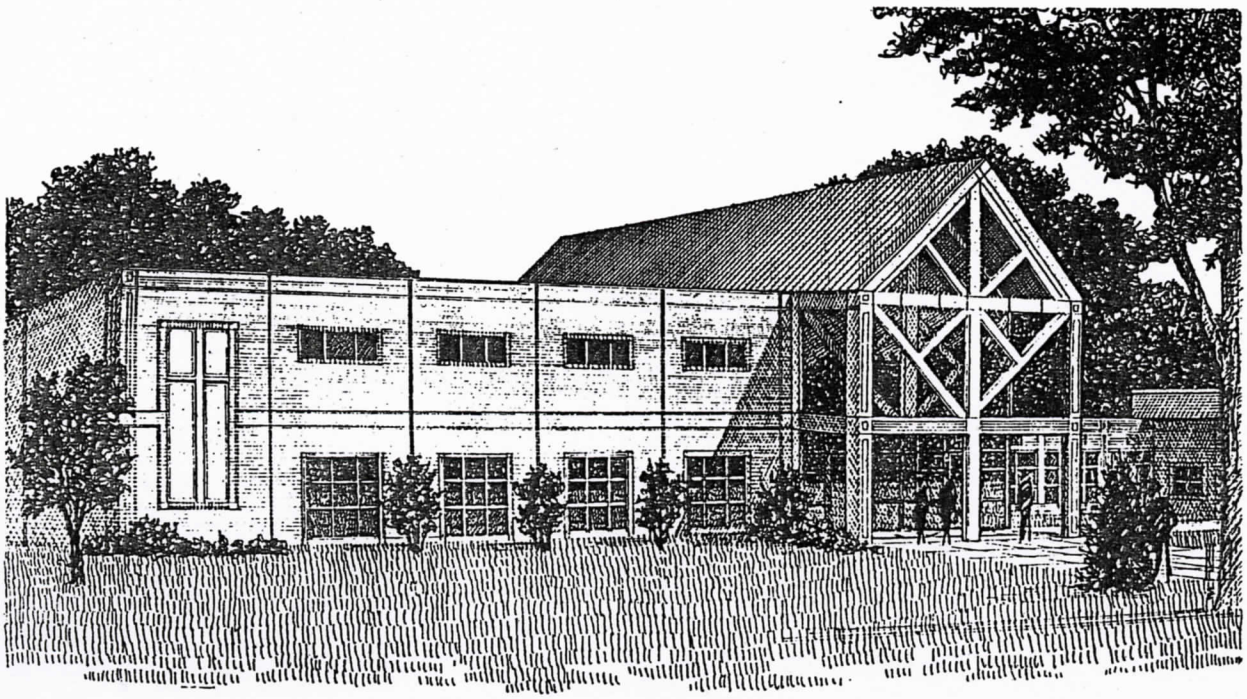
Midwest Bits and Pieces

June 1, 1994



GROUND BREAKING FOR ADDITION AT HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

At 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 22, a ground breaking ceremony was held at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, to mark the beginning of construction on a large new wing of the building. The wing will include an enlargement of the library, a new student lounge, new classroom space, and new offices.

Music and a continental breakfast greeted the participants in the auditorium area of the college. A welcome was extended by Br. Richard Gilman, president, and comments were made by Mr. Stephen Queior, a graduate of Holy Cross College and president of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County; Michael Flood, a current student at the college; and Mr. Arthur Decio, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the college.

The actual ground breaking was preceded by the blessing of the ground by retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Crowley of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Wielding the shovels were Br. Richard Gilman, representing the faculty and staff of the college; Art Decio, representing the board; Michael Flood, representing the students; and Br. Thomas Moser, Provincial, representing the brothers and their dedication to education.

A reception followed in the auditorium area until 10:00.

RWANDA SITUATIONAL UPDATE

According to a series of five faxed memos sent out between April 12-19 by Br. Conrad Auger, Mission Promoter for the Canadian Province of Brothers, the brothers in Rwanda are safe and at least presently not in the areas of intense warlike activity.

