

# Midwest Bits and Pieces

July 1, 1994

## A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the graduates and former students of St. Patrick's High School, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, residing in the United States of America, have organized the Patrick's High School Alumni Association, USA (SPHSAA,USA); and

Whereas, the St. Patrick's High School Alumni Association, USA, held its second annual convocation in Atlanta, Georgia, May 27 to 29, 1994, unanimously resolved to acknowledge the role played by the Brothers of Holy Cross in education at St. Patrick's High School in particular and Liberia in general; and

Whereas, it is the considered belief of the Alumni Association that the Brothers of Holy Cross over their duration at St. Patrick's High School, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa (1962 to present) were and still are instrumental in molding and transforming "boys into men", who today lead successful lives in various disciplines and professions; and

Whereas, the Brothers of Holy Cross taught and administered in an environment that demanded ethical, excellent, disciplined and spiritual approaches in all of our endeavors; and

Whereas, the Brothers raised St. Patrick's High School to not only the premier academic and athletic institution but also one producing largely men of character in Liberia; and

Whereas, the Congregation of Holy Cross community spiritually and financially supported the efforts of the Brothers of Holy Cross at St. Patrick's High School, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we the graduates and former students of St. Patrick's High School, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, do, in this public manner, express and proclaim our sincerest gratitude and constant appreciation to all those Holy Cross Brothers who served our Alma Mater in particular and to the Congregation of Holy Cross community in general. We laud their self-giving and support to education in Liberia and extend our best wishes for the great contribution made to St. Patrick's High and Liberia. May God continue to strengthen your missionary activities and bless you!

Joseph W. Bailey, II  
President, SPHSAA,USA

June 15, 1994

## BROTHER DONALD JOHNROE WRITES

Dear Bits & Pieces Chairman,

For the past five years I have been teaching the RCIA (Rite of Christian Instruction for Adults) at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish here in Ft.Lauderdale. As to date around 150 adults have taken the class along with others who wish to enhance their knowledge of the Catholic faith.

About every three months I have a workshop on some aspect of the Catholic Faith. So far there have been workshops on Annulments, Infallibility, and the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

On Sunday, June 22nd after he had confirmed our students and adults of our parish, Archbishop McCarthy awarded five of us with a bouquet of roses each, for our work in the catechetical services that we have rendered to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs.

## LATEST NEWS ON RWANDA

A Fax from Brother Conrad Auger in Canada gives the latest information on our Brothers in Rwanda.

"This morning (May 14) we received a fax from our Rwandan confreres in Ranga, Rwanda. They still do not know that their Canadian confreres have made it to

Canada and it has been impossible for us to get that news to them. They say that they are living in times of great insecurity and that their life is in danger. Furthermore, on April 23, Brother Janvier disappeared and then during the night of May 6 to May 7 it was Brothers Eulade, Venant, Jean-Baptiste and Leonard who disappeared 'in this situation we are going through and which gets more and more difficult,' to use their words. They add: 'We can say that they are dead, but how did it happen? Where?' They said further that they were subjected to some looting and even the money-pouch left for them by their confreres had been emptied. They still expect further looting.

"They ended their message by saying: 'As confreres, we ask you to be with us in prayer and to intervene, when the situation will allow it, to save those who can be saved. We continue to survive with the help of the provincial superior of the Brothers of Charity, Brother Augustine, along with our mutual moral support and that of our neighboring religious, male and female."

Brother Conrad adds the news that Father Simard appears to still be in his parish and asks us to continue to remember our Brothers and the people of Rwanda.





## THOUGHTS ON BROTHERS AND THE FUTURE

Brother William Mewes, CSC

It seems to me that our future to be viable must be based in part on passion. What are we as individuals passionate about? What are we as a province passionate about? Do we have any passion? What gets us motivated? What are we dedicated to? As a province we used to be dedicated primarily to secondary education. What are we dedicated to now? What, if anything, will we be dedicated to in the future?

As an individual, my passion is prayer and relationship with God, giving a homily or retreat or lecture, visiting the homebound, the sick and or dying, legislative advocacy, visiting friends and loved ones. I am dedicated to God, people, work, Holy Cross and Church, the United States and the world. Maybe that should be reduced to just God and people or God, neighbor and self.

