

Midwest . . . News Notes

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

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The Province Annual Financial Report and Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967 is now available. Provincial Steward Brother Donald Bailer points out that overall income trends are downward and expenses up. The Provincial and his Council is now studying the report. Also, this report is the one to be presented to the General Chapter of 1968.

The Provincial Steward announces there will not be a meeting of Province Stewards at the time local Superiors meet on November 11, 1967. However, there will be such a meeting some time in the future after more information has been gathered about various health and insurance plans.

On his forthcoming visit to Africa, and interviews with the Superior General in Rome, Brother Donatus Schmitz will have the following items of business on his agenda: 1) a study and possible decision about religious garb for the Brothers in Africa; 2) further study and initial plans in the direction of setting up a canonically erected novitiate in Ghana; 3) implementing, so far as this is possible at the present time, recommendations five and six of the Provincial Chapter. (#5 African candidates should be given their novitiate training in West Africa. #6 When feasible, the Provincial should erect a District of West Africa, to include Liberia and Ghana.) 4) Negotiate the canonical transfer of St. Joseph Novitiate, as recommended by the Commission on Formation, from Rolling Prairie and the diocese of Gary to Holy Cross Junior College and the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Continued success of the "Recollection Weekends" is possible only if members allow themselves to be touched by the dynamics of effective group discussions: these are the words of one of six Brothers from the schools who attended the recent "weekend" conducted by Brother Pedro Haering. Brother Jerome Chandler assisted in the program as a faculty member.

At the end of the summer session at St. Edward University, the mean grade point average for seventeen junior and senior Midwest scholastics was 2.79. High in the group was a grade point average of 3.49. Five in the group of seventeen had grade point averages above 3.00. Low was 2.23.

In line with the Constitutions and Recommendation #1 of the Committee on Religious Observance and Renewal, the Brothers in Africa are in the initial phase of a dialogue centering on religious garb and dress. The aim is to give the matter an interpretation which would meet the needs and customs of the country in which the Brothers work. The study will focus primarily on the attire to be worn while teaching.

Initial plans and continued study are also under way in the direction of eventually erecting a novitiate in Ghana. Brother Raymond Papenfuss reports that progress is being made, but as stated in the Provincial's circular letter: "Details for this new program are not complete and cannot be until after the General Chapter of 1968."

<u>Delivery Date</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10/9/67	1,400	Residence Directory and Community List	\$709.44

This is the title: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MIDWEST PROVINCE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES TO THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Here are some highlights: "During the period covered by this report -- September 15, 1966 to September 15, 1967 -- a total of twenty-three Brothers of the Midwest Province earned academic degrees. This year's total is down considerably from the period covered by the previous annual report (23 vs. 37), and is only slightly more than half the number of degrees earned during the 1964-65 academic year (23 vs. 42)."

An analysis: "An analysis of the twenty scholastics holding senior and junior status according to the 1967-68 Province Directory and Community List indicates that seven are majoring in the sciences, while nine are listed as English majors. Three are majoring in the Social Studies or History, and one has a modern language for a major area."

Something about summer sessions: "A total of 159 men attended thirty-one institutions. These figures may be contrasted with the 1966 summer session attendance of 206 Brothers at thirty-nine colleges and universities. Among the reasons for the decrease may be classed: completion of degree programs, departures, and smaller admission groups."

And something about grants: "The gaining of fourteen grants for the 1967 summer session shows a marked decrease from the previous summer (14 vs. 22). The grants awarded were principally those of the National Science Foundation." The total report is eight pages long.

Brother Richard Gilman, math teacher at St. Augustine's Secondary School, Cape Coast, will co-author a chapter of a modern math book being published in Ghana next school year. Brother Richard will also act as academic coordinator of math workshops to be held during January at Winneba.

Brother Eduardo Michalik celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary of profession on Sunday, October 1, 1967. There was a con-celebrated high mass at the Cape Coast Cathedral with Archbishop John K. Amisshah as the principal celebrant. Brother Jeffrey Michels celebrated his twenty-fifth anniversary on Sunday, October 15, 1967. Rev. Francis Claerr, a Marionhill Father, a classmate of Brother Jeffrey's, celebrated a Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving at Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in Monroe. Both celebrations were followed by dinners attended by relatives and friends.

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Question #9 -- Do you think that the matter of material poverty should be treated in the new Constitutions simply in the general way in which the present Constitutions treat it or more specifically? If more specifically, please indicate details which should be included.

We feel that the matter of material poverty should be treated in the new Constitutions in a general way.

However, we also feel that the term poverty is somewhat unrealistic, and we really do not know how to define poverty today.

We accept the study made by the Superior General as outlined in his recent Circular Letteer and quote from it as follows: "The Decree on Religious Life insists that religious must be poor in fact (PC 13). Material poverty, both personal and collective, must be presented as an important aspect of our religious poverty. However, it is difficult to legislate on this matter for a community so widespread and engaged in so many different apostolates as Holy Cross.

"Are criteria for a standard of living to be suggested by the Constitutions? Two have been proposed as worthy of inclusion: environment and apostolate.

"Perhaps it should also be pointed out that our religious poverty should create in us an affinity with the poor."

Although the Constitutions would handle the matter of poverty on a general level, we feel Provincial Chapters should legislate on this matter from time to time and that formation handbooks contain such legislation.

It has been stated that the witness value of the vow of poverty would be seen in our availability both to community members and, through the apostolates, to those outside the community. We, therefore, see a strong relationship between poverty and community life, and apostolic commitment.

We feel that we should save and be frugal in our life so that we can further the works of our apostolate--but this is difficult in institutional living.

We must see a real need for the money we save for the poor and for the Church and for apostolic works.

We also feel that in our houses proper records should be kept of the finances according to good bookkeeping standards, and that the members of the house should participate in preparing the budget, and that the budget should be adhered to strictly.