

# Midwest . . . News Notes

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

Vol. 3, No. 3

November 4, 1969

The superiors and directors of the Province met at the Province Center on Friday and Saturday, October 31 and November 1. Below is a summary of the minutes of the meeting.

Role of Superior: Is evolving. No longer entirely responsible for spiritual welfare of members in view of increasing recognition of personal responsibility of each religious. Most important role seems to be creating atmosphere for and assisting in development of a truly Christian local community, since prayer life, apostolic efforts, etc. receive motivation for and growth from this. Superiors also affirmed the need to know house members much better than in the past to assist them in every way.

Prayer Life of Members: Reaffirmed the necessity of a solid prayer life for members, both as individuals and as a community. True community must be based on love and there is an urgent need that true love for one another be manifested by all. A religious who is regular at all community exercises but who does not manifest a truly Christian love for his Brothers in community relations is not a good Brother of Holy Cross. While reaffirming the necessity of community prayer, it was also recognized that community prayer is an outgrowth of true community.

There was a recognition of a dissatisfaction on the part of many religious with the liturgy and the office as they are presently celebrated in some of the houses. Also, it was recognized that a number of religious are absenting themselves from these activities. While such absence is not in keeping with the Holy Cross way of life, the superiors recognized the importance of understanding the attitude of those absenting themselves. They also underlined the importance of all members trying to understand one another and their reasons for acting as they do. If we do not understand the "why" of another's actions we do not have real community. An example of such necessary understanding is the concept younger people have of the Mass. It was noted, also, that younger religious need time to grow in prayer life, that they do not come from the same mold and the same background as older members.

There is a definite need for each of the province members to contribute to the development of community prayer which will have greater relevancy for all of the members. "Copping out", which is the procedure followed by some, is not a sincere answer to the difficulty being experienced.

What is a Holy Cross Brother?: All felt it was important for us to develop a more concrete expression of what a Holy Cross Brother is. In the evolution taking place in the Church today, misunderstanding of this is at the root of many of the difficulties we are experiencing as individuals and as a community.

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The Local Community: Has much greater importance today. It is on this level that we live our religious life: here we carry on our prayer life, our apostolic life! The most important function of each house today is to struggle manfully in forming a truly viable, dynamic Christian local community. This requires the efforts of each member. If this is done, there will be a solid prayer life and apostolic program.

Role of House Council: With the increased importance given to house meetings and the local chapter, an evolution is taking place regarding the house council. Formerly the council had a three-fold responsibility: legal-as outlined in the constitutions; advisory-to superior; and representative-of feelings of house members. In some houses the advisory and consultative roles are diminishing as house members are brought into deliberations on house and apostolic considerations. Consequently, experiments in this regard have been approved in some houses.

Evaluation of Temporarily Professed: Again, greater responsibility on local level. There was discussion of quarterly report form and it was agreed that it required revision. Role of local council and the entire community in evaluation was discussed. It was felt that religious being evaluated should be informed of the content of the evaluations sent to the Provincial.

Provincial Visits: A suggested form of house evaluation was proposed by the Provincial. Superiors were to consult the house and notify the Provincial within ten days of the type of visit they wish this year: traditional or modified. All members would have the opportunity for an interview under either form. Superiors were also to notify the Provincial when they wished the provincial visit for their houses. In view of the chapter and other work at the end of the school year, visits should be concluded by March 1.

Vocations: The question of vocations remains crucial for us. While a number have asked for dispensations in the last three years, this is not nearly as alarming as the decrease in the number of vocations during the same period. This means, then, that the greatest threat to our apostolic works is the sharply reduced number of candidates we are getting. There is a real need for all members to assist in recruiting young men to our ranks so that our present efforts can be continued and we will be able to answer some urgent requests we are receiving.

Brother Robert Fillmore is exercising ingenuity and leadership in his position of vocation director. He is optimistic concerning vocations and has offered several forward-looking suggestions. One of these is that young men presently in college be permitted to live in some of our houses in areas where they attend college in order to permit them to gain an insight into and understanding of the life of a Holy Cross Brother. Several young men he has visited in colleges have indicated an interest in this type of candidacy. Superiors were asked to discuss this with house members and notify the Provincial if they wished to participate in the program. It was suggested that such young men could be involved in some work in the school as a means of binding them to the house more closely and give them a taste of apostolic activity.

Corporate and Personal Finance: All members need to develop an awareness of the over-all budget of the house as a means of understanding personal finances as a part of corporate finance. The merits of personal budgets were discussed. Two houses using unique methods will forward outlines of them to the Provincial, who will share them with the other province houses.

