

Midwest Bits and Pieces

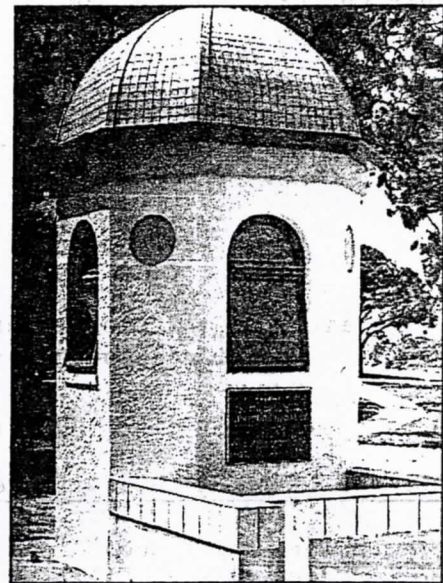
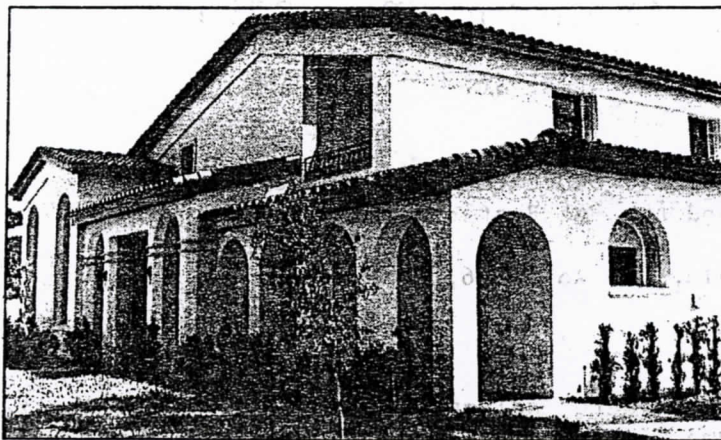
SESQUICENTENNIAL

May 18, 1991

Senior Friendship Centers New Venice Complex



■ New Venice Complex Dedication



New Venice Complex Dedication

Kathleen Toale, President of the Board of Governors of Senior Friendship Centers, welcomed a crowd of Sarasota County residents and distinguished guests to the Dedication of the new Senior Friendship Centers Complex overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway in Venice. Ceremonies were at 11 a.m. Friday, April 26.

Situated on the Intracoastal Waterway, the new 26,000 square foot complex is beautifully landscaped with shrubs, flowers, tall pines, and oaks, plus 100 newly planted oak trees.

The complex includes the Kathleen K. Catlin Friendship Center, the Pat Buster Health Service, and the Annex, a smaller building housing Transportation Dispatch for South County, Maintenance, and the Small Appliance Repair shop.

A quaint domed Gate House stands at the entrance to the Venice showplace.

Among distinguished guests introduced prior to the ribbon cutting were Congressman Porter Goss, Merle Graser, President of First National Bank, and chairman of the Building Committee; committee co-chair Pat Tyler, Harry Case, Mayor of Venice, Brother William Geenen, founder of the Senior Friendship Centers, and Rep. James Lombard.

A surprise event of the day came from Congressman Porter Gross, who presented to Brother Geenen a framed copy of the Announcement of the April 26 Dedication of the new Senior Friendship Centers in Venice as printed in the Congressional Record.

Brother William Geenen thanked donors, the building Committee, and the community for helping to make the Senior Friendship Centers complex become a reality. He promised that Senior Friendship Centers will be able to serve better the South County seniors in these new facilities. (Taken from TODAY'S SENIOR, published by The Sarasota Herald-Tribune for Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. - May 1, 1991)

Introduction for Brother William Geenen

by
Lamar Matthews, Jr.

Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. Dedication of Kathleen K. Catlin
Friendship Center and the Pat Buster Health Service

Venice, Florida, April 26, 1991

Can One Person Make a Difference?

Can humility succeed in a world where self-proclamation is the norm - what Manchester's first volume on Winston Churchill refers to as the "ritual of self reference"?

Can one of deep religious conviction build a non-sectarian organization to meet human needs?

Can you find great vision and pragmatism in the same individual?

Will you ever know a person who is truly good - whose goodness blesses everyone he touches?

If you know Brother William Geenen, you may answer each question, yes.

Sarasota County, Florida got a new resident in 1973. He came with a vision for helping the elderly; he brought little else.

Eighteen years later we dedicate these magnificent facilities, on the shores of the beautiful inter-coastal waterway. A centerpiece of a helping network of facilities and volunteers that stretches from Sarasota to Venice and Englewood and North Port in Sarasota County, down the west coast of Florida to Ft. Meyers, Lehigh Acres and Naples. and over to Arcadia in DeSoto County. A program nationally acclaimed as a model for elder care.

