

# Midwest Bits and Pieces

November 15, 1989

## All Shook Up

Brother Bruce Lescher writes from San Francisco - "I was in San Francisco at a meeting when the quake hit. We were meeting in an old school building which had recently been structurally reinforced because it's being turned into a neighborhood center. It shook like crazy, so I'm mighty glad it was reinforced! We had no idea of the magnitude of the damage, and we just kept meeting for another half hour or so when we decided to stop because continuing aftershocks were making it impossible to concentrate on the agenda of the meeting. When we went outside, there were thousands of people on the sidewalks. No electricity, no subway, though diesel buses were running. We noticed that some buildings had large cracks in them. People were calm and polite. There was no panic. Even car traffic seemed to be moving with few problems, despite the fact that there were no traffic lights. People were standing in small groups around car radios or portable radios, and news of the damage began to filter through: The Bay Bridge had partially collapsed, and the Nimitz had also collapsed. No one could believe it. When we realized that BART (the subway) was not going to be running that evening, we headed for the home of the mother of one of the people at the meeting. Seven of us ended up bunking down there for the night. As it got dark, we lit candles and listened to a portable radio. The next morning, one of the tenants at the house gave us a ride to BART and I was back home by 9 a.m."

## New Regional Superior

The province wishes to thank Brother Edward Libbers for his service as Regional Director for the Akron area. Brother Barry Lambour has been appointed Regional Superior to replace Brother Edward who is enjoying a sabbatical this year.

## Homesick

Brother James O'Connell writes from his new assignment at Boys Hope in St. Louis: "There are many noticeable aspects in living away from a CSC community. A few things most taken for granted are EACH OTHER, the availability of common prayer and liturgy or simply being around each other in the TV room or dining room. In a word, simply being PRESENT to each other. You guessed it, I've been experiencing a little 'homesickness' for CSC.

"Shortly after arriving in St. Louis, a visit to the old Union Station, now a mall, brought back memories of my scholastic train rides between St. Ed's and the north. Following Brother Regis Regensberger's advice, I found a 'good reasonably priced golf course' for R & R. Little by little I am learning my way around town.

"Miss ya, but am enjoying my new apostolate."

## Chimbote, Peru

John Benesh recently wrote a most interesting letter about the place of his mission - Peru. John is assistant district superior and teaches math, physics and religion. He lives at Chimbote, a seven hour bus ride from Lima.

John noted that inflation in Peru for the past year amounted to 570.5%. Salaries have gone up during this time, but these increases have been significantly less than the inflation rate, so most people have lost at least 50% of their buying power. Peru's inflation rate is the highest of all Central and Latin American countries.

Shortages of common necessary items continue from time to time. John writes: "We are currently in another time of shortages. This time, wheat flour has all but disappeared so there is little or no bread or hard rolls that many people depend on for breakfast. Kerosene disappeared for several days a while back (80% of the people around here cook on kerosene stoves) but now it is back in normal supply. Cooking oil has been out of sight the past couple of weeks, but it should reappear soon since a new 'official' price was announced yesterday (about double what it was before)."

Concerning living conditions, John adds: "Despite these minor things, we in Chimbote are living normally and, so far, are little affected by the power shortages and terrorism that affects the people in Lima and in many mountain areas. I continue to believe that the most dangerous aspect of our lives is the bus trip between Chimbote and Lima, especially at night."

Concerning Holy Cross, John notes: "Our full CSC group in Peru, men and women, includes eight priests and one brother, one professed Peruvian seminarian, one candidate who will go to the novitiate in February, 1990, and three Indiana CSC sisters and five CSC sisters from Canada. There are also two Peruvian novices who will probably make their profession in early or mid March, 1990."

Concluding, John adds: "Today, October 1, 1989, I am completing four years in Peru. It hasn't been easy adjusting to a new country and a different language after having lived in the USA for fifty-five years. Fortunately, I had six months before beginning to teach and then teaching only part time the first year. There have been no ill effects from the bout of hepatitis I had in August, 1986, and since then I have had only the ever present common cold, and that probably less frequently than in winters in the U.S.

"What's the latest on the ND football scene? I know from the schedule that they have played four games by now, but I haven't seen a score as yet."

## Welcome

Brother Lawrence Subol Rozario, from the Bangladesh vice-province, is presently at the University of Portland for a special English course. He hopes to enter the University of Notre Dame in the second semester, to pursue an MSA degree. If he is accepted by Notre Dame, he will live at Columba Hall during his time of study.

