

Midwest Bits and Pieces

June 1, 1992

BROTHERHOOD



Awesome is the Brotherhood,
This gift of God sublime,
Warm friendship burnishing bright,
Smooth, steady, seamless, kind;
No dream, no myth, but reality
Furnishing delight.
Yes, it is good; the Brotherhood.

Enduring is the Brotherhood,
This choice that God made clear,
Asking these Brothers to give sustenance
To others, thousands upon thousands,
Year after year, making Christ's love appear.
Yes, it astounds, Brotherhood abounds.

Scented with sanctity is the Brotherhood,
As each jubilant radiates the rose-oil absolute
Of a sea of pressed prayers, petals versatile,
Thought in ancient times without dispute
To be a god captured in a crystal vial,
When all the while it's simply good deeds done,
The livelihood of Brotherhood.

A consolation is the Brotherhood,
Caught in the serene rhythms of Isaiah's opulence:
The Lord is our savior, our reward;
We shall sing to stringed instruments
In the house of the Lord
All the days of our life, in gratitude,
As we should. Eternal Brotherhood.
Understood.

---Brother Remigius Bullinger, CSC
Jubilee 1992

BROTHER ARMAND AMMAN

Brother Armand Amman has been taken to the Little Company of Mary Health Facility at San Pierre, Indiana. He is in a specialized unit for patients with Alzheimer's Disease. As you may know, his condition has been slowly deteriorating and he is in need of more specialized treatment. The address of the facility is: Little Company of Mary Health Facility, Rt. 1, P. O. Box 22A, San Pierre, IN 46374. Telephone: (219) 828-4111.

HOLY CROSS HONORED BY NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Congregation of Holy Cross was honored by the National Educational Association at its most recent National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri on April 22, 1992. Citing grateful recognition for significant contributions to American Catholic Secondary Education through service as leaders, colleagues, and models of excellence for 150 years, the Association began the Convocation with a prayer service which included an excerpt from Father Moreau's Circular Letter #14. Brother John Paige, CSC accepted the award in the name of the educators of the Congregation and will carry the plaque to our Sesquicentennial Celebration at Notre Dame in September.

TOM MINTA WRITES

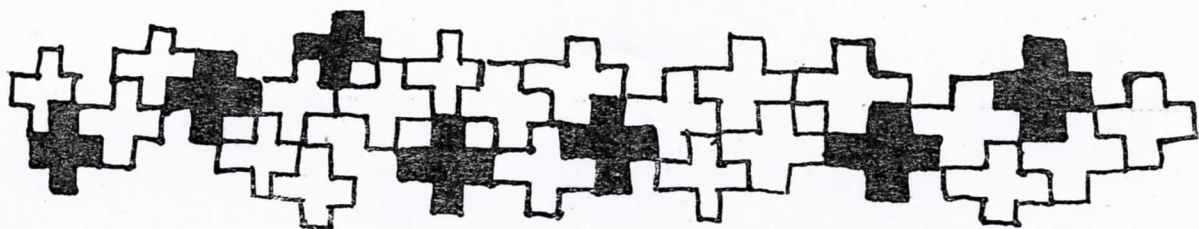
Recently, Tom Minta wrote to Brother Thomas Moser thanking him for stopping to see his workplace, Goodwill Industries. In the letter he says, "I ask that you pray with me for my clients. They certainly are the 'forgotten ones' right in our own backyards. It is so difficult to find them jobs - jobs which they so eagerly want. But discrimination wags its ugly head once more in a different fashion. These people aren't asking for positions on the top of the salary scale. They are satisfied with minimum wage and would be willing to take less than that just to get off public aid and social security. As soon as an employer finds out that one of my folks is DEAF, you can't imagine how much resistance they put up. As far as I'm concerned, the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) offers little except for the fact that the words look very beautiful on paper."

COMMUNITY STAMPS NOW IN NEW LOCATION

In January, the Community Stamp Collection was moved from the meeting room in the Provincial House to the third floor of Basil Hall in the Brothers' Center. Throughout the years the collection has grown, thanks to the contributions made by so many Brothers and friends of the Community, living in the Notre Dame area, and those in home and foreign missions. Collections of Brother Bonaventure Foley and Brother Celestis Mueller have been kept intact for the most part, and attempts have been made to bring their albums up to date.

Philatelic materials such as postal history, commemorative and definitive issues, both of the United States and foreign countries, can always be used....if not for a particular album, they can be traded or put into an auction to obtain monies for the Holy Cross Missions.