The Canadian government recently requested all Canadian nationals to leave the country. As of April 19, all the Canadian brothers had left Rwanda and were in Burundi or Kenya, or were on their way to Canada via Europe. Br. Vianney St-Michel, district superior, and others remained in Nairobi. Fr. Claude Simard, a long-time Holy Cross missionary in Rwanda, was still in the country intending to remain there no matter what, but he was being ordered by his provincial to leave the country as soon as possible.

Br. Conrad closed his April 19 fax by saying: "I will be in contact with you again once we have more details about their exodus....and then the news bulletins on this topic will be less frequent. But, your attention, please: that does not mean that our prayers for Rwanda must also be less frequent. There are more than six million people there and among them are seventeen of our confreres who desire nothing other than peace!"

In a faxed update sent from the generalate on April 24, Fr. Robert Morin, assistant general, noted that the Justice and Peace Commission of the Union of Superiors General was monitoring the situation in Rwanda, particularly through the first-hand reports of missionaries from Rwanda arriving in Rome. Fr. Morin wrote, "In every region of the country the situation is very serious. Missionaries (men and women) who arrived in Rome from Rwanda just a few days ago confirmed the news that tens of thousands of people have been massacred everywhere in the country. The Red Cross stated that, in its history, it has not seen such a massacre.... Some religious and priests have been killed; it is feared that other Rwandese religious and priests will be executed in the future.

"Many foreign missionaries wanted to stay in the country and remain with their people. However, most of them have been forced to leave Rwanda either at the pressing recommendation of the embassy of their country or by pressure from United Nations officials....

"The sixteen Holy Cross Rwandese temporarily professed have remained in their country. However, all necessary and useful arrangements were made by the Holy Cross Canadian missionaries before their departure so the young religious would be supported and assisted by members of other religious communities in the neighborhood of our houses in Butare and Kabgayi. Presently we cannot help the indigenous religious leave the country....

"Each province and district, in a gesture of solidarity, should consider what actions its members can take to influence the mass media. If nothing is done, it is certain the media interest in Rwanda will pass. Already, there is increasing silence regarding the atrocities committed."

GOOD NEWS FROM TED JOHN

Ted John of Milwaukee, a former member of the Midwest Province, wrote to Br. Thomas Moser in the middle of April enclosing a letter that had appeared on the front page of the Milwaukee Catholic newspaper regarding the progress of his daughter Megan, for whom Ted had requested prayers of us some months back as she fought a serious case of leukemia. The letter appears here.

"Two years ago Holy Thursday evening, 1992, my wife, Mary, and I were informed that our then 22-year-old daughter, Megan, had acute lymphocytic leukemia. I remember thinking that I had a better understanding of what Christ went through in the garden.

"Megan was hospitalized for five weeks, followed by six cycles of intensive chemotherapy ending in March 1993. All tests showed her cancer free. However, a final bone marrow test confirmed that the cancer had returned.

"Megan's one option, short of a miracle, was to have a bone marrow transplant. Bone marrow transplants are risky and there is only one chance. This was more complicated since she has no birth siblings.

"As a former Brother of Holy Cross, I had a devotion to Brother Andre, now Blessed Andre. I challenged the Brothers to put their faith in prayer to Blessed Andre for a miracle.

"During the month after Easter 1993, much time and effort went into finding a perfect bone marrow donor. However, on Mother's Day, the bone marrow specialist felt Megan's last test showed unusual signs.

"After many tests, more analysis, and much painful waiting, the final results showed a rare phenomenon called hematogone cells ... cells having identical characteristics as cancer cells, with one exception ... they are non-cancerous.

"This may not get Br. Andre canonized, but I am convinced that a resurrection continues to take place as she remains in treatment and prepares for graduate school and her wedding in 1995."

Ted John
Milwaukee

TELEPHONE AND FAX AT CHAPTER

Those attending the chapter at Loyola University in Chicago from June 12-18 may find it convenient to know the telephone and fax numbers at the Simpson Living and Learning Center, the

site of the 1994 chapter. Ordinarily, phone messages will be taken at the desk and you will be notified as soon as possible.

