership. Thirty or 27% preferred 28 delegates, a 10% proportion. Forty-three or 38% preferred 45 delegates, a 16% proportion. And 20 who responded favored 55 delegates or a 20% proportion.

The committee would like to thank all those who took the time to respond and to comment. The results of the survey and all of the comments have been reviewed by the committee and will be most helpful in formulating legislation for the 1991 Provincial Chapter to consider.

## Patan Nepal

"I'm now an English professor at St. Xavier's College Campus and remain as director of the House of Hospitality in Kathmandu. "H.O.H." renders free food, lodging and medical assistance to poor, disadvantaged mountain tribals who come to Kathmandu for medical help. We service about 20-25 people at a time.....I was in Thailand last month for a regional retreat and returned via Bangladesh. I saw all the Dhaka Brothers. Best wishes and blessings."

Bro. John L. Harris, CSC, GPO Box 1668, Kathmandu, Nepal.



# Liberia

Greetings from Monrovia..peace in Christ!

Learned upon my enquiry today that airmail service into Liberia has been reestablished with yesterday's delivery....Have been waiting for some kind of info from Lawrence Skitzki concerning the transfer funds from our CSC account from Chase NY. As things stand now I have had to exchange one of my \$100-US paper money for \$850-L at the current rate of exchange. I have enough to get by on with remaining cash/US, but don't want to reduce that readily negotiable exchange medium so as to have something for emergencies.

On this major feast in our congregation we had our first Mass in our renovated chapel here at St. Pat's. Only John and Willie shared the celebration with me and Fr. Hickey, SMA, who is here for a brief visit to check things out before making a lengthier stay beginning in September....The chapel looks even nicer than before with drapes on windows, which we did not have before. Thought we might as well since all else was new. The bullet and shrapnel holes in the paneling have been hidden fairly well with wood putty stained to match the brown mahogany. I've made or remade drapery boxes for all the windows in the former TV-music room, living room and dining room, had the drapes made at a relatively low cost. Still no electricity and it appears that it will be at least another month or so before the main supply cables reach the campus. It continues to be a long slow process.

We began our emergency school program last week with a student body mainly of kids in the nearer regions to St. Pat's. Perhaps only 15% are our former boys. And we have a number of girls enrolled. When the formal school year begins in August, we will again be back to all boys...The kids are given a midday snack of two highly enriched protein/energy biscuits and milk, and a full rice dish at the end of the school day at 1:15. No tuition and the staff is voluntary, but there will be an incentive of travel reimbursement at the end of the program for all staff. So I'm involved someway or other in both the school lunch program and the earlier started food distribution for refugees coming from across the line or from other counties who do not yet qualify for the normal SELF distribution program...Also have become fairly proficient at baking bread and doughnuts for further changes of pace. Health is holding good and I think I am continuing to hang loose. Not so virtuous in 'losing my cool' with this or that worker when sloppy workmanship becomes a bit overmuch.

Have been riding the bike a couple miles down the road each morning to attend Mass at the Missionaries of Charity's house (Mother Theresa's community). With the rainy season I need to use the truck at times.

The school's reconstruction is reaching the countdown time, but the work on windows, some doors, and painting will take some weeks yet. But things are beginning to look fine, indeed.

My regards to all, With you in kind thoughts and prayers. Tom D.