

Midwest Bits and Pieces

SEPTEMBER 1, 1993

BROTHER EPHREM O'DWYER

This is a copy of a letter sent by the Provincial to dioceses we serve, schools where we are or have been present, asking them to join in our celebration of the 175th commemoration of the founding of the Brothers of St. Joseph, later to become Brothers of Holy Cross.

Dear,

During 1991 and 1992 the Congregation of Holy Cross celebrated the sesquicentennial of its arrival in the United States and its contribution during 150 years to the apostolate of education in North America. Even before their arrival in Indiana, both priests and brothers had been engaged in the ministry of education for many years in Europe. The brothers were in fact founded in 1820 by Fr. James Dujarie and, as the Brothers of St. Joseph, responded to the urgent demand for Christian education in post-revolutionary France. In 1835 because of the founder's ill health they were united with Fr. Basil Moreau's Auxiliary Priests and became the Association of Holy Cross, helping fulfill Fr. Moreau's dream of forming a religious family consisting of priests, brothers and sisters to respond as a dedicated group to the needs of the Church.

The year 1995, therefore, will mark the anniversary of the founding of the Brothers of St. Joseph and will call attention to the contribution made throughout their 175 years by the brothers to the apostolate of education in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and North America first as the Brothers of St. Joseph and then as the Brothers of Holy Cross.

The general chapter of the Congregation of

Holy Cross, held in 1992 in the very diocese in which the brothers were founded, recommended that suitable celebrations be organized for 1995 to observe this historic date. The delegates proposed that there be opportunities to focus on the brothers' vocation, on the life of Fr. Dujarie, and the ministry of education in collaboration with lay co-workers in Holy Cross schools. In addition, they suggested that liturgies and prayer services be developed to emphasize the educational apostolate of youth; that papers, lectures and displays about the early history, mission and educational methods of the Brothers of St. Joseph be organized; and that there be regional gatherings of brothers, priests and sisters of Holy Cross to honor the occasion.

As part of the celebration a full length book has been commissioned to commemorate the outstanding contribution of the brothers to the educational apostolate under the leadership of Brother Ephrem O'Dwyer (1888-1978), who from 1946 to 1956 was the first provincial of the single autonomous and homogeneous brothers province in the United States.

Authored by Br. Philip Armstrong, former Midwest provincial and assistant general, the biography of Br. Ephrem will take a brief look at his early years, from his childhood in Ireland to his joining Holy Cross and his teaching and administration in its schools. Then Br. Ephrem's important years at Notre Dame will be reviewed, including his time as treasurer of the university, as a member of the provincial council, as a vocation recruiter, and as an always stalwart promoter of the interests of the brothers. Attention will be given as well to Br. Ephrem's role in the preparation for the division of the priests' and brothers' societies into autonomous

provinces in 1945 and the challenges connected with the subsequent implementation of this plan. A major focus of the book will be on Br. Ephrem's ten years as provincial of the brothers' province. An effort will be made to show his extraordinary strengths in administration and education, and his management of province personnel, as well as to illustrate his profound humanity, his compassionate pastoral qualities and his determination in guiding the brothers into prominence as Holy Cross religious in their mission to the Church. Finally, a significant section will be devoted to the reminiscences of many current brothers who knew and may have lived or worked with Br. Ephrem. These personal reflections will be a valuable key toward understanding this unique Irishman and the importance of his contribution through his remarkable leadership to the overall mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and may shed some light on the unique spirit he was able to engender, a spirit which continues to pervade Holy Cross institutions.

At this time I would like to invite you to join us in our celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the brothers. Now you can join with us in making the biography a worthy symbol of the significance of the event. You are invited to contribute toward the cost of publishing the book. Your involvement and needed assistance will be most welcomed and appreciated. Whatever you can do corporately or individually will of course be gratefully acknowledged in the book. We are sending letters of appeal to the dioceses in which we serve, the provinces of our congregation and all Holy Cross institutions.

Help us to make this anniversary memorable not only for the religious of Holy Cross but for all who in any way are involved in the mission of the congregation throughout the world. The biography of Br. Ephrem will reveal not only his personal role in launching the notable effectiveness of the brothers' apostolate but also provide a hint as to the

spirit underlying the traditional dedication of the brothers to their ministries and their desire to welcome the direct collaboration and partnership of their lay co-workers in the mission of the Church today.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Br. Thomas Moser, C.S.C.
Provincial
Midwest Province



BROTHER BERNARD renews those around him

At the Diocesan Lodge we have been celebrating Brother Bernard Mosier's 10 years among us. A member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, his is a ministry which invites us to keep going.

To some of his friends, it seemed in 1980 that Brother Bernard was ready for retirement. A religious brother for 65 years, he had spent many years teaching in high schools. He spent more than 25 years as a teacher and mentor to young men at Father Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Ind. Also, he had done missionary work for 10 years in India. It seemed time to rest.

Then, having heard of his background, I asked him to come to the Diocesan Lodge near Spartansburg to share his life with men trying to recover from addictions, from the effects of imprisonment, or from wandering life on the roads or the streets.

He came "for a few summers" on the condition that he could bring his bee hives and his dog. The bears have destroyed the bee hives, the dog has died, but Brother Bernard remains -- not just for summers, but year-round in what he now describes as some of the most fruitful years of ministry.

