

# Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

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FROM HOBAN HIGH SCHOOL IN AKRON: Brs. Donard Steffes and Richard Foley have been accompanying groups of students on over-the-weekend camping trips; the latest was in western Pennsylvania. \*\* "Hoban Happenings," published under direction of Br. Robert Lavelle, will appear monthly. Mrs. Pat Dunphy, formerly with the Akron Beacon Journal, helps with this project. Copies will be sent to all MW houses. \*\* Br. Richard Gilman is taking classes at Akron University, besides his work in the school. He also helps in AU's campus ministry program. \*\* Brs. Robert Dailey, Joseph Fox, and Richard Gilman accompanied the Associates of St. Joseph to the ND game on September 28.

FROM LE MANS ACADEMY IN ROLLING PRAIRIE: Four Notre Dame students have volunteered to assist with the mini courses offered to Academy students. The four are involved with camping, crafts and hobbies, and gymnasium activities. \*\* Br. Charles Beck led a paraliturgical vigil prior to the first faculty/staff meeting of the school year. \*\* Br. Edwin Mattingly is giving some of his free time to assisting the head football coach. \*\* Br. Edward Grams gave the invocation at the PTA meeting of Rolling Prairie's public school.

FROM CATHOLIC CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN MONROE: Br. Ronald LaLonde was elected vice-president of the Monroe County Guidance Association; he automatically becomes its president next year. \*\* Brs. Philip Smith, Donald Morgan and Andrew Sukenik, along with Mr. Sam Solomon, have formed a barbershop quartet called "The Brothers Three Plus One." The group has performed at Akron, at a reunion of the LaLonde family in Taylor, Michigan, and elsewhere. \*\* The German Band organized by Br. James Rottenbacher has performed thus far at one local parish's Oktoberfest and at another's Festival. \*\* On September 27 the brothers' house was broken into and \$125 stolen from two offices. \*\* Again this year Br. Alberto Bondy is teaching CCD at a local parish besides his regular classes at CCHS. \*\* Brs. Philip Smith and Donald Morgan have joined the Monroe Chamber Singers, a group of twenty-four who specialize in music of the Baroque period. Besides, Br. Philip belongs to the Monroe County Community College symphonic band, in which he is solo oboist. \*\* At the request of the pastor, the Brothers will sing a Latin Mass on one Sunday a month at St. Mary's Church. \*\* Brs. Walter Davenport, James Spooner, James Rottenbacher, and Donald Morgan passed a rigorous battery of exams--written and "on the road"--for competency in driving school buses. Michigan established very severe requirements for such bus drivers this year.

FROM WAUWATOSA: Brothers working at St. Charles Boys Home and elsewhere in the area report that the overnight retreat for sixty-three CCD students of St. Luke's parish was a real spiritual happening. At the same parish Br. James Blume teaches a course for adults: "Contemporary Christianity." The afternoon sessions are held weekly. \*\* Br. Peter Graham has as an extracurricular the job of teaching religion three days a week to grade schoolers at St. Luke's. He and Br. Roy Smith will give a retreat this month to CCD students of St. Jude parish. \*\* Br. William Wickham was elected chairperson of the Neighborhood Center organizations of Milwaukee's near South Side. \*\* Br. Arthur Gohl continues his work as an officer in the National Art Therapy Association, also with the Wisconsin Art Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Recreation Leaders Laboratory Association. \*\* Br. Warren Shea is using puppets as a very

effective therapeutic tool in working with youth. \*\* On November 3 a Mass and brief social honored Black Catholics serving in Church ministry in the Milwaukee Archdiocese. \*\* Br. William Dusseau has been spending free time visiting the sick in local hospitals.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME: Brs. Just Paczesny, John Benesh, and Joseph McTaggart took part in four Sunday meetings last month at Corby Hall in which campus CSC members discussed the Congregation's future role at the University. The talks centered on the academic area, administrative and staff services, University ministries, and community life. As a consequence of these sessions, an apostolic plan will be presented to the Indiana Province.

Besides carrying out his regular duties as Vice-President for Student Affairs, Br. Just recently was one of several Notre Dame officials who prevented a recurrence of nighttime ND student "raids" on the St. Mary's College campus. Standing on the edge of U.S. 31 until one o'clock in the morning was not pleasant, but it was effective in directing male student energy away from an activity which has ceased to be harmless fun.

Campus ministry team member Br. Joseph McTaggart is the advisor of ND student community service directors. The student director in each hall provides information to students who show interest in community service projects; he points out local community needs in hopes of finding additional volunteer workers.