Formation: Several superiors felt the province was not well informed concerning the formation program. Brother James Moroney is working on a report for the province, but it has been held up some because of pending decisions. When it is finalized he will circulate it to the province. Some discussion centered on the need for novices and scholastics to be given apostolic activity in the schools as a result of changes in formation philosophy. It was stressed that if younger religious are sent to schools there must be a definite program for them so that their work can be seen as truly apostolic. Serving as teachers' aids was one suggestion made.

Optimism for Future: The meeting ended on a positive note. Everyone should recognize that things are not falling apart in Holy Cross. We have the know-how. We have the techniques. What is required is our putting these to work in a positive manner.

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Workshop Contemporary Religious Life: The Team for the November 22-29 workshop was finalized today: Fathers Matthew Sullivan, C.P., and Lawrence Harmon, C.P., will serve as co-ordinators. The tentative schedule and personnel to handle each area is as follows:

- November 22 - Group Dynamics - Rev. Robert Basham, C.P.
- November 23-24 - Psychology - Rev. Lawrence Harmon, C.P., Robert Basham, C.P., and Bernard Curran, C.P.
- November 25-26 - Sp. Theology - Rev. Barry Rankin, C.P.
- November 27 - Thanksgiving Day - FREE
- November 28-29 - Moral Theology - Rev. Augustine Wilhelmy, C.P.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. on the 22nd, requiring participants to be here the evening of the 21st. The final session will end about 3 p.m. on the 29th. Spaces are still available. Please send reservations immediately so that final planning can be made.

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Brother James Bicket has been permitted to accept a position as Asst. Manager of Richman Brothers Town & Country Store in the South Bend area. The purpose of this is to provide him an opportunity to gain professional business experience. He is living at Columba Hall. Brother Thomas Rock is in the trainee program at the Howard Johnson Restaurant at Morton Grove, Illinois. He is living at Holy Trinity High School.

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St. Edward's High School had 27 semi-finalists on the National Merit Scholarship tests this year. This is the highest in the history of the school and represents about 7% of the senior class. This places St. Edward's among the top five schools in Ohio in number of scholarship winners.

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To date, the following Brothers have been elected as delegates for the 1970 Provincial Chapter. Several groups are not yet completed but we hope that, with the exception of delegates from our missions, all will be finalized by Nov. 15. Names in parentheses are supplementary for the group.

- Group 1 - Majealla Hegarty (Adalbert Mrowca)
- Group 2 - Donald Fleischhacker (Martinus Bombardier)
- Group 3 - James Reddy (Thomas Balaz)
- Group 4 - Richard Weber (Peter Gilles)
- Group 5 - Henry Skitzki (Amadeus Connor)
- Group 6 - Joseph Fox (Kieran Ryan)
- Group 7 - Bernard Donahoe ((James Everett)
- Group 8 - Frederick Raehsler (Richard Gilson)
- Group 9 - Not completed
- Group 10 - John Benesh, Donald Stabrowski, William Verstraete (Joseph Le Bon)
- Group 11 - Joseph Chvala, Charles Van Winkle, John Dunham, Paul Kelly (Michael Hauser)
- Group 12 - David Baltrinic, Francis Englert, Carl Shonk (William Geenen)
- Group 13 - Joseph W. Olszowka, Viator Grzeskowiak (Leonard Leary)
- Group 14 - Raymond Harrington, Robert Belanger (William Fitch)
- Group 15 - Walter Davenport, Harold Ruplinger, Charles Smith (James Rottenbucher)
- Group 16 - Vincentius Balog (Francis Heitzman)
- Group 17 - Donald Kuchenmeister (Thomas Scheurer)
- Group 18 - Peter Graham (Roy Smith)
- Group 19 - Thomas Shaughnessy (Lawrence Miller)
- Group 20 - Not completed
- Group 21 - Not completed
- Group 22 - Not completed
- Group 23 - Not completed
- Superior for Groups 17, 18, 19 - Edward Overstreet (James Newberry)
- Director for Groups 17, 18, 19 - John Barrett (Robert Hormann)
- Superior for Groups 20,21,22,23- John Ryan
- Principal for Groups 20,21,22,23 - Not yet determined.

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Several complaints have been registered that important events in the province are not reported in the News Notes. In order to forestall this in the future, we would appreciate receiving newsworthy information from each of the houses when it occurs. Please send it to Brother Rex.

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Classes have begun to use the second floor of the new building at Memorial even though the building is not expected to be completed until around January 1. The addition will more than double the square footage of the school.

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RECOMMENDED READING: The Morality Gap, by Paul Hanley Furfey. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1969. \$4.95.

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