That ministry is sharing life. Weekly, he takes the group of residents -- usually mixed in age and attitudes -- for a discussion. He is soft-spoken, deliberate, but intensely serious --whether he's discussing patience, or acceptance, or prayer, or the need for trust. Men, many years younger, wonder at first what he's about.

Then they start to understand. They may work with him in the gardens that help supply food for the lodge, or ride with him for a while on one of his numerous trips from the lodge, or get help from him in reading, or advice about a book. Or they are alert when he shares in the Scripture discussions which are held twice weekly. Sometimes they walk together, fish, or simply listen to him as he plays the piano with no inconsiderable skill.

He doesn't use a syllabus.

And the men know in a brief time that he is real - and what you see is what you get.

Men who have finished our programs come back often for friendship and consultation. Brother Bernard is one aspect of their renewal that remains. He's there. He's still smiling; he's still telling fascinating jokes.

The humor still carries with it some of the flavor of Kersey, where he was born in 1908. When he entered the Holy Cross Brothers at age 17, it was clear that something good had come out of Kersey. When he returned to the Erie Diocese in 1982, it was clear that God had saved the best until last.

With his trust and generosity and his commitment to the needs of the men around him, it's also clear that the best is yet to

come. (The article was published in the diocesan newspaper and written by Father James Peterson who works with the diocesan office of Catholic Charities and Maria House Projects.)

TEACHER HONORED BY SCHOOL

Brother James Rottenbucher, CSC, of Monroe, a German teacher and head of the music department at Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview, was named Teacher of the Year for 1992-1993 at the parochial school.

Brother Jim, as he is known, was honored by the school board recently for his "many hours of service, dedication and professionalism" as head of the foreign language and music departments and teaching theology (morality and ethics), German, sociology and music at Gabriel Richard..

"Your efforts as a staff member are evident everywhere, in the efficient running of your classroom and masterful teaching," Robert Asmussen, president of the school board, said in a letter announcing the award. The letter also noted his "excellent rapport and social interaction with our students, in your service on a number of school committees; in your involvement as graduation coordinator, department head and bookstore coordinator; in your sensitivity and availability for your students, and in the professional attitude manifested by you."

Recently Brother James was named co-chairman of the North Central Association Outcomes Accreditation study at the school. The five-year study will determine curriculum goals for the school.

Brother James has revitalized the band and music programs at Gabriel Richard. The band grew from about a dozen members when he arrived to 85 members this past year.

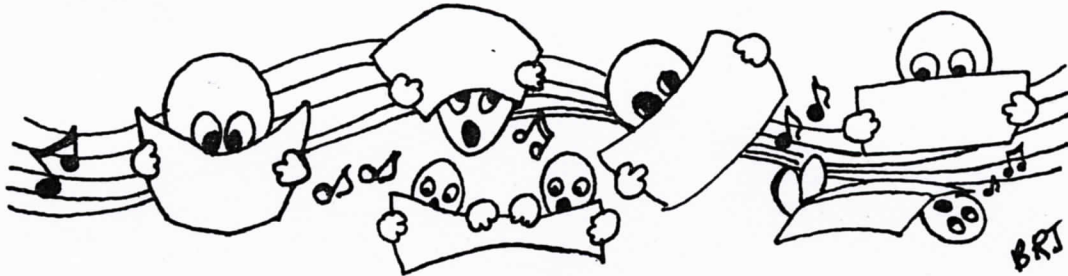
Last summer James led the band on a tour of Austria, Germany and Switzerland. In July, 1994, he will lead them on a three-week concert tour to Rome, Italy, to perform for Pope John Paul II. They also will play in music festivals in Assisi, Florence and Venice, Italy, and again visit Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Brother is a representative of Musart International Inc., which arranges musical tours for college and high school bands and choirs. While teaching at Monroe Catholic Central, James had taken the bands and glee clubs on European tours in 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982 and 1984. (Taken from *Monroe Evening News*, June 17, 1993)

In that list was Brother William Geenen. (Taken from the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* of June 28, 1993.)

NEWS ON TOM CUNNINGHAM

An article in *The Salt Lake Tribune* for June 29, 1993, contained an article on the difficulties AIDS patients are experiencing in finding affordable housing in the Salt Lake City area. The article also mentioned that Brother Thomas Cunningham, an employee of Holy Cross Hospital, Salt Lake City, has received a grant to study housing for AIDS victims. He recently testified before the Governor's Housing Task Force on the housing difficulties.



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S POWER BROKERS

Recently the *SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE* made efforts to determine who were the power brokers in three counties of Southwest Florida. The *Herald Tribune's* staff drew up a list of dozens of leaders in such fields as politics, media and government, civic affairs and business, education, charity and the arts. These people were then asked to name Southwest Florida's most influential leaders in the same categories.

In responding to the survey, over eight hundred names were received. Some were mentioned more than others; and a few mentioned in several of the categories. None were mentioned by every one. The general conclusion was that no power elite controls Southwest Florida.

At the end of the article, the paper listed about 150 persons who "wield some clout".

'HARDEE'S HOMETOWN HEROES AWARDS'

On August 4, 1993, Brother Thomas Corcoran and 24 others will be honored as a *Hardee's Hometown Hero* for his work in tutoring needy students in the South Bend area.

The award will be presented by South Bend Mayor Joseph Kernan in a special ceremony to be held at 2 p.m. on August 4 in the JAAC Monogram Room at the University of Notre Dame. The program is open to the public. A brief reception will follow the presentation of the awards.