Telephone: (312) 508-7001
Fax (incoming only): (312) 508-3311

If you need to send a fax, there is a Kinko's located conveniently nearby.

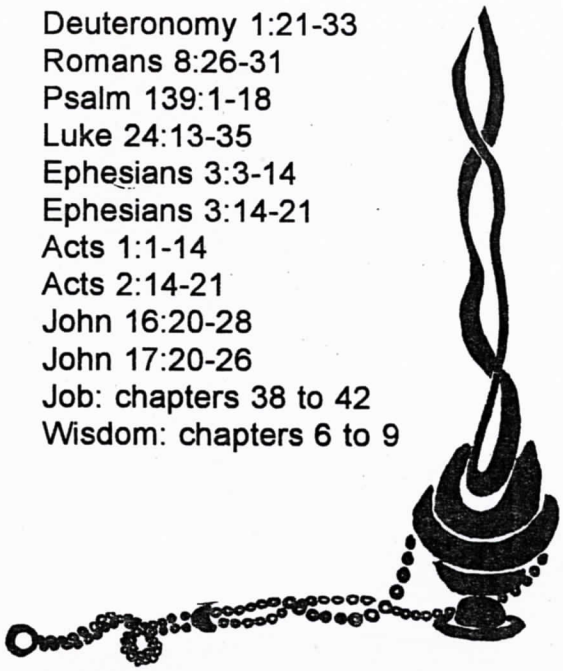
PREPARING REFLECTIVELY FOR THE CHAPTER

In a recent mailing from the provincial office you received a small card containing two prayers suggested for your use in preparation for the provincial chapter in June.

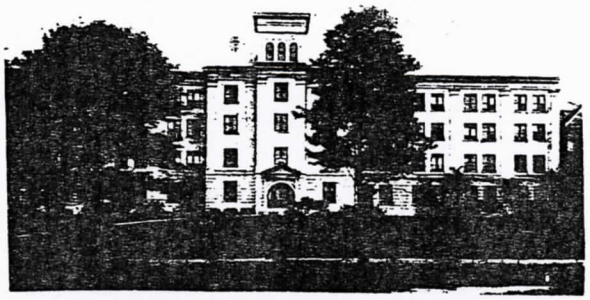
Please keep the success of the chapter in your intentions throughout the coming weeks. You are encouraged to use either or both of the prayers, reciting them individually or with others, for example at some point during morning or evening prayer.

Some time ago Br. Francis Englert was asked to suggest several scriptural readings that could prove useful as reflective passages in preparation for the chapter. In this issue we include these readings and urge you to use one or the other as you see fit between now and June 12.

Deuteronomy 1:21-33
Romans 8:26-31
Psalm 139:1-18
Luke 24:13-35
Ephesians 3:3-14
Ephesians 3:14-21
Acts 1:1-14
Acts 2:14-21
John 16:20-28
John 17:20-26
Job: chapters 38 to 42
Wisdom: chapters 6 to 9



THE NIGHT LOU HOLTZ CAME TO COLUMBA HALL



Mr. Lou Holtz, the head football coach at the University of Notre Dame, is everything people have said he is. Lou, as he wishes to be called, is humorous, compassionate, intelligent, and above all, a very moral person.

For almost thirty-five minutes on the night of April 14, 1994, Lou charmed the brothers and special guests with his wit and deep understanding of human nature, especially the young minds who comprise his football teams, ages 18 to 23.

He said he was most blessed and

chosen to be part of "this great university." When the Main Building burned to the ground in 1879 and was rebuilt, it featured that famous statue of Our Lady. In my mind, this *is the inspiration which makes this university.* The Catholic faith is part of this aura. Father Sorin had a vision which is still working today.

Since Lou's time was short, he spent only about fifteen minutes talking about the team and its prospects for this coming year. Br. Ralph Baird asked him, "How do you deal with stress?" "I do not find this too difficult," Lou replied. "I will tell you when I *really feel stress*: when I have to worry about team members when they goof up." He was referring to the Miller-Graham incident of the week of April 4. "Otherwise, I am able to handle stress as it comes along. Actually I am so busy I hardly have time to stop to think about it."