## Desert Spirituality

A recent brochure from Spiritual Life Ministries of the Newman Center at Palm Desert, California, announced a number of special weekend events. Brother Carl Sternberg is a staff member of the center and a presenter in four of the weekend events.

Holy Cross Weekend: September 30 and October 1. This consisted of prayerful consideration of Holy Cross Spirituality with presentation and discussion on the role of the laity in Holy Cross, characteristics of a lay Holy Cross Spirituality, history of this movement, and the role in the future of Holy Cross and the Church. Presenters were Brother Carl Sternberg, Fr. Bob Nogosek and Fr. Louis Putz.

Introduction to Spiritual Direction: October 3 & 10. Discussion on the role of spiritual direction in a Christian's life, with options to experience individual or group direction. Preliminary administration of the Myer Briggs Personality Indicator. Presenter: Brother Carl Sternberg.

Youth Spirituality Weekend: October 21 and 22. An orientation to the psychological and spiritual dynamics that take place in adolescence. Consideration of the many problems youth face in this culture and helping them attain a spirit that will sustain them in this challenge and give the incentive to reach their highest potential. Presenters: Mr. Joe Exline and Brother Carl Sternberg.

Journal Workshop; December 2 & 3. Based on the works of Jung, Prokoff and Schmitt, the workshop offers participants the opportunity to reflect on their daily life experiences, moments of decisions in their lives, their spiritual journey, and to discover what continues to be meaningful. Presenter: Brother Carl Sternberg.

## Guest at the Brothers' Center

Brother Vincent Gross returned recently from Ghana because of illness. Brother Chester Caster accompanied Brother Vincent. Vincent has been suffering from a serious case of malaria for the past four or five months. He has lost weight and does not seem able to regain his strength, even though the malaria seems to have been brought under control. Vincent is undergoing a series of tests to determine if treatment other than good food and rest are necessary. He is in residence at the Brothers' Center.

## Computer Science Society

A letter from Bob Dailey from Chile reminded us that we had failed to report his having been selected to present a paper at the International Conference of the Chilean Computer Science Society held July 10 to 14, 1989, at Santiago, Chile. Bob's paper, Message Traffic Controls in a Distributed Environment, was one of the more than one hundred papers presented to the conference to be selected for presentation to the conference. Papers were received from seventeen countries from North and South America, Europe, Asia and Oceania. Bob teaches in the Depto. de Ciencias de la Computacion at the Universidad de Chile.

## Andre Award

Harvest House, a program for older persons sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ft. Wayne/South Bend, held its Sixteenth Annual Fall Festival at Century Center, in South Bend, on October 31, 1989. Brother Thomas Shaughnessy, Director of Catholic Social Services for South Bend, planned the program and served as chairman at the gathering.

The feature of the festival was the presentation of THE ANDRE AWARD to Don McNeill, a man known and loved for his many years on the Breakfast Club, broadcast daily for many years from Chicago, and for his active engagement in the fight against Alzheimer's Disease, which claimed his wife's life in 1985. The award, presented for the first time this year and to be an annual presentation, is intended to highlight a distinguished service performed to benefit today's senior population. It is sponsored by the Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross.

Brother Paul Kelly represented the province at the festival and was the winner of the door prize -- \$100.00.

## Heatless

From St. Ed's we hear that the house boiler gave out and the house was without heat for September and October. The brothers survived on a fireplace, electric portable heaters and an occasional patch of heat from the school boiler. The new boiler went into operation October 31. Tom Scheurer and James Spooner bore the brunt of the headaches during the heatless period. Columba Hall, I am sure, will be able to appreciate what the Brothers at St. Ed's went through.

A first for St. Ed's: No live-in chaplain this year. Members make their way to various churches for Mass. And since mid-September, Father John Blazak has come over each Tuesday evening for a weekly community Mass.

Bishop James Quinn of the Western Region joined six members of the local clergy for the annual Mass in the high school celebrating the Feast of St. Edward and the Feast of All Saints on November 1. A number of students were commissioned as Eucharist Ministers at the Mass. Bishop Quinn will come to the Brothers' chapel on Saturday, January 6, to celebrate the liturgy with the local and area C.S.C.'s for the feast of Brother Andre Bessette, C.S.C.