

Midwest Bits and Pieces

SEPTEMBER 1, 1991

ROBERT SIEGEL ATTENDS NATIONAL CIRCUS FANS OF AMERICA GATHERING

The National Circus Fans of America held a memorial service in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Peru, Indiana, to honor all the circus people buried in the cemetery. A roll call of the circus dead and hymns played on a calliope were features of the ceremony. Brother Robert Siegel gave the invocation and delivered the memorial address.

HOLY TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL COMMENDED

Dear Brothers:

A great event happened twenty-four years ago. You were involved in it and to some extent responsible for it although you may not have been personally aware of it. One of your schools opened its doors to a group of hearing impaired students. At that time to give away space was a great sacrifice.

Holy Trinity High School in Chicago not only accepted the program but welcomed it. The loving attitude of the Brothers was contagious. The student body captured it and it grew with the years. You will never know how you helped the hearing impaired. They, too, enriched your students.

In a few weeks the program will close due to a lack of funds as well as a declining enrollment. We, in the Archdiocese of Chicago, want to thank you for every teacher and student involved through the years in the program since 1967. You have helped in the shaping of many leaders both in the Church and the working world. We cannot adequately express our gratitude in the written word, but a promise to remember you in prayer and beg God to bless your work in education as He alone can do, remains.

A very special thanks to Brother Ken Haders and Mr. Randy Metzler as they carry through on the pain-filled operation of closing. Some day they, too, will see and understand all the marvelous realizations that came with the hardships of closing.

You will accept the beautiful words from the poetry of FOOTSTEPS:

...The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child,
I love you and would never leave you. During
your times of trial and suffering, when you see
only one set of footprints, it was then that
I carried you!"



Thank you for carrying the other footprints, that of the hearing impaired, for these many years.

Father Joseph Mulchrone, Director of
the Cardinal Stritch Foundation

Phyllis Winter, Principal

HOLY CROSS AND SOUTH BEND POLONIA

Recently, Holy Cross Archives Center of the Indiana Province published a book by Brother Donald Stabrowski, which outlines the history of the Polish people in South Bend and the place of Holy Cross in it. It is the sixth in a series of publications "intended to be of assistance in the gathering of the building blocks from which a general history of the Congregation may someday be written." Copies may be obtained from The Province Archives Center, P. O. Box 568, Notre Dame, IN 46556. The cost is \$5.00 per copy, plus \$1.15 mailing charges.

HERE I AM - IN A NEW WAY

Matthew A. Ashun

As my feet touched Ghana soil once again after fifteen months stay in Uganda, the predominant feeling was that of exhilaration, the journey had finally completed its course, and the traveller had come full circle, in many ways.

Despite the months of preparation, I was still a bit nervous about the novitiate program and all it would entail, and it all went with my baggage on the trip to Uganda. Once there however, the effects of the different culture, language and the effort needed to cope with all these, supplanted the fear. By the time the program began my concerns were about the method to use in learning and speaking the local language as a native would, and how to approach people, too! They were tangible concerns that occupied my attention throughout the year.

In the course of the year, numerous opportunities for learning new things were offered and I availed myself of these in a few areas-- goat herding, painting, cooking, basketball, and even guitar playing! The constant availability of the staff, the timely and wise corrections they offered, helped me to shape and direct my studies in these and many other areas. Most of all, the interaction with my mates helped me learn the essence of unity in diversity, the unique hallmark of Holy Cross. Of all the experiences, what I can dare to pinpoint in the whole year that really made a great difference to me was my time spent in ministry to some of the students in Fort Portal.

These were senior students who had been through situations that I can sometimes dream about, who knew some bitter lessons in life and had learnt to survive by adopting some drastic and quite brutal defenses - and were good at it. Against such a background, I was shown my own inadequacies, and their probing and prying forced me to come to terms with the many why's and how's in my life that I had yet to consider. In my attempt to become a minister in deed to them, I had to draw upon the wealth of experience offered by the staff. I had to draw upon the strength of God, and as I was to find - I had to rediscover who I was.

Their presence was constant, their questions never let up, their pressure was intense and my list of failures was also many. Through all these, the strong support of community living, the unflinching strength I discovered in the Lord, and the insights I was led to gain in my own self, made me see what I could do with my whole being if I was put to it, and they deserve all the credit for making my year a success. Whatever advances I made in my personal prayer life, whatever tools I employed in enhancing my community living, whatever use I made of talents was inspired, in part if not in whole, by these young wise people who had more to offer than I could give, yet accepted my little for all it was worth. To them goes the credit, too, for teaching me that a Brother is everything indeed - and that to be alive is to be aware of who one is.

GRANT FROM TRI-CONFERENCE RETIREMENT OFFICE

The province recently received a check in the amount of \$67,03.04 for our Life Development Fund. This is an annual grant and comes from a fund drive conducted by the Tri-Conference Retirement Office of the United States Catholic Conference. The condition placed upon the gift is that the funds can be used only for the present or future

care of retired members. Religious communities benefiting from the fund are asked to have their members assist in promoting the Retirement Fund for Religious.

THE FUTURE

The augur, the soothsayer, the wizard

All deal in the impenetrable,

THE FUTURE.

Life is not rat-behavior in a maze,

Nor imagined utopias on which to gaze.

It's comprehensible, not pointless,

With no frenzied complexity like

Nude Descending A Staircase.

If one is philosophically, emotionally,

spiritually attuned,

Then with lucidity and assurance

One can face the future, well-groomed.

So proclaiming as motto, we shout:

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Is what the future's all about.

--Brother Remigius Bullinger, CSC

15 June, 1991



**Marcel Duchamp. Nude
Descending a Staircase, No. 2.
1912. Louise and Walter
Arensberg Collection,
Philadelphia Museum of Art.**