Yes, many have helped , and many of you are here today.

Yes, many more will serve in the years to come.

But without Brother Geenen - his vision and his ability to harness what was required to fulfill that vision - we would not be looking at what we survey today.

With apologies to the great musicians we have heard today, I confess I also enjoy country music. The words are frequently trite, but sometimes very meaningful. A few years ago a ballad that I still remember comes to me now. The chorus was:

Old folks, old folks,
blessed is the child of yesterday.
Love those old folks
for someday, you'll be old folks too.

We look differently at serving our children of yesterday, and to our own sunset years because of what you have done for all of us.

May God continue to bless you and your work, our Brother Geenen.

New Superiors Named For Columba Hall And Holy Cross Brothers' Center

At the May meeting of the provincial council, Brother James Newberry was confirmed as Religious Superior of Columba Hall and Brother Joseph Fox was confirmed as Religious Superior of Holy Cross Brothers' Center. The terms for each of them is three years. The official date for assuming their duties is July 1. This can be altered to suit the needs of the individuals.

Holy Cross Withdrawing From Dominica

The provincial visitation was made in Dominica in April. Several meetings were held with the Bishop, the Minister of Education, and members of our community. At the conclusion of these meetings, all parties concerned agreed that our services would end with the conclusion of the school year in early July.

Sister Nell Murray, Sister Ann Arno, Sister Juanita Wood, and Brother Thomas Scheurer are to be commended for their service rendered the people of Grand Bay. Despite the poverty and very difficult conditions under which our community had to work, they were able to affect the lives of many Dominicans. We are grateful to God for this opportunity to serve His poor and pray that the efforts of our brother and sisters will have lasting effects in the years to come.

Cyclone In Bangladesh

Brother John Rozario sent a FAX on May 4 in which he reported on the conditions of the country following the recent killer cyclone which hit in the Chittagong Area a week or so ago. He reported:

"The cyclone on the night of April 29th blowing over the coastal areas caused a havoc - worse than that of 1969. Most of the islands were under water for 2/3 days. For the first two days, helicopters visiting the islands could not land anywhere as no land was in sight. Chittagong and Cox Bazar areas suffered the most, it seems. No full report is available yet. Death toll may go well over 100,000. The government is asking for help from home and abroad.

C. I. sheeting roofs of St. Placid's and St. Scholasitica's were blown off. One of the houses in the hill top in Diang was blown off. 90% of the homes were blown off; of course, 100% of the standing crops were ruined. The Fathers, Brothers and the Sisters are O.K. I have no detailed news from Barisal Area. One middle span of the new Karnafully River Bridge was broken off.

I am going to Chittagong tomorrow. Will keep you informed. Please keep us in your prayers.

Brother John Rozario, CSC."

Directory Updates

Brother Joseph Berg, Associate Director, Catholic Charities USA, 1731 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Tel. (703) 549-1390



BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

TELEPHONE: AREA 219 233-1511

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION MIDWEST PROVINCE
POST OFFICE BOX 460 NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

May, 15, 1991

Dear Brother,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past six years and for your confidence shown me in your electing me for another term as your provincial. As in any ministry, it is important to know that what you are doing is appreciated. I would also like to share with you some thoughts about our vocation as Brothers of Holy Cross.

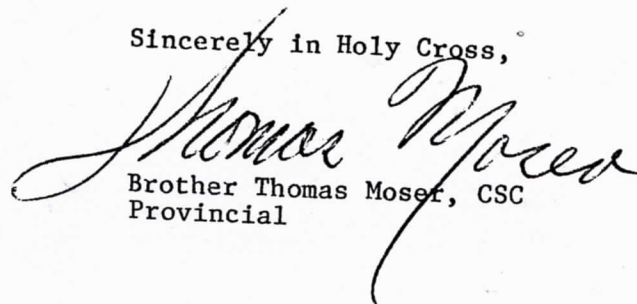
The most rewarding aspect of the ministry of provincial for me is interviewing prospective candidates who are interested in joining our way of life. Part of the interview is spent going over the candidate's awareness of the state of the Church and religious life today. The intention is to let them know that we are in a state of change and that they need to be willing to go along with religious life as it develops.

I point out to them that in the Church and religious life there are those who believe that this way of life is their vocation and that they are willing to make a go of it, and invite them, if they want to be a part of religious life, to come and join us. We need the support of willing people who believe that Holy Cross will continue to be in service to the needs of the Church.

You and I have freely chosen this way of life and must continue to do so each day as we try to bring our wills into conformity to the will of God for us and his Church.

Once again, thanks for your support. It is appreciated and is a great aid as I make this journey along with you in the ministry to the Church and living out my vocation to Holy Cross.

Sincerely in Holy Cross,


Brother Thomas Moser, CSC
Provincial