Alumni Hall rector Br. John Benesh, whom students refer to as "BJ number 2," is getting acquainted with the hall's 270 residents. He reports that the men of Alumni are friendly, promote numerous athletic and social activities, and are serious about study and learning.

FROM GILMOUR ACADEMY: The sudden death on October 7 of Br. Maurice Wertzberger, a veteran staff member and mainstay of many school office operations, shocked the entire Gilmour family. A wake and special funeral liturgy was held for him at a nearby parish church prior to the community wake, the Mass, and the burial in the cemetery at the Brothers Center. \*\* A faculty "Faith Community" workshop, led by campus chaplain Fr. Charles McCabe CSC, and by Br. Barry Lambour, opened the Academy's school year. During September, too, a Faith-Sharing workshop for the Brothers was conducted by Fr. Thomas Gideon, S.J. \*\* GA's varsity football victory over Columbus Academy marked the hundredth win for Gilmour coach and athletic director Vern Weber. \*\* On October 14, Lorin Maazel, internationally renowned music director and principal conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra addressed students and faculty at a school assembly.

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING: At its last meeting the council considered: a) requests for full-time study; b) requests for overseas travel; c) revised personnel policies; d) matters involved in electing the provincial; e) composition of, and rejection or acceptance of members of, a local community. \*\* At its next meeting the council will discuss possible future directions for the province.

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Brother Maurice Wertzberger, who died suddenly on October 7. Br. William Schu's father and Br. Basil Thomas's mother, both of whom died recently. Also, Br. Eugene Weisenberger's brother-in-law, and Br. Donald Schapker's uncle, both recently deceased.

The new Justice and Peace Center in South Bend held an open house on October 20.

Peter Michelin signed his acceptance of dispensation from final vows on September 25.

Rome, October 1974

News from the Generalate

Presentation

Through this publication the members of the general administration hope to maintain contact with the members of the congregation between circular letters. It will contain details not usually included in circulars but, presumably, of interest to you, keeping you informed, among other things, of our activities and plans. We would like to have your reactions to the first few issues, either directly or through the provincials. Whether you find it worthwhile will determine whether we continue it beyond the first months of 1975.

Thomas Barrosse, c.s.c., sup.gen.

The New Administration at Via Framura, 85

All the members of the newly elected general administration were in Rome by mid-September except Fr. William Hogan. (He remained behind to prepare the provincial chapter that would elect his successor as provincial of the Eastern Province of Priests and will arrive in Rome in late October.) We have begun contacting several of the approximately 300 papally approved religious communities that have their generalate in Rome. We have participated in meetings of the Union of Superiors General and its commission on missions, have contacted its justice and peace commission and the Union of Members of General Curias. Throughout the Bishops' Synod, we are participating in the weekly meetings of superiors general with the ten generals who are synod members.

We have been organizing our work here at the generalate. Bro. Elmo Eransby is first assistant and local superior. Bro. Robert Montcalm is general steward, and Father William Hogan, general secretary and procurator general. Fr. Laurent Lecavalier will be the assistant principally responsible at the general level for the districts and other foundations of the provinces in Africa and Asia. For Latin America he will collaborate with Father Hogan. He and Bro. Robert Montcalm will be especially responsible for our contacts with the religious in Canada and France, and Bro. Elmo and Fr. Hogan for our contacts with the religious in the U.S. We intend to approach our work as a team, but we feel that it will be helpful if individual assistants have the responsibility of knowing particularly well specific parts of the congregation. Anyone is free, of course, to write any of us and should be aware that the information will be shared unless it be of a strictly personal nature. At the end of October we expect to make a five-day retreat together to reflect on the service we have been called to render the congregation and how best to render it.

Before coming to Rome, we have tried to make extensive, though fairly superficial, contact with as many religious as possible. In particular, we have visited extensively in the Canadian, Anglo-Canadian and Acadian Provinces, in the northeastern U.S. and in the Chicago and South Bend areas, in Haiti and in France. This winter, after the meeting of the council of the congregation (that is, the provincials and the general administration) in Austin, Texas, we

expect to do the same sort of visiting in the southern and western states. Fr. Lecavalier hopes, in the course of the year, to make a less hurried visit to all the districts or foundations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Thus during our first year in office we hope to have spent at least some time with most of the religious. Our feeling is that such personal contact will provide us with a more concrete sense of the reality of Holy Cross, make us more than mere names to the religious we meet, and make later communication easier. In the following years, we expect to undertake lengthier and more leisurely visits during which we hope to be of greater help to the individual provinces, local communities and religious.

We welcome all suggestions or observations any of you may have regarding our responsibilities or the way we fulfill them. Later we hope to share with you in more detail precisely what we feel these responsibilities are.