He explained how he got to come to Notre Dame in the first place. He had a clause written into his contract with the University of Minnesota which said: "If Minnesota wins a bowl bid [in other words, I will prove that I am worthy of this clause] I will be permitted to take the head coaching job at Notre Dame--if offered to me." Subsequently, he arrived in 1986 and has been winning ever since.

He was visibly disappointed that Notre Dame was not declared the National Champs for the 1993-1994 season. "I have yet to find out what coaches voted for Florida State University! None that I have spoken to voted for FSU. I know I didn't. But life goes on. We do not stop in life with one disappointment. The university will go on, since football is only one small part of the whole." He stressed the importance of the contract with NBC, not only for the football team, but also for the university. "We do everything here for the name's sake of the University; this is the priority. When this gets lost, then we are missing the point of our being here in the first place."

Lou was invited by me as a result of a letter he wrote to Br. Donald Schapker when he retired from the Post Office at the end of January, 1994. Lou said he was lauding the Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the 150 years of service they gave to this university. I wrote to Lou to thank him for his kind words about the brothers. He said in the closing line of his letter, "Brother, if there is anything I can do for you, or the brothers, do not hesitate to let me know." That's all it took. I invited Lou to visit us and he did.

Probably the *piece de resistance* of the evening was when I asked Lou, before he left, to go over to Br. Theodore (Teddy) Kapes. "Teddy was here on the campus when the present stadium was built in 1930. You are seeing history in the flesh. And this is Teddy's 70th anniversary of his first vows in 1924." Immediately Teddy whipped out a newspaper picture of Lou, which he had on his lap, and asked Lou for an autograph. I don't know who was more thrilled, Teddy or Lou!

This eventful evening ended on a very high note when Lou concluded with, "I want to make this an annual visit. I want to come back in the fall and in the spring. Brother Thomas (Corcoran), please keep me posted when I am to return," Lou said.

A standing ovation ensued. Lou left about fifteen minutes late for his next appointment at 8:15 p.m. I think Lou thought the tardiness was well worth it.

-- Br. Thomas Corcoran, C.S.C.

BROTHER RICHARD KEARNEY COUNSELS "ALL GOD'S CHILDREN"

(An article by Carrie McClish, staff writer for the *Oakland Catholic Voice*)

One of Holy Cross Brother Richard Kearney's most difficult assignments as a school counselor came when he went to St. Theresa School in Oakland after the 1991 firestorm.

The kids were struggling to deal with a range of emotions, from great fear and anxiety to questions about where they would live and what would happen to them. Many had lost everything including their pets and special toys and were overwhelmed by feelings of helplessness.

"It was difficult to see the children's lives disrupted and the children in pain," he said.

A team of counselors, dispatched by Catholic Charities' Catholic Counseling Service (CCS), consoled the children, telling them that it is okay to feel scared. Many kids were especially frightened at seeing their parents "thrown off" by the fire's destruction.

"When parents are in crisis it is scary for children. It magnifies their fears, insecurities. They have to be given a lot of reassurance," Brother Kearney said.

Counselors like the Holy Cross Brother continued to provide that reassurance and support through CCS's school counseling program, working within the parish community until a children's support group ended recently.

The diocesan-wide service currently provides school-based counseling services in 18 elementary schools and one high school.

The program offers individual therapy, group therapy, family counseling and consultation to teachers and principals. Teachers or principals can refer a child to a counselor. Parents can ask for their child to be seen by a counselor or seek a counseling appointment for themselves. A child can also initiate an appointment.

All but two of the schools receive counseling services once a week. According to figures compiled last year by CCS, 598 children were counseled. There were 5,178 counseling sessions and 2,378 consultations.

"We have no shortage of students to work with," said Brother Kearney, supervisor for CCS counselors in Alameda County and coordinator for the school counseling program for both counties. He is a licensed clinical social worker.

A typical day for Brother Kearney is filled with appointments. He often sees parents before they go to work or at the end of the day. He meets with individual children and various youth support groups including Rainbows for All God's Children.