I've lived and worked in and out of the community. I've worked as an individual in some jobs and thought how much more of an impact could be made if there were two or three Brothers working there instead of just one. Right now I'm living without community and working as an individual in a parish. Fr. Dujarie used to send Brothers to a parish in twos or threes and I can certainly see the advantage of that as a support for one another and greater impact on the parish. Right now I would prefer to be living in a Religious community, if such were

available. Nevertheless, in times past, I found that working and living outside of Holy Cross was very rewarding and growth producing.

According to my understanding of a recent survey, most Brothers are happy in what they are doing as individuals, but what about the Province? It seems that the Province doesn't really have a unified vision or passion. If lay people can now do all the jobs that Brothers do, and some can do them better, what is the niche for Brothers today? Is it spirituality and prayer? Is it taking major risks that lay people can't afford to do? Is it legislative advocacy for social justice with a particular religious corporate witness? Will Chicago '94 come up with real answers or just more questions?

## NEW MAJOR SUPERIORS



Brother Reginald Robert, C.S.C. has been elected Provincial of the Canadian Province of Brothers. Brother Robert taught in many schools in New Brunswick and Quebec and served as president of

Notre Dame College, Montreal, from 1984 to 1991. He has been ministering at St. Joseph's Oratory the past two years. He was born in 1930.

Fr. Jean-Marie Esnault, C.S.C. has been elected Provincial of the French Province. At a recent provincial chapter it was decided that a new structure for the Congregation in France would be implemented. This will regroup all the brothers and priests into one province. When this new province is established, there will be another election for provincial and provincial councilors. Father Esnault was born in 1928.

Brother Harold Bijoy Rodrigues, C.S.C. has been elected Vice-Provincial of Saint Joseph Vice-Province in Bangladesh. In recent years, Brother Bijoy has been Assistant Vice-Provincial and Principal of St. Joseph School of Industrial Trades. He was invited to be present for Chicago '94, the provincial chapter for the Midwest Province. Brother Bijoy was born in 1958.

Father Louis-Joseph Boudreau, C.S.C. has been elected District Superior for the District of Acadia, Canada. He had been Provincial of the Acadian Province until recently when it was decided to reorganize the structure of the province to that of a district. Father Boudreau was born in 1939.

Father Hugh W. Cleary, C.S.C. has been elected Provincial of the Eastern Province of Priests and Brothers. Father Hugh was the novice master at Cascade, Colorado. He was born in 1946.

## SYNOD OF AFRICAN BISHOPS - ROME

### MISSIONARIES

Missionaries are still necessary in this period of transition from a Church of the missions to a Church on mission in Africa. Africa wishes to register its gratitude to the men and women of God who brought the word of Life, often at great cost. Nevertheless the new spirit of mission is to be one of collaboration with the particular Churches, rather than that of doing one's own work. There is need for concerted planning in matters of personnel between bishops and superiors; besides, missionaries are to facilitate the taking of responsibility by the local Church. Africans are not to be recruited in order to maintain numbers in diminishing European institutes or ones which have no houses in the various countries from which candidates are recruited. Missionary animation should be ensured, beginning with the parishes.

### RELIGIOUS LIFE IN AFRICA

The original value of religious life is to be rediscovered: it springs from the experience of God and is not primarily an expression of pastoral or charitable action. Hence, the interest of local Churches in religious life should be more than utilitarian. It is important to highlight the contemplative life, especially in Muslim milieux. The multiplication of diocesan congregations without a particular charism or individual spirit is to be avoided.



## CREATIVE COMMUNITY LEADER MOVES ON

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The founder of the Senior Friendship Centers has been elected Provincial superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Indiana.

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His innovative vision and determination led Brother William Geenen to build a program, run mostly by volunteers, that has become a cornerstone among social services for the elderly in Southwest Florida.

And it is the same qualities that are now taking him from the area.

Geenen, - founder of the Senior Friendship Centers Inc. - has been elected as the next leader of his religious order, the Congregation of Holy Cross, Midwest Province of Brothers. The Roman Catholic group is based at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., and Geenen takes over as provincial superior in September.

"He was elected primarily because he was thought to be able to bring a fresh approach to the ministry," said Brother Rex Hennel, secretary to the provincial superior.