#### Father Lalande

Fr. Lalande's present address is 3333, chemin Côte Ste-Catherine, Montréal H3T 1C8, Canada. He is director of the Maria Goretti Center for young women and is engaged in a number of other pastoral activities too. He is well known in Rome as a superior general who was very active in the Union of Superiors General and in many other ways.

#### Death of Canon Etienne Catta and Mr. Tony Catta

On Sunday night, September 22, Canon Etienne Catta died at the age of 73 years. He was buried at the Benedictine monastery of Fontgombault near Bourges, France. His brother Tony had died at the age of 89 on the preceding Easter Sunday. Together these two men, a priest-historian and a lawyer who was the father of a family, produced the scholarly biography of our founder which in itself would have left all the religious of Holy Cross deeply indebted to them. Between them, they also wrote carefully documented biographies of Fr. Dujarié, Mother Mary of the Seven Dolours, and Bro. André. From the time in 1947 when Fr. Cousineau, then superior general, enlisted their services to research Fr. Moreau's life, they were devoted friends of Holy Cross. With the late Fr. Philéas Vanier of the Canadian Province of Priests, who painstakingly collected and organized most of the sources they used, they are the men who have supplied us with that clear and balanced view of our complex origins that only a combination of unselfish devotion and careful scholarship could give. They will surely be remembered in our prayers. It would be fitting if every one of us performed for them the suffrages his provincial chapter has set down for each religious of his province. The generalate community celebrated a Mass for Mr. Tony Catta in April and another for Canon Etienne Catta in September.

#### Archbishop-Bishop Albert F. Cousineau

Here are a few details from the last days of the priest who was our superior general from 1938-1950 and bishop in Cap-Haitien, Haiti from 1951-1974.

Archbishop Cousineau had known for some months that he had only a short time to live. During this entire period, according to his doctor, he never asked for medication or blood transfusions except to be able to carry on his work. In July of this year, the members of the general chapter in Montreal learned that he was dying and were praying for him. At that very time, he was

still moving about in Haiti, visiting parishes in the hills and ordaining priests. On July 16, he sent a parting message to his diocese, making his own the farewell of St. Paul to the elders of the church of Ephesus in Acts 20: "You among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will see my face no longer." This message has striking similarities to his last circular letter as superior general. In it he summed up what he had tried to offer his people during his 23½ years as bishop by way of teaching, and provided statistics. During that period he had, among other things, founded 18 new parishes, brought 16 religious communities into the diocese, founded a monastery of Carmelite Sisters, opened 23 new educational institutions and a radio station, set up 12 dispensaries, and been instrumental in the ordination of 5 Haitian bishops.

On July 25, in response to a telegram from the general chapter, he telegraphed back: "Received message general chapter with heartfelt gratitude," adding for the new superior general: "Congratulations. Success. God love you."

On August 13, the last full day of his life, he celebrated the eucharist with a little group of religious and laity at the bishop's house—standing because he did not wish to celebrate sitting despite his weakness. He preached a brief homily, as had long been his daily practice, and developed his favorite theme, unity: "Love one another as I have loved you."

As the day advanced, he slipped into periods of coma. When he awoke from these, he seemed to be in his usual good spirits and at times even joked with those present. In the afternoon, he told his sister, Madame Tremblay: "I am going to have to be on my way; there are so many good people waiting for me up there." In the evening, he followed his custom of leading those who were at the bishop's house in a period of spontaneous prayer. It lasted 45 minutes. During that time, he exclaimed, citing Thérèse of Lisieux, a favorite saint of his: "I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth." Then, after receiving a final absolution and viaticum, he asked that the group sing Psalm 122, which he had recorded and often listened to: "I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to God's house!'"

Some time after midnight, it was apparent that the end was near. All who could be summoned gathered around the deathbed. Fr. André Le Barzic, the priest who was leading them in prayer, explains that Psalm 122 was sung once again, and while chapters 17-19 of St. John's Gospel were being read, the chapters which contain Jesus' great prayer for the unity of his disciples and the account of his passion, Albert Cousineau "imperceptibly, with great calm and peace, gave back his beautiful soul to our Lord." It was 2:45 A.M., August 14.

The president of Haiti accorded him a national funeral. There were numerous high government and ecclesiastical officials present, and thousands of people participated in the several days of prayer and discourses. Bro. Robert Montcalm represented the general administration. Archbishop Cousineau was buried in Cap-Haitien, as he wished. On September 3, at St. Joseph's Oratory, where he had been superior at the time of Bro. André's death, a Mass was concelebrated by the superior general, two bishops, and dozens of other priests. The former nuncio in Haiti and the Haitian consul in Montreal were present, and hundreds of religious and laity participated.