Rainbows offers group support for children whose parents have died, are separated or divorced. Other support groups help students with self-esteem, grief and loss, peer relationships, conflict resolution, self-control, and moving into the teen years.

The gatherings give the children an opportunity to process the difficult adjustments and changes taking place in their families and a chance to talk about their feelings. Often the children learn they can help one another and come up with some solutions, Brother Kearney said.

"One child will tell another child what they have done in that situation. So they really form a close, supportive network."

A crisis intervention program, another special service, makes counselors available to Catholic schools facing a crisis such as the death of a student or teacher or a natural disaster.

Brother Kearney, 46, became the first CCS counselor to work at a school on a full-day basis at St. Bede School in Hayward in 1987. The Holy Cross Brother, nearing the end of his sixth year at the school, also worked for four years at St. Clement School, also in Hayward.

Prior to his arrival in the Oakland Diocese, the Iowa native worked at a Michigan school for delinquent children where he became involved in counseling. The soft-spoken man, a member of the Holy Cross community since 1965, later became a counselor at schools in Chicago and San Rafael.

Brother Kearney enjoys working with children because they are not yet set in their ways. "It's easier for them to change, make adaptations and make adjustments." Children also possess an innocence, energy and spontaneity "all of which I find very energizing," he added. "They keep me young."

AWARD GIVEN TO BR. JOE McTAGGART

At a ceremony recently at Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills, CA, where he works, Br. Joe McTaggart was presented with the "Have a Heart" award. This award was initiated by a family who brought their child to the Holy Cross emergency room and were treated with great kindness and care. Each year, four employees are given this award with their names engraved on a plaque donated by the Sapper family.

The award is given to those employees who have received numerous letters of appreciation from patients and families.

The employee's supervisor is then asked to write a recommendation for this award based on initiative, compassion and performance. The recipients are then chosen from those nominated.

Sister Colleen Settles, O.P., writes, "We are proud to have Joe in our Chaplaincy Department and we ask you to join us in congratulating him for the care and compassion he brings to the patients here at Holy Cross Medical Center."

The congratulations of the entire province go out as well to Joe on the occasion of this recognition of his very effective ministry.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OF WEST AFRICA

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL: The District is considering the possibility of retaking responsibility for the running of St. John's, the first foundation of the Brothers in Ghana. This would involve a Holy Cross Brother as Headmaster and control of the direction and orientation of the school. The reason for this is that most schools in Ghana have been unable to retain the quality of previous years. It is hoped that by taking control of St. John's the Brothers will be able to return it to the quality it once enjoyed and also serve as an example of what could be done in other schools. The Bishop of Sekondi has given his approval for this. However, many details must be worked out, the most important of which is the approval of the Ministry of Education. The Sisters of the Holy Cross would join the Brothers in this undertaking

CSC PRIESTS IN THE DISTRICT: The District continues to study the possibility of having CSC priests as part of the district. The matter is quite complicated, involving, among other things, the notion of a mixed district, a formation plan for the seminarians, a collaborative plan for the priests, brothers and sisters, and the financing of this development. Brother Michael Amakyi, Vocations Promoter for the District, reports that seven young men have made inquiries for entering Holy Cross to study for the priesthood since September 1993.

LAND PALAVER: The District is presently engaged in attempting to finalize the amount of land actually purchased for St. Joseph Farm. Originally, it was thought that the amount purchased was forty acres. Later, it was discovered that the surveyor had made a serious error in his calculations. Negotiations are presently underway to finalize the matter. It should be noted that disputes about ownership of land are part and parcel of Ghanaian life. Presently, 19 acres are involved. The matter is in the hands of the diocesan lawyer.

CANDIDACY PROGRAM: This program is scheduled to be restarted in September, 1994. It has not been operating for the past two years. One of the main considerations causing difficulty in knowing who to accept for this program is the matter of success on the School Certificate examinations. These results come out after the beginning of a school year. Many religious communities are wrestling with the question of whether to accept those awaiting examination results.