The variety of things he has done there shows he has the wisdom to foresee the needs, and he works to accomplish to meet those needs," Hennel said. "That's the type of thing that is important to us at this time."

Geenen, 64, started the Senior Friendship Centers 21 years ago in a house at Second Street and Orange Avenue near

downtown Sarasota. He saw a need to provide services and companionship to residents 60 and older, and he recruited people who helped his dream become a reality.

Today the centers have expanded to several sites in Sarasota, Lee, Collier and DeSoto counties. Services include meals, social activities, transportation, personal care, a repair shop, adult day care, an Alzheimer's program, respite care and health care.

The nonprofit agency has a network of full and part-time staff, and hundreds of volunteers. As planning and development director for the centers, Geenen serves on the foundation board and plans to continue after he moves.

Geenen, whose brother and 99-year-old mother live in Sarasota, said he is proud of what he has accomplished. So are those who worked with him.

"I think because of the vision and the enthusiasm that Brother Geenen brought to our area 20 years ago, the seniors have benefited so greatly," said Kathleen Toale, who serves on the board of governors. "We wouldn't be where we are today if not for his leadership."

Added John Mikos, Sarasota County's property appraiser and a member of the centers' board: "This is a human being who is truly dedicated, especially to our elders."

The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross, which founded the University of Notre Dame, has 248 members scattered throughout the United States, Africa, and South America. Geenen will be their supervisor.

"I want to empower the individual members," said Geenen. "I think an individual religious brother needs to assess his own strengths and talents and he has to look for needs around him that probably no one else is addressing. That's really where we come in. We need to be at the cutting edge of things."

Geenen said he will use the Senior Friendship Centers as a model for meeting other social needs and will work on raising money to support the other brothers' ministries.

Molleen Pust, Geenen's assistant and a board member, said the congregation of brothers will benefit from Geenen's leadership.

"It's a tremendous honor to him," Pust said. "It's going to be a severe loss here. Brother's presence will be felt a long, long time."

Geenen said he was surprised to be selected by the other members as their new leader. He will serve six years and three more if re-elected.

The call informing him that he was a finalist for the job came "out of the blue" late one evening last fall, he recalled as he sat last week in a conference room surrounded by numerous awards and proclamations honoring him.

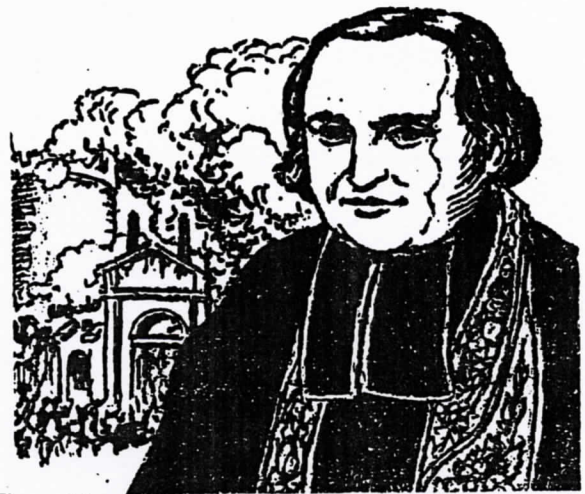
The decision was announced March 17.

"The only reason I would say 'no' would be a selfish one on my part," Geenen said. "I like what I'm doing here, I like this community."

"But I've been a brother for 45 years, and the reason I joined and accepted this type

of life is to be available to people," he said. "Sometimes you have to do things that are sometimes unknown or may involve a risk factor. I just think that's what it's all about. To say 'no' would kind of be foreign to my way of thinking." (This article was written by Patty Allen-Jones, Staff Writer for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and appeared in the May 16, 1994 edition.)

## DUJARIE CELEBRATION CHANGE OF DATE



The Vocation Directors for the three United States Brothers' Provinces have requested permission to plan a synod in conjunction with the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Founding of the Brothers of St. Joseph by Fr. Dujarie. As had been announced previously, it was intended that this celebration would be held after the Holy Cross History Conference in June of 1995.

The provincials agreed to combining the Dujarie celebration with the proposed symposium. The symposium will be held from July 5 to July 9, 1995. The Dujarie Celebration will take place on July 8 and 9, 1995. You may want to put this week on your calendar.