Brother Walter Foken requests that you send or bring to the Center any philatelic materials, such as foreign stamps from any country, pictorials, pre-cancels, and the like. It is not necessary that you know which category the materials may fit in. If it is handled by the Post Office, they can be used in some way to enhance the Community Collection.



NEWS FROM WEST AFRICA

St. John's Secondary School, our first apostolate in Ghana, is celebrating its 40th Jubilee year. Brother William Gates is on the planning committee for the celebration.

The Sekondi community was increased by the return of Father Bob Gilmour at the end of January and Father George Kallungal on February 26. He has hopes that the formation program for priests will start soon and that another Indian priest will join them soon.

In early March, thieves broke into the recreation hall of the juniorate and made away with the color television set. Some tools for the Skills Project were also stolen.

A Holy Cross outreach program for potential candidates was organized at St. John's from the 27th to the 29th of February. There were six participants drawn mostly from Upper Sixth Form and Fifth Form students at the school. The program was organized by Brother William Gates and the purpose was to allow the young men to meet with our Brothers in a more personal manner.

The Skills Project held a graduation ceremony on February 28. Thirteen young men completed the program, nine carpenters and four auto mechanics. In the past, these young men received a set of tools when completing the program. However, present conditions do not permit this to continue. Brother Jerome, director of the Skills Project, hired seven of the young carpenters to help complete orders for furniture from schools in the area.

Brother Paul Mensah joined the St. Augustine's Community when he returned after completing his studies in the States. He is hard at work setting up a computer room to enhance the administrative capabilities of the district. As expected, he has fitted in very well and is a welcome addition to the house.

NEWS FROM LIBERIA

A recent letter from Tom Dillman contained encouraging news about the situation in Liberia. Tom Writes:

"This past week has had the unfolding of very distressing news from the states re L.A. rioting over the seemingly obvious travesty of justice as gleaned from the reporting of same by BBC and VOA. On the other hand, it seems that the Lenten prayers and good works have brought about the long hoped-for 'metanoia' of rebel leader Charles Taylor. He has agreed to the 'will of the people' to disarm and allow ECOMOG to move into the whole of Liberia. Actually the handwriting has been on the wall, so to speak, for the past couple months with the meetings in Yamasoukarou, and most especially the last one in Geneva. After rescinding his approval of all matters re disarmament and ECOMOG

peacekeeping efforts at Geneva, he was taken to task even by his own people in Taylorland, and held a 'national convention' in Gbarnga to let the Liberian people decide what his policy should be. With international press on the scene there could be no distortion of the action and criticism of the behavior of the rebels, if not Taylor himself, after which he voiced his face-saving 'true patriot and concerned leader' statement that since the people have indicated their will he would 'follow the will of the people'. So already ECOMOG have moved into areas across the line and taken up surveillance at check points. And also, already, produce and lumber are coming into the city with a big reduction in price of many things such as palm oil and cassava that have heretofore been very hard to get. Things truly are looking very positive now..praise the Lord. Amen, alleluia!"

BROTHER BARRY WRITES ABOUT HIS RCIA EXPERIENCE

"I have just returned from meeting with the RCIA group at Annunciation Church, and it has been a most satisfactory morning. I led the discussion this day, and focused on the importance of the 50-day liturgical 'honeymoon' for all of us, but particularly for the neophytes, leading to Pentecost. We started with 17 candidates and ended with 14.

"The Cleveland Diocese prefers to conduct the Rite of Election on a Diocesan-wide basis. However, there is no Church large enough to hold all the candidates and the Parish support teams. So we hold the Rite in two sections, in two different locations. The program enclosure lists only half of the candidates. I thought you might want to see the lineup of neophytes.

"So this is the New Church! I can't remember converts coming into the Church I experienced as a boy or as a religious. Somewhere, in a far off place, Bishop Sheen was instructing some notable like Clare Booth Luce. But we neophytes in the Church were not permitted or trusted to participate. I heard that in Phoenix one of the churches had 90 (!) candidates in RCIA. For a time I thought only Religious Communities took in candidates. Conversion was not for the laity.

"During the past two years, I have experienced a happiness and satisfaction in the Church that I have never previously known. Each Sunday after the Creed, we led our group from the Church to the Adult Resource Center for discussion, instruction, and sharing the Faith. The Pastor always came in for a short time, but only to encourage and help if asked, never to give the impression he didn't quite trust us to do the job. From time to time the Congregation was introduced to the Neophytes either through some activity in Church, or through reference in the Bulletin. Always, always, the new ones were encouraged, and welcomed to the Church.

"And this year, during the Triduum, we conducted Baptism by complete immersion! At first, some demurred, but then came around, and all were immersed. It was most inspiring."

